



# FAQ

(Frequently Asked Questions)

## What is the Task Force?

- The Task Force is a group of people who live and/or work in Franklin or Hill, who are concerned about the impact of drugs and alcohol on individuals and the community.
- We bring people together to strategize, or plan, around how to best reduce alcohol and other drugs in the community. This is to help make the community more aware of problems related to alcohol and other drug use, especially where our kids and teens are concerned.
- We are focused on prevention efforts with the hopes of delaying use or preventing youth from using substances.
- The Task Force is a Community Coalition.

## What is a Community Coalition?

- A Coalition is: “the action or process of joining together with another or others for a common purpose.”  
—Merriam Webster Dictionary
- Community coalitions are made up of parents, teachers, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, health providers and other active community members who are working together at the local level to make their communities safer, healthier and drug-free.—Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

## How did the Task Force start?

- The Task Force was started by Mayor Ken Merrifield in September 2009. He brought community members and other community partners together to look at strategies and plan how to prevent the use of substances such as alcohol and other drugs in our community.

## Does the Task Force receive any funding?

- The Task Force was active for one year with 100% volunteer support. Then it was successful in obtaining a Federal Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant in 2010 to support the coalition in building its abilities to get their work done and to also provide the group with prevention strategies. This grant would support the coalition in this way over the course of five years; through September 2015.
- The coalition recently submitted a DFC grant re-application in hopes to get funded for another 5 years.
- The action plan that the coalition created, that is funded by this DFC grant, focuses on building a sustainable coalition (a coalition that can continue its work even after they are no longer funded) and on youth drug and alcohol prevention efforts.
- The Task Force has a full-time coordinator, a contracted marketer and a contracted evaluator. All other work is done through community volunteer work.

## How were the focus areas chosen? Who decided?

- Before applying for Federal DFC funds, the coalition went through a process where they gathered information and recent data from the community. The coalition did this again between the fall of 2014 and the spring of 2015 by holding community forums, a focus group with high school students, and interviewing community members.
- Data was gathered from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) which is taken by high school students every two years. This survey gives needed information about important measures on youth substance misuse.
- We looked at which substances were reported as being misused frequently such as marijuana, alcohol, and prescription drugs. We also gathered important key information from the community about what factors effect drug use in the community.
- This information was used to create our action plan which is the “road map” of our coalition work.

## **Do you help people affected by drug use with support, treatment, or recovery?**

- We focus on prevention. Prevention is just one part of what is known as the “Continuum of Care”.
- We recognize and value *all* parts of the Continuum of Care from Prevention to Early Identification and Intervention to Treatment and Recovery. We know that we need all pieces if we are to make a positive impact on drug and alcohol misuse in our community and beyond. However, our efforts are focused on the Prevention area of that Continuum and our federally funded action plan is focused on strategies for prevention within in our community.
- As just described, we greatly value partners from other “arms” of the Continuum of Care. We welcome them at our table and are always open for ways that we may support each other.

## **What is Prevention?**

- Prevention is an action or a set of actions that are designed to stop something before it actually happens.
- In the Public Health approach to prevention, efforts are usually defined by 3 categories:
  1. Primary Prevention: intervening before use/misuse occurs
  2. Secondary Prevention: interventions targeted at ‘at risk’ groups
  3. Tertiary Prevention: interventions to prevent/stop from further use/misuse

## **Why aren’t you talking about heroin or other major drug crises?**

- We recognize the severity of illicit/illegal drug use in our community and beyond. However, we are a coalition that focuses on prevention. We focus on the importance of starting early with kids. We work to prevent them from misusing alcohol or other drugs (substances) at an early age.
- We know that most people with an addiction to an illicit drug don’t begin their drug use by taking something “hard” such as heroin. They most likely began by drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco, smoking marijuana and/or misusing prescription drugs at an early age. So if we can prevent our kids, our future generations, from misusing drugs then we will lessen the number of people who are affected by addiction and who misuse or abuse alcohol or other drugs in the future.

## **Who can join the FMDTF?**

We need representation and involvement from all areas of the community which includes parents, youth, business owners, residents, faith based groups, healthcare, schools, city government and other elected officials, civic groups, and more.

## **What does it mean to be a member of the Task Force?**

- A member is someone who believes in and promotes the mission of the Task Force through actions and words.
- A member can be defined as someone who does one or more of the following:
  - Receives emails from the Task Force regarding research news, tips, events, action alerts, and other community updates
  - Shares Task Force information with friends, family, co-workers, organizations and other community members
  - Is available to help advance the mission of the Task Force by providing specific knowledge or expertise
  - Attends monthly Task Force meetings
  - Participates in a Task Force Work Group to plan and carry out projects
  - Volunteers at community events representing the Task Force
  - Volunteers to help prepare materials, etc., for Task Force events and activities

## **How do I get involved in the Task Force?**

Becoming a member of the Task Force is easy. You can contact Angela Lynch by calling (603) 934-7446 or emailing [taskforceinfo@franklinnh.org](mailto:taskforceinfo@franklinnh.org). Angela’s office is located at Bessie Rowell Community Center, in the entrance across from Franklin Parks & Recreation, in Franklin, NH.