



Decisions at Every Turn Coalition

Meeting Agenda

January 21, 2020

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

1. Welcome & Intros
 - a. Attendees
 - i. Kelley St. Coeur, AHS Principal
 - ii. Dave Muri, APS School Resource Officer
 - iii. Ron Etskovitz, Ashland Board of Health
 - iv. Dave DiGirolamo, AMS Principal
 - v. Kristin French, DAET Director
 - vi. Amy Turncliff, DAET Chair
 - vii. Saumya Sankhavaram, DAET Coordinator
2. Youth Focus Groups
 - a. The group discussed the plan for holding focus groups with youth at AHS. Saumya has sent Kelley a rough plan of the schedule for use at AMS. Kristin has also reached out to Amanda Decker of Bright Solutions Consulting Group to conduct the focus group and analyze the results.
 - b. Dave M. asked what the purpose of the focus groups was. Amy and Saumya clarified that the purpose was to survey the students to see if they had any interest in prevention, what types of topics they would be interested in working on, and about support within the town and schools for students who choose not to use substances. Kelley also suggested that this might be a good time to ask students what ways that school staff could also better support them.
 - c. Kristin asked what the best time would be to hold the study groups. Kelley suggested maybe holding them during the block before lunch (10:50 – 12 PM) and again during the block during which lunch is held (12 – 1:30 PM). Holding the focus groups during two blocks of the day would also allow more time for pilot

testing with students. Kristin will check with Amanda to see if this plan would work on her end.

3. Hidden in Plain Sight Update

- a. Kristin updated the group on the plans for Hidden in Plain Sight, taking place in the AHS library on February 4th. The event will be open house style, and any adult 21+ is welcome to attend. The Ashland Police Department and Ashland Human Services will both have representatives present. Dave M. updated the group to let everyone know that Alex Keefe, himself, and Ryan Puzzo will be present to answer any parent questions. Dave is also working with ReStore to see if they can donate any furniture or bedding to assist with the staged teen bedroom that is part of the exhibit. He suggested that it might be useful to ask the AHS theater department as well. Saumya will reach out to them.

4. Planning for Dr. Potee Event

- a. Kristin let the group know that Dr. Ruth Potee is scheduled to be in Ashland on March 12th to deliver her talk, the Physiology of Addiction. Kristin played a short clip of Dr. Potee speaking in Westborough last year ([found here](#)) to give the group an idea of what the talk would consist of. The group then discussed what a good follow up to the talk might be – a panel discussion, small group discussions, or some other type of discussion afterwards. Dave D. suggested that that having some type of structured panel discussion, possibly including Dr. Potee herself. The rest of the group agreed that this might work best. We are working to secure a location, which will be announced soon.

5. Updates and Announcements

- a. Dave D. updated the group on the AMS STAND campaign. Students have finished pilot testing the logo, and Gordon Multimedia and Scorpion Printing have been by to look at the space in the high school to assess space for stair wraps, window images, and posters.

Next Meeting: **Hidden in Plain Sight, Feb. 4th 5:30 – 8 PM**