



## Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force

### Task Force Meeting Minutes

February, Thursday 16, 2017

5:00pm – 7:00pm at Bessie Rowell Community Center

#### ***Present:***

<b><i>Name:</i></b>	<b><i>Sector:</i></b>	<b><i>Name:</i></b>	<b><i>Sector:</i></b>
<i>Lauren Malloy</i>	<i>Coalition Coordinator</i>	<i>Melissa Lee</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>
<i>Bob Lucas</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Elizabeth Dragon</i>	<i>City of Franklin City Manager</i>
<i>Ken Merrifield</i>	<i>Mayor of Franklin</i>	<i>Traci Fowler</i>	<i>Consultant/Evaluator</i>
<i>Chief Goldstein</i>	<i>State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse</i>	<i>Karen Darling</i>	<i>Civic/Volunteer Group (Choose Franklin, Franklin Jr. Youth Group)</i>
<i>Joe Guinta</i>	<i>Religious/Fraternal Organization: Franklin Elks</i>	<i>Anya Twarog</i>	<i>School Board/Parent</i>
<i>Michelle Lennon</i>	<i>Faith Based/Community Tilton Northfield Family Resource Center</i>	<i>Christy Liolis</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Cheryle Pacapelli</i>	<i>Advocacy New Futures</i>	<i>Donna Liolis</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>

#### **Introductions & Agenda**

Melissa welcomed the group and thanked everyone for joining us. She took a minute to point out on the back of the agendas the guidelines for the meetings and asked if anyone would like to be the time keeper to make sure the meeting stayed on track so we could discuss everything on the agenda. Everyone introduced themselves to the group.

#### **Mayor's Minute**

The Mayor wanted to speak about ways to address the drug problem within the state. He discussed the Task Force's vision of prevention but also mentioned law enforcement as a good method to help keep drugs and other substances off of the streets within the community. The Chief piggybacked off of what the Mayor had to say and followed up with facts and figures within the last year about law enforcement efforts within the City of Franklin. He indicated that there have been 21 arrests, 30 buys, 11 investigations, 8 search warrants, 71 case activities, over \$5,000 taken off the street, over 3 pounds of pills have been taken off of the streets, and at least 325 grams of marijuana have been taken off of the streets within the last year.

#### **Welcome New Futures - Legislative Update and Action Items**

Melissa welcome Cheryle from New Futures. She passed out the full advocacy folders to the group that included information about New Futures, how to advocate, how a bill becomes a law in NH, and a handout on bills in NH and where New Futures stands with either monitoring,

supporting, or opposing the particular law they are tracking. She indicated that she will be leaving New Futures and taking on the role of project director of a recovery center to provide services in the local community.

She explained that New Futures is an advocacy organization that advocates for good policy as it relates to prevention, treatment, and recovery services. It would include access to treatment, Medicaid expansion, the Good Samaritan Law, bulk purchasing of Narcan, marijuana reform, decriminalization of marijuana, and adding qualifying conditions to policy change. She then talked about the alcohol fund which was established in 2000 which was fully funded and never fully funded again. The fund last year had a 1.7% funding and this year the Governor would double what was in the alcohol fund which would make it 3.4% which indicates moving in the right direction. At New Futures, they will watch this particular bill. If New Futures supports a bill, they take an active role. She mentioned the HB 353 bill which is the relative sale of beer in refillable containers. It authorizes the sale of beer in refillable containers which would mean someone would be able to get 'beer to go' at local convenience stores up to 36 ounces in a growler like container. At New Futures, they are strongly opposing this bill and they are hoping this bill gets 'killed' which means that the bill will never be discussed again.

Cheryle mentioned that you can find out what ways your local representatives are voting on a bill by going to City Hall or calling City Hall. Being a paid person, Cheryle can go and testify on a bill and legislatures want to hear from community members, their voice is much more impactful. Elizabeth mentioned that they have gone down and testified against bills relating to substance misuse in the past. Traci shared that they brought some FYI high school students to testify against a bill to show how a bill gets approved or opposed. The impact those kids had, Traci shared, was wonderful.

The decriminalization of marijuana will be signed and New Futures did not take a position which was their first year they took no position on decriminalization. Joe asked if this applied to the age group of 21 and older, and it does. The Chief stated that the decriminalization will potentially look similar to how tobacco is handled, in the sense that individuals under the age of 21 will be going to adult court if they get caught and not juvenile court. By going to adult court underage, there needs to be a parent present.

### **Marijuana...Where do we go from here?**

Traci began to discuss therapeutic cannabis and what is legal and what is not legal. She discussed two handouts, starting with therapeutic cannabis being legal in NH to use cannabis for therapeutic purposes based on qualifying conditions. There aren't any perceptions with therapeutic cannabis because it is not FDA approved. A physician can say the individual has a qualifying condition with reference to their identifying prescription number and the individual can then get a registration card to go to one of four dispensaries in state which are very secure. The NH therapeutic cannabis law is very strict. It is very important to discuss child safety surrounding therapeutic cannabis which is where the task force can come into play as prevention. As the Prevention Task Force, Traci noted that they delivered the Child Safety Tips handout surrounding therapeutic cannabis to the dispensaries throughout the state in the hopes to be given

out to new patients. She explained that loose leaf, oils, and edibles are legal for therapeutic cannabis for a maximum of 2 ounces at a time.

The Prevention Task Force is a group of volunteers and developed the two handouts in hopes to create awareness. Therapeutic cannabis is legal for the ages of 0 and older if they have a qualifying condition which makes for complications for the prevention field. The best thing that we can do as a task force is education.

### **Screenagers Event**

Lauren discussed an upcoming event that the Task Force will be putting on in partnership with Project AWARE. They will be showing the film Screenagers at the Franklin High School Library from 7-9PM on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This is a free event for the community and everyone is encouraged to attend. She briefly explained that the film is about a family, documenting the screen time of the daughter in the family and how screen time is an addiction and can affect many different aspects of one's life, just like other addictions and why prevention is so important.

The trailer of the film was shown.

Melissa shared that the Public Health Network has been showing this film in surrounding towns and now Franklin will be as well. Following the film there will be a discussion and Corey Gately will be there to aid in the discussion. Lauren sent around a sign-up sheet to see if anyone could volunteer for that event as well as other upcoming events as being an Ambassador and representing the Task Force.

### **Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities!**

✓ **Annual Celebration:** Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:15-7pm @ Franklin Opera House

- Melissa indicated there would be a student presence that evening, representing SALT, LOA, and FYI
- The short film If Only will be screened along with a panel discussion
- Partner booths, awards, and light refreshments will be there too!

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

**Traci Fowler: 4:30-7:30pm**

**Karen Darling: 5-7:30pm**

**Bob Lucas: 4:00-end**

**Joe Giunta: 4:30-7:30pm**

✓ **HOPE for NH Recovery showing of Anonymous People:** Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> @6pm

✓ **Coalition Ambassador Training:** Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm @BRCC

✓ **Drug Take Back Day:** Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm @ Franklin CVS

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

**Karen Darling & Jr. Youth Group: 9:30am-12pm**

**Bob Lucas: 9:30am-2pm**

**Joe Giunta: 9:30am-12pm**

### **Group Updates/Comments**

- Joe updated the group that the Elks is having their essay and poster contest and will be using the Task Force Bags to use and will reach 490 students
- Michelle had asked if Franklin would be incorporating “pay to play” for the athletes participating in sports but it is too early to tell if this is going to happen, Elizabeth stated
- Traci wanted to bring up the book *The Teenage Brain* because it talks about the teenage brain and substance use which she found it to be easy to read and draw talking points from

### **Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

*Submitted by Lauren Malloy*