



Decisions at Every Turn Coalition  
January 10, 2017  
Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held at the Ashland Middle School in room 5

Attendees: AHS guidance counselor Brian Garrigan, APS Head Nurse Audrey LaCroix, DAET secretary Denise Montoya, AMS Adjustment Counselor Kelly Roy, AHS student Swathi Gorantla, AHS student Annie Eby, AHS student Haley Boccuzzi, AHS student Annabelle Rutherford, AHS student Neha Shabeer, DFC Director Amy Turncliff, Community Outreach Coordinator Kristin French, Coalition Chair Liz Byrnes, STAND campaign coordinator Betsy Emberley, Ashland Town Manager Michael Herbert, Ashland Health Dept Director Mark Oram, AHS principal Kelley St. Coeur

Meeting called to order at 2:34

Introductions

Icebreakers:

- Led by Neha Shabeer – Tested activities about how body language works and how to communicate effectively with leaders for possible use in the mentoring program with Mindess students.

Minutes:

- Minutes of December meeting were accepted, all present in favor, two abstaining.

Coalition Roundtable Discussion:

- Students were asked if they had any ideas for DAET; this meeting was in the afternoon to allow DAET to hear from the students. Neha said she would like to have speakers; for example a coalition leader from a different town.
- A question was asked about reaching elementary school families. Parents from those schools are in the Social Emotional Working Group. Another idea would be to have

upperclassman bring the message to them rather than teachers or other adults; they might respond better.

- Medication safety in families with younger kids was mentioned. This topic needs to be addressed, but carefully, there are a lot of kids on daily medication; this message may be better delivered by the health and wellness staff.

#### Marijuana:

- The current STAND posters say 91% of AHS students disapprove of their friends driving after drinking alcohol but the next poster will be 72% of AHS students disapprove of their friends driving after using marijuana. This is a major concern.
- A lunchtime event is being planned to help close the gap in those numbers. Students will write on sticky notes what their perception is about marijuana. The sticky notes will be grouped into themes and put up on a board so students can see them and so we can determine the best way to address their perceptions.
- Another area of concern is how to handle peer pressure.
- One suggestion was to put up posters in the nurses offices showing how harmful it is, similar to the cigarette smoking campaign. However, it may be better to show them how it impacts them now, not in the future.
- A student mentioned how it is seen as funny on social media.
- Adults are advocating for what they want but the effects are different for youth. What's appropriate for an adult and what's appropriate for a teen are two different things.
- A misconception is that it's safer to drive because you "drive slow with marijuana and drive fast with alcohol."
- Youth are focused on the fact that it's legal now, but they don't realize it's legal for them, you have to be 21.

#### Breaking The Barriers update:

- Their goal at the upcoming conference is to learn how to engage youth and be more proactive. It will be either before or after April break. The venue will be at a college or a hotel. They would like the speaker to be a legislator or someone in government; possibly someone from Rise Together.
- Improbable Players may participate on the panel and maybe do a lunch performance.
- The Masons, Rotary Club and ABA are potential supporters of the trip to CADCA.

## Strategic planning:

- Mike came to present the Strategic plan for Ashland. He said it was about taking actions and tying them to a bigger community picture. He wants to be sure all members of the community are represented in the plan. The committee created a document listing value statements, what the vision is and then the actions/steps to accomplish it.
- The first value statement in the document is that Ashland is smart, the second is that Ashland is safe both physically and mentally and the third is that Ashland is sustainable.
- Mike received 1,000 survey responses last year. There was a lot of the same information, same comments.
- They will break down goals into 5 year increments. They will have a much larger kickoff in a few months. They are calling it Ashland Focus 2035. They will be announcing it at the Town Meeting in the fall.
- He would like to see each agenda item at Board of Selectman meetings and at Town Meeting be able to address and tie back to the strategic plan. Their email is [ashlandfocus2035@ashlandmass.com](mailto:ashlandfocus2035@ashlandmass.com)

## Continuation application:

- The application for our final 5<sup>th</sup> year of DFC funding is due Jan 27. Get Amy any ideas ASAP; she will get the application out to the 12 sector members for review before this date.

## Updates:

- Some resumes have come in for the Program Coordinator position.
- An intern will be coming on board, primarily for the community assessment. Her name is Samantha, she is getting Masters in Social Work from BC.
- Putting the Fun in Family Dinners has been moved to Feb and a date was added in April.
- There will be another program addressing childhood behavior with RESPECT.
- A working group will be looking at policy on access to alcohol through the SAPC grant and could lead to a regional parent working group.

Adjourned 4:04