



**City Council Special Meeting - Minutes**  
**Monday, March 22, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Webmeeting via Zoom**

	Location
Interim Mayor Olivia Zink	Home in the room alone
Councilor Jo Brown	Home in the room alone
Councilor Scott Clarenbach	Home in the room alone
Councilor Bob Desrochers	Home in the room alone
Councilor Jay Chandler	Home in the room alone
Councilor April Bunker	Absent
Councilor Ted Starkweather	Absent
Councilor Karen Testerman	Home in the room alone
Councilor Paul Trudel	Home in the room alone

**Others in attendance:** City Manager Judie Milner, City Department Heads, and members of the public.

Mayor Zink called the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:03 p.m. She then read the Compliant Right-to-Know Statement.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Clarenbach.

City Manager Judie Milner provided the background on tonight's agenda topic which will be presented by the Mayor's Drug Task Force Coordinator Kandyce Tucker and the School District Wellness Coordinator Barbara Slayton.

Milner stated that the Mayor's Drug Task Force had been funded over the past ten years for \$1.2M which has come to its end. The Drug Task Force, in collaboration with the School District, received a \$1.5M grant for the next five years.

Milner further stated that this coalition is the only coalition to receive this Grant in the State of New Hampshire.

Drug Task Force Coordinator Kandyce Tucker began the presentation with the following slides:

## Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force SWOT Analysis

### STRENGTHS

- ❑ Strong leadership & teamwork
- ❑ Positive relationship with partners in community
- ❑ Well informed director
- ❑ Good networking
- ❑ Progressive ideas
- ❑ Strong collaboration with Community Management Team & SAU 18
- ❑ Diverse leadership team & allies with connections across multiple sectors
- ❑ Committed board
- ❑ Community recognitions

### WEAKNESSES

- ❑ Increased evidence based programs
- ❑ Grant restrictions
- ❑ Covid has slowed down progress of in person interaction with youth
- ❑ Community Involvement
- ❑ Lack of participation from community members
- ❑ Substance misuse (Treatment) resources for youth
- ❑ Marketing

### OPPORTUNITIES

- ❑ Working with SAPC
- ❑ Focusing on gender specific prevention for girls
- ❑ SUD Epidemiologist
- ❑ Growth within Franklin & new community partners
- ❑ Outdoor recreation & prevention
- ❑ Growing our partnerships within the school
- ❑ Increasing our community awareness
- ❑ Collaborative funding with the school

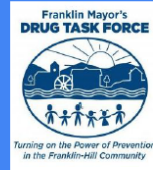
### THREATS

- ❑ People tired of Zoom
- ❑ Back to normalcy (Pre-covid)
- ❑ Lack of healthy activities for kids
- ❑ Tackling the multigenerational theme of SUD and mental health issues
- ❑ Running out of funding
- ❑ Other board member commitments
- ❑ Parental perception of risk decreasing
- ❑ Sustainable funding
- ❑ Community unaware of what we do

## Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2019) and School Safety data (2018-2019)

presentation for School Board and City Council  
March 2021

By Kandyce Tucker, Mayor's Drug Task Force and Barbara Slayton, Coordinator of School Wellness

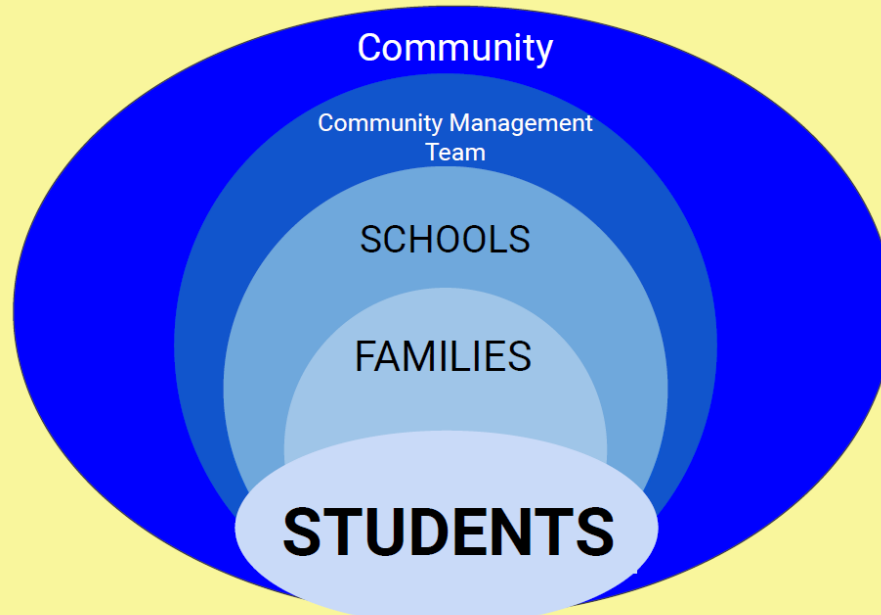


Barbara Slayton discussed the following slides:

# Working TOGETHER



Funders have been impressed by the collaborative, synergistic efforts for students and families in Franklin



It takes a village, and anything impacting any part of the village impacts its children.

Barbara stated that the Community Management Team was formed through the Project Aware Grant in 2015 and although it is no longer a requirement to meet as a Community Management Team, the

partner groups want to continue to meet. The list below is fluid and some groups have dropped off but then a new one will join.

## COMMUNITY CONTEXT: PARTNERS

### Franklin Community Management Team

Meets Third Friday of the Month 9-10:30

#### Franklin School Board

Partnership for Public Health

#### Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force

Head Start/Early Head Start

Tiny Twisters

#### Franklin Police Department

Merrimack County Juvenile Services

Winnisquam Regional School District

Riverbend Community Mental Health Center

Health First

Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center

#### Students

UNH Cooperative Extension

DCYF/DJJS

#### Parents

NAMI NH

#### Franklin Parks and Recreation

Lakes Region Community Services

Lakes Region Big Brothers/Big Sisters

#### Community members

#### Franklin Fire Department

My Turn

Provides oversight to Office Of School Wellness and its initiatives

Kandycy Tucker discussed the following slides:

## Franklin's needs, recent grants awarded, and project overviews

NEEDS, based on our data	Grants	Projects
<p>Compared to other NH communities, Franklin has higher levels of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ poverty</li> <li>❖ trauma and other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)</li> <li>❖ substance use rates</li> <li>❖ mental health impact</li> <li>❖ Bullying and other school safety incidents</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$\$\$ Awarded Aug-Nov 2020</b></p> <p>Dept. Of Justice STOP Violence <b>\$267,000 to be spent by 10/1/2023</b></p> <p>NH DOE Promising Futures <b>\$49,450 to be spent by 6/30/2021</b></p> <p>SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework grant <b>\$300,000 / year x 5 years totaling \$1,500,000</b></p>	<p>Implement Behavioral Threat Assessment Team</p> <p>Staff Wellness and Professional Development</p> <p>Raise Mental Health awareness</p> <p>Increase Parent Engagement</p> <p>Support Substance use prevention throughout the lifespan in school and community</p>

Kandycy stated that the data is lagging a year therefore the data below is from 2019.

## Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Conducted bi-annually in odd years

Results usually lag behind by about a year

These results are from 2019

High School YRBS coordinated by NH DOE

Data analysis by Partnership for Public Health

Middle School Survey (grades 7-8) has been supported by Mayor's Drug Task Force and historically, Project AWARE

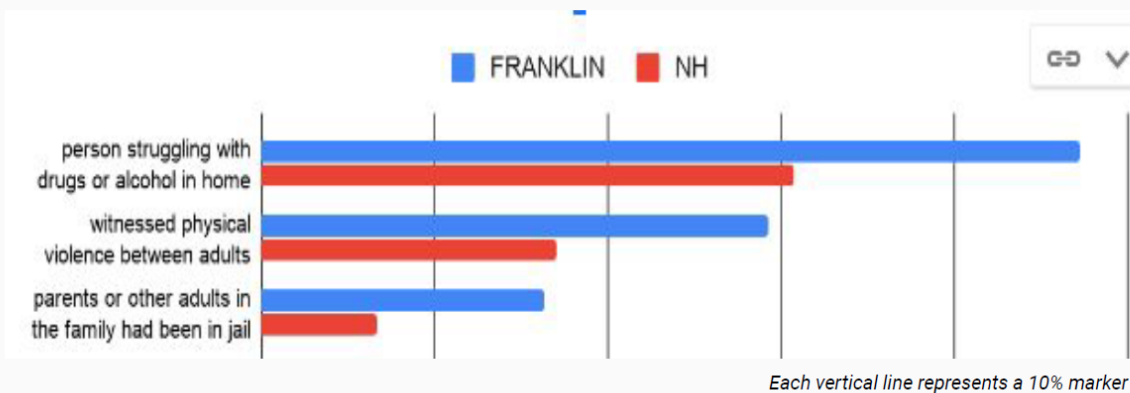
## School Safety Survey

Reported annually by all public schools in NH to NH DOE

**2 primary data sources used**

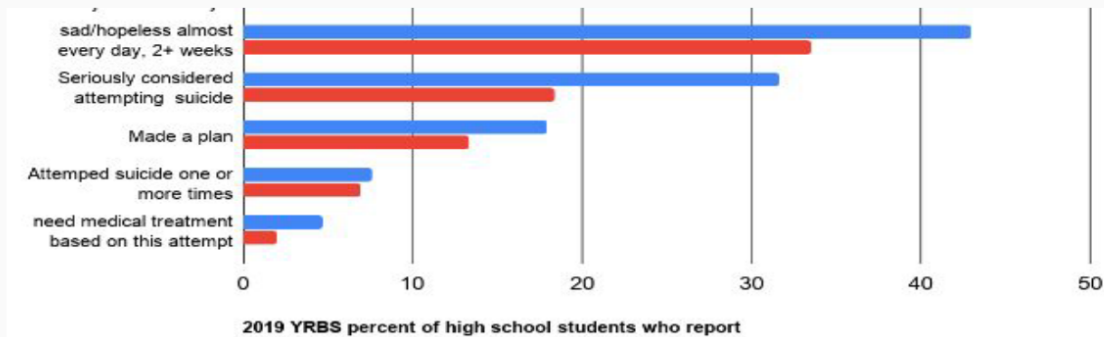
Barbara stated that the following is only an excerpt of information and that there is a full in depth YRBS Report on the School Website.

### YRBS 2019: FHS students report much higher than average Adverse Childhood Experiences



**These are three of the ten items considered ACEs, or significant childhood traumas which have an impact on a variety of life outcomes**

## FHS also report higher rates of depression, suicide ideation, and attempts



Franklin Middle School 7th and 8th graders report

- symptoms of depression (35.2%)
- suicidal ideation (18.5%),
- having made a suicide plan (12%)
- suicide attempts (11.1%)

*No state comparisons readily available*

## Safety Issues as reported by FHS students on YRBS

According to 2019 YRBS, which is self report by 9-12 graders	Franklin	NH
carried a weapon during the last 30 days	21%	14%
have been threatened with a weapon on school property	8%	4%
did not go to school because they felt unsafe	11%	7%
have been bullied on school property	30%	23%
have been in a physical fight	15%	8%

*(Note that these numbers are generally trending in the wrong direction over time)*

# Annual School Safety Data

NH DOE

<https://ireport.education.nh.gov/districts/185/profile>

\*\*\* includes Drug/Alcohol, Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Weapon Offense, Arson, Criminal Mischief/Vandalism, Homicide, Assault/Threatening, Sexual Offense, Sexual Harassment

	FRANKLIN		NH
	2018	2019	2019
<b>Safety Incidents *** per 1000 students</b>	219	130	44
<b>In-School suspensions</b>	13.40%	9.22%	3.72%
<b>Out of School Suspensions</b>	12.75%	10.22%	4.17%

Kandycy discussed the following slides:

## Substance Use Data from YRBS

### Current use behaviors:

How many report using the substance at least once in past 30 days.



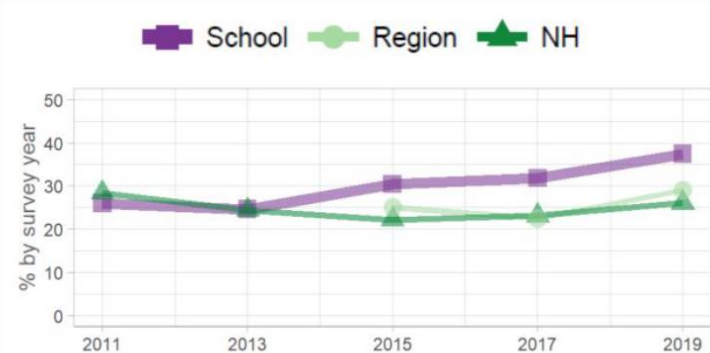
### Perception of Risk:

Do students feel there is a great risk of harm to someone who uses a substance?



**MARIJUANA:** *During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?*

School	Region	NH
37.4%	29.0%	26.1%
110 of 286 students*	854 of 2,941 students+	14,167 of 54,358 students+



- Trending upward
- Females report more use than males
- Use increases with grade level

4.6% of FMS 7th and 8th graders have used marijuana at least once in past 30 days, up from 3.8% in 2017

## Marijuana Use

higher than region and state  
AND  
trending upwards

- Tried before 13 yo (10.1%)
- Used synthetic marijuana (aka spice, K2...) at least once (13.7%)

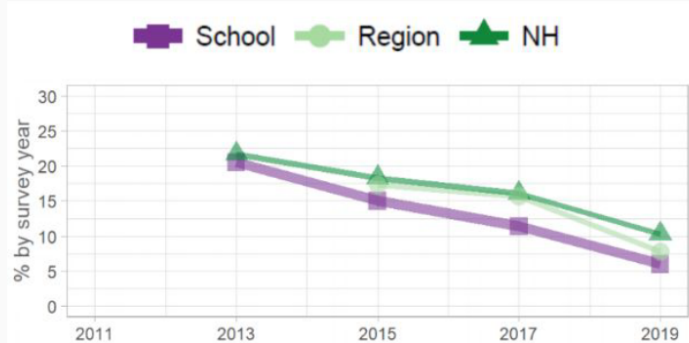
Kandyce stated that Franklin was one of the first Cities to Ban Spice/K2 in in the State. It is making a come back so awareness must continue in this area.



## Marijuana: Perception of Risk

*How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they use marijuana once or twice a week?*

School	Region	NH
6.0%	7.8%	10.3%
18 of 279 students*	226 of 2,889 students+	5,440 of 52,767 students+



FHS students **do not** perceive as great a risk to marijuana use as do their regional and statewide peers.

Perception of risk is **trending downward** (in this case that is the opposite of what we would want to see)

Kandyce stated that a contributing factor of the downward trend is also due to students whose parents or parental figures do not see marijuana as harmful.

## ALCOHOL: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?

- Holding steady
- Slightly more females than males
- Use increases with grade level

8.3% of FMS 7th and 8th graders have used at least once in past 30 days; up from 5.1% in 2017

School	Region	NH
32.4%	29.9%	26.8%
95 of 279 students*	849 of 2,834 students+	14,083 of 52,478 students+



## Alcohol Use

Other trends, compared to region and state

FHS Students report higher than state and trending UP:

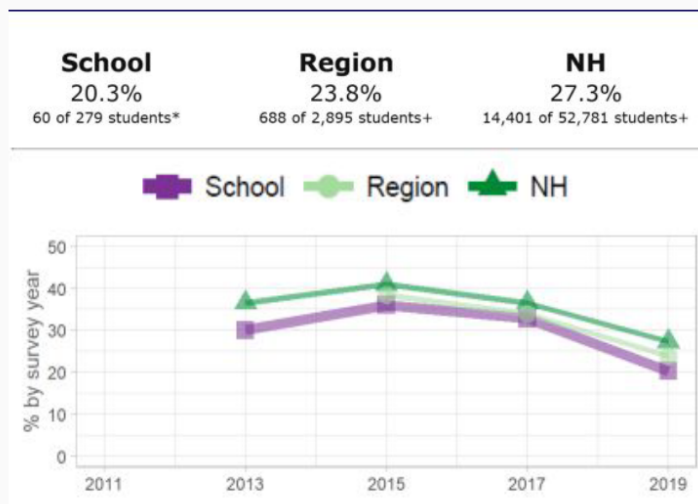
- Tried before 13 yo (18.2%)
- Binge drinking (4-5 or more drinks in a row on at least 1 day (17.2%)
- Drove vehicle under influence (10.6%)

FHS report SAME as region/state and trending DOWN:

- It would be "easy" to get alcohol

## Alcohol: Perception of Risk

*How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they have five or more drinks of alcohol once or twice a week?*

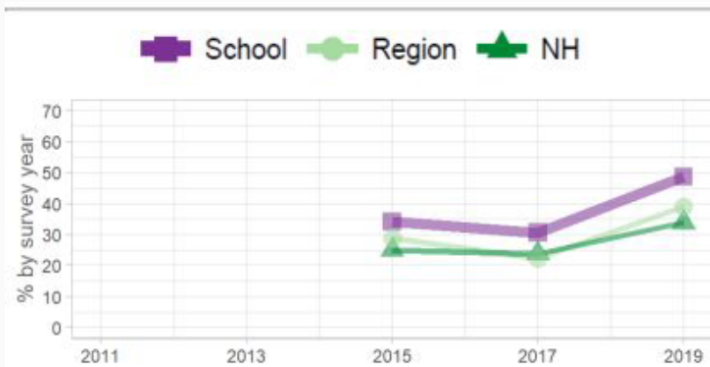


FHS students **do not** perceive as great a risk to alcohol use as do their regional and statewide peers.

Perception of risk is **trending downward** (in this case that is the opposite of what we would want to see)

**VAPING:** *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an electronic vapor product?*

School	Region	NH
48.6%	38.9%	33.8%
143 of 280 students*	1,123 of 2,885 students+	17,928 of 53,009 students+



- Trending upward
- Slightly more females than males
- Use increases with grade level

25.9% of FMS 7th and 8th graders have used at least once in past 30 days; up from 3% in 2017

40% report using at least once ever; up from 15.4% in 2017

## Tobacco Use

Other trends, compared to region and state

- Smoking CIGARETTES is down to 9.1%, from 25.4% in 2011
- 60% report using an electronic vape product at least once, from 50% in 2017
- Minimal amount of cigarette use among 7th-8th graders

## Tobacco:

## Perception of Risk

### YRBS dropped this question from the survey for 2019.

Anecdotal information from use of the Vaping Protocol at FMS and FHS suggests that perception of risk is LOW.

Kandyce stated that many students still believe that Vaping is not dangerous and mainly just vaper with flavor. They still do not understand that it is packed with tobacco and hazardous chemicals.

Barbara discussed the following slides:

#### 2019 YRBS data that is trending in a **POSITIVE** direction for Franklin includes:

- Number of students reporting **PHYSICAL dating violence** is trending downward (12.3% to 9.8%) although still higher than the state (7.0%)
- Number of students reporting **having sexual intercourse with more than 4 partners** (8.9%) is lower than the region (10.6%) but higher than the state (7.2%)
- Same is true for reporting **having sexual intercourse in the past 3 months.**
- Franklin students report **wearing a bicycle helmet** (83.7%) at much higher rates than region (55.8%) and state (54.4%)
- Fewer Franklin students **text or email while driving** (29.9%) than others in the region (41.2%) and state (44.2%)
- Franklin **teachers provide more short physical activity breaks** (30.6%) than region (13.9%) and state (11.1%)

## US DOJ STOP VIOLENCE

**\$267,000**

to be spent by  
October 2023

- ❖ **Establish TEAM (BTAT)**
- ❖ **Develop and revise PROTOCOLS and POLICIES**
- ❖ **Explore use of anonymous reporting system**

Barbara stated that although Franklin was awarded \$267,000, the funds have not been received yet due to Federal red tape and she is working on this.

## NH DOE Promising Futures

**\$49,550**

to be spent by  
July 2021

- ❖ **Staff Professional Development and Wellness**
- ❖ **Counselor training and supplies for evidence based interventions**
- ❖ **Community Awareness**
- ❖ **Family Engagement**

Barbara stated that the deadline to spend these funds has been extended out one year.

Kandyce discussed the following slides:

## FMDTF Prevention Grant

Strategic Prevention Framework grant funded by SAMHSA.

**\$300,000 per year**

**for 5 years totaling \$1,500,000**

- ❖ **Substance Use PREVENTION across lifespan**
- ❖ **Increase CAPACITY and INFRASTRUCTURE for prevention efforts**

### Fully Funds:

Full-Time Project Director

Full-Time Lead Epidemiologist

Full-Time Student Assistant Program Coordinator

ated problems while strengthening prevention capacity and infrastructure at the community and state level.

Kandyce shared the great news that the Full-time Student Assistant Program Coordinator received a separate grant that will fund that position for another year outside of the FMDTF Prevention Grant.

Barbara stated that this will free up those funds which will allow them to be put back into drug prevention for the community.

## NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services

### Student Assistance Program

**\$75,000**

**July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

## Substance Use PREVENTION K-12

- ❖ **Provide programming to support role of SAPC in the district**
- ❖ **Coordinate prevention messaging in the community**

ated problems while strengthening prevention capacity and infrastructure at the community and state level.



## What questions do you have?

There were many questions from the Council which resulted in the following replies from Barbara and Kandyce:

- There has not been a way to correlate higher suicide thoughts or actions of students due to COVID where students were mostly home and counseling not sought through the school. If they received counseling outside of school, there wouldn't be any way to know.
- It is possible that there are higher rates of marijuana use because of the conversations on legalizing it.
- Pre-COVID peer-to-peer conversation was occurring more and students were doing presentations regarding the dangers of vaping and drug use.
- The Annual Report Card will be ready for distribution very soon and will show the literacy rates with testing scores. Low literacy scores is a high priority for the Franklin School System.
- The United Way reached out to the school district to potentially offer a literacy grant which Barbara Slayton is currently looking into.
- The sources of Grant funds coming into these programs are State and Federal some of which have private and local donations which can be included in some of the Grant funds.
- The current Grants no longer include the Town of Hill because they are no longer part of the SAU #18 School District.
- The goal is to start educating the children at a young age and although they may not have a trusting adult in their home, making sure there is one for them to turn to in the community or school is key.

Kandyce explained how she collaborates with the Parks and Recreation Outdoor Programs. The idea is to introduce outdoor activities to young students who may not be able to afford a particular sport and introduce access to that sport at no cost to try to get them "hooked" on it in the same way the brain reacts to someone who gets "hooked" to a substance. This will introduce that student to a new



healthier community group of friends. The plan is to start by partnering with a youth outing club such as Outdoor New England to see what the data shows over this summer season then apply for a large grant in the fall. This could also branch off into a program for those in recovery.

Comments from the Council:

- Thank you Kandyce and Barbara. This presentation was very well done and it was certainly an eye opener. As a school teacher only 15 years ago, it was not apparent that this was happening.
- Passing Ordinances like the ones passed banning Vaping and Kratom in Franklin and also the Tobacco 21 Ordinance, all help the Mayor's Drug Task Force and the Community.
- Currently, the Legislature wants to take away the rights of Councilors to choose what is right for Franklin. Milner sent the Council an email recently with the House Bill information. Please contact your legislators and tell them not to take this right away from Franklin.
- Please notify the Council when Drug Task Force events are scheduled so they can show their support.

Barbara stated that the Community Management Team meets on the third Friday of each month from 9:00 am-10:30 am via Zoom. If interested in attending, contact Barbara Slayton by email which can be found on the school website.

There were no further comments or questions.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Clarenbach and seconded by Councilor Desrochers.**

Roll Call:

Councilor Trudel	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Chandler	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Absent
Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Absent

**All in favor. Motion PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Lanzillo