



Decisions at Every Turn Coalition

Meeting Agenda

September 12, 2017

Ashland Middle School Library, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Audrey LaCroix, Betsy Emberley, Lily Orr, Brian Garrigan, David DiGirolamo, Kelley St. Coeur, Pete Regan, Kathy Silva, Judy Margulies, Haley Boccuzzi, Neha Shabeer, Claudia Rose, Saumya Sankhavaram and Kristin French

The meeting convened at 5:35 PM.

Introductions and a short icebreaker opened the meeting.

Minutes from of June 6, 2017 were accepted.

Coalition meeting schedule

Saumya updated the group that during the summer the Executive Committee met to discuss the meeting schedule and structure. She offered a few different alternatives for moving forward which included how to incorporate general updates, Working Group presentations, and other opportunities. The group like the idea to structure each meeting where general updates are given by Coalition Leadership, followed by Working Group presentation and any other business.

It was suggested that 2:30 might be too early for the youth-focused meetings for students who play sports and/or who are AMS students (with the new release time) and want to attend, but holding all of the meetings at 5:30 would likely prevent many of the AMS students from attending. We are going to try to hold the two youth meetings at 3:00 PM to better accommodate students. The group agreed that monthly meetings work best.

Community Assessment status update

The next step of the Community Assessment is the parent survey which will go out soon. The purpose is to gauge parental perception about substance use in general. The plan is for the survey to go out to Ashland Public Schools and other schools which serve Ashland students. The parent survey data will be assessed along with other community data already collected. BTB may be able to conduct an environmental scan. This process will run through January. We

discussed different strategies for translating the survey into Spanish and Portuguese, and other languages if necessary. Kathy, Betsy, Kelley, and Audrey all offered suggestions and Saumya will follow up on the leads.

ABA update

Kristin and met with the new ABA leadership a few weeks ago to re-engage this important sector. As a result, several new and exciting opportunities have emerged. DAET has been invited to present at and host an information table at the October 3rd ABA meeting. At the October DAET coalition meeting, ABA member Denise Conti and Half Marathon organizer Steve Greenberg will present a fundraising opportunity to our members. ABA member Chrissy Reynold's of Annemarie's Dance Center is displaying DAET tip sheets and newsletters on her bulletin board for parents to browse during their child's dance class. We hope to use this as an example of how other businesses can disseminate prevention information to their clients and throughout Ashland.

Working Groups update

Social norms – STAND

Betsy and Saumya met on messaging for the upcoming year. Saumya will be taking over at the STAND chair, but Betsy will still be heavily involved. There has been a lot of rethinking how the messaging will be sent out. There will likely be fewer posters – student feedback indicated that there are too many. The first round is an overview of past posters hung as banners. One popular activity which could be repeated was the cafeteria activity with questions and answers regarding marijuana. It was a highly-favored way to receive information. The question about posters came up at the leadership summit - students are beginning about questioning the messages. We will be looking at how the information is being articulated and making sure it is in a way that they can understand. It is their story. More hard facts. Activity ideas?? Ask students which statistics/facts they want.

BTB

There will be a Board meeting and full member meeting this week. BTB will be at Ashland Day with a photo booth. Members of BTB met with Saumya to plan out prevention events – they are considering a compliance event with Hopkinton. BTB will continue with the MYTT initiatives and have talked with Saumya about conducting an environmental scan to be used as a part of the community assessment. Neha will check with Betsy on Courageous Conversations. BTB will host Spark again this year and will be going to South Africa in April as a service trip. BTB members who attended CADCA last spring will present the outcomes to the Masons on Monday. The

Masons generously provided partial funding for the trip. BTB is looking for ways to work with ASHPAC – Kathy will try to set something up for BTB involvement.

Marijuana policy update

Every town bordering Ashland, except Framingham, has completed the process for opting out of recreational marijuana shops (Hopkinton, Sherborn, Holliston, Southborough). Of note, Ashland did Vote Yes on BQ4 in Nov 2016 by approximately the same margin that Holliston voted “Yes”. There is some discussion among folks in town of Ashland going for an opt-out, which would require a ballot vote. This would require support from as many town residents and leaders as possible. If anyone is interested in discussing the “opt-out” process further, please let me know.

K-5 – YMCA

Saumya, Amy and Kristin recently met with Sally Sweitzer and staff at the MetroWest YMCA to talk about possible collaborations, especially at the K-5 grade levels. The YMCA received a grant to launch Project ABC to help families advocate, belong, and connect is a new community initiative in Ashland, Holliston, and Hopkinton. The program is designed to provide all families with young children with full access to locally available comprehensive services and supports that strengthen families, promote optimal child development, and bolster school readiness. A celebration breakfast is planned for September 20th and we will keep the coalition posted on activities.

Parents and Partners – On September 28th Mike Caira & Pete Regan will host an “unconference” at the Warren school to explore ways that parents and schools can work together to provide a positive learning experience for students. The principals will offer strategies on how to support children and parents will be encouraged to be active participants by sharing successes and challenges.

Opioid Prevention

For the past year the group has met less frequently but is working on more learning-based initiatives. On October 23rd, POWER will host a Medication Safety for Older Adults presentation and was invited to help support the “If Only” movie and discussion on October 11th. The group had tentatively planned to hold some form of student/parent program in the spring, but might reconsider and do something sooner. Many of the Working Group members have been very active in assisting with the strategic planning associated with the Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC). While this work is regionally focused on 4 communities (Ashland, Framingham, Hudson and Natick) the outcomes will also benefit Ashland and give our community an opportunity to tailor the strategies to Ashland. The overall goals of the grant are

to 1) Prevent first use/consumption, which ties into DAET's mission and 2) Prevent fatal and non-fatal overdoses.

POWER Series

- a. Kick off with Parents as Partners on Sep 28
- b. Courageous Conversations – will work with BTB, need more youth, Book Talk, theme is kindness, involve families and get AMS kids to help
- c. If Only for Opioid Prevention October 11 with Hopkinton
- d. Med Safety for Older Adults – senior center
- e. Courageous Conversations – Love Inclusion Trust
- f. Risky Drinking – movie and discussion with Hopkinton
- g. Healthy Teen Relationships
- h. More than Dirt @ Keefe with the SEMH working group
- i. Developmental Approach to Parenting – Jane Greenstein
- j. World Café Trauma – 4-person panel, meditation expert, Liz Byrnes (ACES), Human Services Director (Jennifer Wuelfing) and Rep. Jack Lewis
- k. Rumination – Local founder of Blue Brain
- l. Community Book Read –Grit
- m. A Positive Passion and Will – change to March 19 or 26 – suicide prevention. Full day of John Trautwein (partnering with Hopkinton)
- n. College transition – w/ Liz

Celebrations

Approval for BTB April service trip to South Africa through Hammer and Chisel

Having Saumya on Board

New POWER programming

NEXT MEETING: October 10 @ 5:30 PM AMS Library

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.