



Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force

Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 11, 2017

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

Present:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Sector:</i>	<i>Name:</i>	<i>Sector:</i>
<i>Lauren Malloy</i>	<i>Coalition Coordinator</i>	<i>Melissa Lee</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>
<i>Barbara Olson</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Elizabeth Dragon</i>	<i>City of Franklin City Manager</i>
<i>Scott Clarenbach</i>	<i>City Council/Interim Mayor of Franklin</i>	<i>Bob Grover</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Chief Goldstein</i>	<i>State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse</i>	<i>Lynn Haskell</i>	<i>Youth Serving Organization</i>
<i>Joe Guinta</i>	<i>Religious/Fraternal Organization: Franklin Elks</i>	<i>Christy Liolis</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Paul Blackford</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Donna Liolis</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Traci Fowler</i>	<i>Consultant</i>	<i>Karen Darling</i>	<i>Franklin Resident – Facilitator of Franklin Jr. Youth Group</i>

Introductions & Agenda:

Melissa welcomed the group and thanked everyone for joining us. She welcomed everyone to take an agenda from the back table as well as to sign in on the sign in sheet. Joe volunteered to be the time keeper for the evening then the members went around the room to introduce themselves.

Mayor's Minute:

Melissa welcomed Scott Clarenbach, the new interim mayor, to the meeting and brought Scott up to speed that our former mayor, Ken Merrifield, was the catalyst for the efforts of the coalition starting and mentioned it is our 7th year of prevention efforts within the community. She mentioned that each month during the coalition meetings, there would be a time allotted for the mayor to speak about insight or any information he would like to share to the coalition. She welcomed Scott to share any thoughts or items he wished to share with the coalition members. Scott indicated that he had worked for the Franklin Fire Department for 26 years prior to him retiring in 2009. He stated that in his time working for the fire department, he saw a fair amount of substance abuse, family situations, as well as community crisis'. In 2010 he joined the city council and will be the interim mayor until January 2018. He stated that he will do whatever he can to be a part of the coalition and to keep the role of the Mayor still involved until there is a full time replacement in January 2018.

Melissa thanked him for giving the coalition a brief overview of his past work and mentioned we will get him up to speed about the task force at a later date so he is familiar with some of the foundations of the work the task force does.

Action in Review and Next Steps:

Melissa mentioned in April's coalition meeting there was great discussion surrounding our action items. She mentioned Lauren prepared some posters last meeting to remind the coalition members what substances we are focusing our action items on based on data – alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs. Melissa discussed that last month our conversation in the meeting was focused around alcohol prevention. Since prom and graduation seasons are coming up, we decided to focus our prevention messaging around alcohol. Melissa mentioned in April's meeting we put our alcohol logic model up on the board to show everyone the data for the reasons why we want to focus our message around alcohol prevention. The data has shown that community members don't realize the impact of underage drinking and the consequences of underage drinking – both for the youth and those who supply the youth with alcohol.

During April's meeting the coalition members generated some thoughts about how we could get the message about the Social Host Law – why adults don't want to be hosting underage parties or buying and giving alcohol to the youth – out to the community.

Lauren shared a brief slideshow of the pizza box project that some members worked on as a takeaway from the April meeting in order to implement some action items. She shared that she, Melissa, Bob, Lynn, Joe, and Lynn's cousin went to Tilton House of Pizza to tape the Social Host Flyer to the pizza boxes. She shared that they taped about 400 pizza boxes that day with the Social Host Flyer. Lauren, Melissa, and Bob went to Al's Village Pizza and taped about 400 boxes there as well. Lauren shared that she went to Tilton House of Pizza to purchase a gift card for the Community Day Survey raffle and asked if there was any feedback received from their customers about the flyers on the boxes. One of the gentlemen told her that a couple of customers came back in to say how wonderful it was that they were partnering with us to raise awareness surrounding the Social Host Law. She also mentioned that Tilton House of Pizza were willing to have us back – it was a great success!



Above: (L-R) Al's Village Pizza: Bob Lucas and Lauren Malloy. Tilton House of Pizza: Lauren Malloy, Cousin of Lynn Haskell, Lynn Haskell, and Bob Lucas.

Joe mentioned that he went to JJ's Pizza to do the same along with Ken Merrifield and Bob Lucas. He stated that they did not have nearly as many pizza boxes like Al's and Tilton House that were already put together so they taped the boxes that were already put together as well as the ones that were completely flat which JJ's would assemble later on – Joe, Ken and Bob did about 400 boxes as well. Joe wanted to mention that he was very impressed on how these businesses were very wanting to help and appreciative.

Donna Liolis volunteered to contact Pizza Chef. She spoke that her and Christy dropped off flyers, Pizza Chef volunteered to fold and stuff the flyer in the sides of the boxes and place in the bags. Donna asked if this was a project that was going to continue. Melissa mentioned that at each place they were very willing to have us back so it could certainly continue. She mentioned having a monthly message to do this project monthly would be a great next step.

Melissa mentioned that we could expand this project outside of the pizza businesses as there are many other food businesses in Franklin that we could do this with – making table tents, putting the flyer in bagged lunches, taping take out boxes – were just a couple ideas that could be potential next steps. Karen mentioned that she was unable to attend April's meeting so she missed this opportunity to volunteer but she mentioned that this kind of project is a great hands-on opportunity for volunteers and having actionable items like this will get them energized to engage in volunteer opportunities.

Melissa mentioned that April was Alcohol Awareness Month so it was a good time to get the awareness out to the community surrounding the Social Host Law, especially with prom and graduation coming up. She mentioned that we can certainly change the message; talking tips over dinner, conversation starters – were just a couple ideas. Karen thought that having a message about marijuana would be a good idea. Elizabeth thought that with the new decriminalization of marijuana law that was passed, we could focus the message about marijuana surrounding the developing brain. Melissa thought that we could also advertise our dropbox too with this project.

Bob Grover asked if at Community Day we would have any of the flyers set out on our table and we will. Melissa mentioned that we were hoping to get a fridge at our table to visualize; *"the easiest place to get alcohol is right next to the milk"* and have an empty carton of milk right next to an empty six pack of beer. Scott said he has a dorm fridge that he would be willing to bring with him for us to use. Bob thought that having these flyers around at other table vendors would be a good idea. Donna mentioned displaying the flyer down at the beaches or something that could go out to the Webster Lake Association. Scott mentioned that the NH Fish and Game Association runs the boat lunch so we would need to reach out to them to display any information down there. Donna mentioned displaying the flyer in the restrooms would be a good idea since Parks and Rec takes care of the restrooms there.

The next success that was highlighted was the success of inventorying the Rx Drop Box that is at the police station. Melissa indicated that she went to help Kendall Wolfson, one of the police officers, with two pharmacists to help inventory the drop box. Melissa mentioned that Kendall brought up numerous boxes of what had been collected in the drop box since the last inventory 5 months ago. Below are two pictures of the Chief and Kenall looking at what was in just one of the boxes.



Melissa discussed that they separated out the controlled versus the non-controlled drugs that we dropped off. She mentioned that we weigh the controlled drugs as well as do an inventory of what was collected. She passed around copies of what was inventoried as far as controlled drugs. She mentioned everything from cough syrup that may have codeine in it to fentanyl patches were collected. She also mentioned Drug Take Back Day held on April 29th in which the Chief and Joe were at and they both agreed that it was a great success. Joe said in the first two hours they collected more than they had in previous years for the entire event. He also said it was the largest take back day nationally which Melissa thought was due to the amount of publicity that was advertised through different media avenues.

Melissa mentioned that dropping off prescriptions in their original bottle rather than dumped in a bag with other medications, makes the process a lot easier than sifting through a bag with a number of different types of pills.

Lauren discussed another success that happened in April. She mentioned Jackie Rhodes, who is the technical assistance manager for CADCA, reached out to her and asked Lauren about the membership profile form that we utilize and how we use it. Lauren mentioned that the Task Force has been featured for the month of May for the success of the membership profile. (*See below for a clipping of the article*) She mentioned that other coalitions will be able to see this and how it has been a success in our work so far. Lauren mentioned that other coalitions look at this newsletter to see what is working for other coalitions to get ideas to implement for their own communities. Melissa reminded everyone to fill out their membership profiles and indicated that there are copies on the back table if they haven't filled one out and how it is a tool that the retention and recruitment subcommittee uses to do one-on-one reach out for those who haven't been engaged in the coalition for a while. We also use this to see what talents members have and how we can utilize their strengths in projects and volunteer opportunities.

Resources Roll Call

Resource: [Coalition Membership Profile/Form](#)

Featured Coalition: Franklin Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force

Coalition Contact: Lauren Malloy

City/State: Franklin, NH

Years as CADCA member: 3 years

Topic: Capacity

Skill: Increase participation and membership

Description of use: Franklin Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force utilizes the coalition membership profile in several ways. From being an avenue for communicating with members, to developing a larger network to recruit for specific projects, the membership profile allows a coalition to really focus on member skills and abilities to support its mission.

Recently, Franklin Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force revisited the coalition membership profiles to identify individuals who were once very active in an effort to reconnect with them to see if they were still interested in attending meetings. This reach out was conducted by the recruitment and retention team. This team reached out to individuals on a one-on-one basis to let them know how much Franklin Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Task Force valued their commitment and shared that the Task Force would like to reconnect with them. Having a resource such as the membership form allows individuals to express their strengths that they may not otherwise vocalize. This helps ensure their success as members.

Benefits: The Task Force uses the membership profile form to gather insight from the individual on specific areas that may be of interest to them, whether it is working with parents or volunteer recruitment, the Task Force is able to better utilize everyone's skills and abilities. It allows the Task Force to see which individuals would work well in certain efforts of carrying out the mission.

Another event that happened was the LRGHealthcare Recovery Walk that was held on May 7th (*see below for pictures.*) Scott mentioned that he is a member of the LRGHealthcare Board of Trustees. He mentioned that Dr. Paul Racicot wanted to create a walk between Franklin Regional Hospital and Lakes Region hospital in Laconia, but that would have been a long walk! He wanted to create a walk to benefit mental health and substance abuse. This was the first year for this walk and there were about 287 participants, 40 volunteers, and raised about \$20,000. The money is going towards mental health patients getting access to treatment and medications, *bridging the gap*. He mentioned there was a breakfast after for everyone that attended and it was a great first event. Melissa mentioned that Paul Blackford came and walked and thanked Lori Magoon and Ken Merrifield for helping with the Task Force table. Lauren mentioned there was a tree at Franklin Regional Hospital that had ribbons tied to the branches. Melissa stated that people could write a loved ones name on the ribbon and tie it to the tree branch, green and purple ribbons.



The Chief discussed his follow up with his undercover police officer who went in to local convenience stores to look at placement of paraphernalia and beer. Below are the results that were observed:

- **Irving Gas Station, 221 S. Main Street**
 - I observed several alcohol and cigarette advertisements posted on the outside of the store. When I entered the store in front of me was a beer cooler and to the right was a glass display with pipes and other paraphernalia. Tobacco products were kept behind the counter.
- **Citgo(Fast Food Mart), 5 N. Main Street**
 - When I entered I observed a small glass display case with vaporizers directly in front of me. Alcohol was kept in cooler towards the back of the store. All Tobacco products were kept behind the counter. Limited cigarette and alcohol advertising on the outside of the store.
- **Robert's Market, 2 Hill Road**
 - Limited Beer/Cigarette advertisements on the outside of the store. Store had glass case with vaporizers with tobacco products kept behind counter. Beer kept in coolers towards the back of the store.
- **Cumberland Farms, 239 Central Street**
 - Limited advertisements on the outside of the store. Tobacco products kept behind the counter and the beer coolers towards the back of the store.
- **Shop Express, 449 Central Street**
 - When I entered I observed glass display case next to the register with glass smoking pipes on other smoking related products. Next to the glass display case is fried chicken and other food items. Tobacco products kept behind the counter with the beer coolers towards the back of the store.

The Chief mentioned that there is still going to be the issue of being able to prove someone is using paraphernalia for drug purposes. The Chief mentioned that Attorney Ahern has tried to bring this to court before. Elizabeth mentioned that she did a little research on this after the Leadership Team meeting in April. She mentioned that there are communities that have

ordinances about paraphernalia and she asked Dick Lewis in the Planning and Zoning office to look at potentially drafting something for the legislative committee to review. She mentioned there is a concern they have; people saying their paraphernalia is for tobacco use. She mentioned she will ask Attorney Fitzgerald as well once Dick does a little research to see what is out there. She mentioned a concern being if we were preempted at all by the state and any regulations they may have. She was surprised when she began searching towns and they have ordinances already. Melissa mentioned that placement was a piece of this investigation, whether the placement was eye level, right next to the candy for kids, looking at those factors that went into observing the convenience stores. Traci asked if everyone was familiar with the term paraphernalia and what you are looking for when going into convenience stores. She mentioned that a convenience store in town has a display right when you walk in and even has fake Coca Cola cans to hide things in. Melissa questioned if you had to be at least 18 years old to purchase paraphernalia. The Chief answered saying no because things like the Coca Cola cans can be used to hide valuables. They do not check ID's to buy drug paraphernalia. The Chief mentioned that when a city or a town adopts an ordinance, it is only a violation because as police they don't have the authority to take someone's freedom so the only thing they can do is fine the individuals.

Melissa mentioned developing a policy surrounding this would be ideal. She related it back to CADCA's 7 Strategies for Community Change and mentioned this would fall under modifying or changing policies and compared it to a pyramid in the sense that this is the gold standard of what we can do as a coalition. She also mentioned that we can provide educational materials to the convenience store owners, much like what was done with Shop Express with the signage last year. By reaching out we could see if they would be open to do anything about the placement not that we are saying they can't sell it.

Melissa mentioned that the only chain convenience store would be Cumberland Farms, which would mean the coalition would need to go through corporate in order to move things forward with this effort. Joe mentioned that he noticed Cumberland Farms was the only one on the list that did not mention the visibility of paraphernalia. Melissa asked if as a coalition we wanted to hold these efforts until we can see if we can change policy or implement an ordinance before we did any outreach. Elizabeth mentioned this may be something we want to do, if we know an ordinance can be adopted, during the visit to the convenience stores we would bring that with us. If it cannot be adopted there will be a different approach – providing information. Traci mentioned the ordinances would surround language about the placement of paraphernalia versus prohibiting the sale of such items. Melissa thanked the Chief and the department for doing the surveying, it gives us a start in which we can build upon.

Melissa mentioned that as the Task Force, each year we sponsor students from the high school to attend the NH Teen Institute – which has been around for almost 30 years. It is a week long summer leadership program that takes place in Durham, NH. Melissa mentioned that she attended when she was in high school and is very passionate about the program. *(See below picture for brief overview of what students will take away from the program).*



Being an alumni, she knows it means a lot to the students we are able to send. She mentioned Project AWARE at the high school was very willing to promote this opportunity for the students to do something different over the summer. She mentioned that in previous years, students who attended came back to school and became more involved in youth leadership. She mentioned we have enough funds to send 5 students and have picked up 5 applications from the high school.

Coalition Survey Review:

Traci began by saying that one way the Task Force collects information is from a Coalition Survey that went out in March 2017. She mentioned that it goes out to members of the coalition, friends of the coalition, and people who are on our contact lists. She wanted to share with everyone some of the preliminary results with the group that were gathered. She wanted to highlight some key areas she thought would be useful. This year we received the most number of responses since sending out the survey, a total of 40 responses were collected. Elizabeth questioned if it was due to raffling off a gift card. In hopes of the winner being present, Lauren asked Melissa drew the winner from a hat. Since this survey was anonymous, folks who took the survey could enter the raffle by emailed Lauren upon completion of the survey. Melissa drew Anya Twarog's name as the 2017 Coalition Survey Raffle Winner.

Traci mentioned that while we want people to take the survey and still remain anonymous, it is tricky sometimes to offer an incentive with it. Traci mentioned there were not many people emailed to be entered into the drawing although there were 40 people that took the time to complete the survey. She started to explain some of the data that was collected and the majority of people indicated that they were responding as someone who was a friend of the coalition and did not attend monthly meetings. She thought that we could focus on this group of people who might be available on special circumstances to help with tangible things. Question 2 asked, "What got you interested in the coalition?" and someone indicated that it was Chief Goldstein. Traci liked this comment because the Chief's name was the only name that was mentioned. She mentioned that people are really passionate about changing their community as how it relates to substance misuse. She mentioned that no matter the task we are tackling, it is so important to be promoting resources, much like the pizza box project.

Question 5 asked, "What were the main reasons if you attended less than 3 coalition meetings?" A lot of people indicated that they have attended the previous 3 meetings so that didn't apply to

them. On the other hand, Traci mentioned her and Melissa had a previous discussion in which they mentioned people have so many other demands, people are extremely busy. She mentioned people have kids in sports which was a comment from someone expressing why they haven't attended meetings. Traci mentioned thinking of ideas as we are creating our action plan, ways that people can get involved in different activities who want to be engaged but may not have the time to attend coalition meetings. The competing demands on time can be difficult to reach individuals who have many other time commitments throughout the week. Karen shared her experience is that parents have a lot going on but definitely have a good way of being able to communicate; phone, email, text, and Facebook. She mentioned different people have different avenues in which they receive contact information and offered a suggestion that we look at different routes other than sending out an email for the meeting reminder. She mentioned that she personally responds quicker to Messenger on Facebook than an email. She wondered if putting out the meeting information and asking for volunteers in a variety of different ways would reach others.

Melissa mentioned that there is an app that some businesses are using that creates a blind mass text if people are willing to give a cell phone number this could be useful. Traci mentioned that often times when the Constant Contacts are sent out, they may get filtered into different folders such as junk or spam, they don't just 'show up' which makes it difficult for those who receive many emails each day.

Traci moved onto question 6 which asked, "What topics would you like to see?" She said this information is very valuable in a number of ways. People indicated that they would like to see the topic of heroin and what the Task Force can do about it, highlights of various groups working on common causes, how to engage more youth in meetings, have youth present at meetings, new initiatives and resources being available, youth prevention activities, HOPE for NH Recovery staff, updates on what is being done, prevention in our schools. She thinks the feedback was great. Melissa thought looking at this was a great vision from a wide variety of people what they think are the purposed of the Task Force. It made her think if we need to do a better job of explaining what the mission of the Task Force is or are there other ways to connect people to resources. Traci mentioned she would love to spend more time sifting through the comments and feedback. She thought having kids do a presentation would be really interesting or even a collaboration with Project AWARE.

Question 7 asked if people wanted to hear any particular speakers. She mentioned people wanted to hear from people in recovery. Bob Grover mentioned that he believes people who are in recovery and sharing their stories is an excellent avenue to take. Traci mentioned that what we know through prevention science, showing youth some very scary and terrifying things, a couple days later they forget that it happened. She mentioned that speakers need to be part of a much larger package. Traci indicated that there are trainings that we would want speakers to go through to make sure they are speaking to kids in a safe way. She also mentioned this is where HOPE for NH Recovery can play a big part where they can find folks to speak and offer speakers. Bob would like to see speakers talk at the schools and offered his praise of continuing the Task Force's efforts with prevention. Karen thought that having the efforts of the Task Force, HOPE, and the hospital should regularly meet to discuss how each are connected. Melissa mentioned that there is a lot going on out in the community in regards to treatment and recovery

and our work at the table. Traci mentioned someone mentioned they would like to see Lynn Lyons speak but was unfamiliar with the name. Scott looked her up and mentioned she is located in Wolfeboro NH and is a Social Worker. Elizabeth mentioned that people definitely like to hear speakers when they come to meetings, but tying that to our action plan can be difficult getting action items from it. Joe mentioned that issues in the past with speakers is that we don't get a large group of people who show up. Scott thought having a community forum with a speaker would gather some interest and possibly get them interested in coming to the monthly coalition meetings. Melissa mentioned that our three focus areas are alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs so our speakers and action items are focused on these three substances as well. Elizabeth mentioned that when we have events such as a speaker, we need to find ways to engage folks in different pieces of our action plan as well.

The next question was about the membership profile we utilize. Based on the responses it seemed like people were unsure if they have filled one out or not. She mentioned this being something we discuss again and address. Melissa mentioned that we have them on the back table each meeting. Lauren mentioned that at a meeting, completing a membership profile be added to the agenda and everyone take 5 minutes to fill one out. Melissa thought maybe doing one-on-one outreach for those we don't have profiles from could be another approach. Karen mentioned making it electronic would be a good idea.

Traci wanted to draw attention to a question about how we transfer information, asking "In the past 12 months, how involved have you been in the following activities related to our coalition?" The highest number, 13 people, indicated that they were very involved at sharing information which she thought was good. Whereas 12 people indicated that they were not involved at all and that could be those who responded that do not come to the meetings. She indicated that the majority of the responses were from those who are not at all involved or a little involved. The specific areas of involvement that were asked included, serving as a Coalition Ambassador at a community event, recruiting new members to join the coalition, sharing information that you learned at a coalition meeting, working on a specific project or activity related to one of our coalition goals, donating food/snacks for coalition meetings or events, and advocating for policy change at the local or state level. Overall, Traci thinks we can do better at doing specific asks about these different levels of involvement so it becomes more apparent that those items are needs of the coalition efforts. She indicated that the highest level of participation from a particular sector was from education and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery. She indicated that each sector was represented. Traci indicated that 14 people responded that they would be interested in increasing their participation. People also indicated that they were interested in serving as a Coalition Ambassador as well as sharing information. Traci and Melissa shared that sending out a "Call to Action" for what we would like people to do specifically, would be a good approach to getting more involvement from folks. Elizabeth mentioned that specific asks should be sent out through Constant Contact to reach those not at the meetings. The results will be compiled into more of a report that will be easier to understand, Traci clarified.

Community Day Survey and Outreach:

Traci began this discussion distinguishing the Coalition Survey and the Community Day Survey by indicating that the Coalition Survey is more focused on the work that is happening with the Coalition, whereas the Community Day Survey is focused more on perceptions of what the Task Force is doing, perception of risk associated with youth using drugs, do people lock up their medications in their house. She indicated that in previous years we have gotten a low response rate, and majority of last year's respondents indicated they did not have a child under the age of 18 but we want to hear from those who have children under 18 which is a target of ours. Traci said in previous years we only handed out the survey physically at Community Day but last year there was an online version as well. This year we will do an online survey too and also do an outreach to target some specific groups, parents who have children under 18.

Karen offered a suggestion for Community Day saying that around the bouncy houses parents are standing there watching their children so that could be an area where someone could pass out surveys. She thought having a table set up there would be a good idea. Elizabeth asked how many volunteers signed up and Lauren said there were only 3 for that day so doing that approach may be difficult. Melissa thought that taking shifts could work if someone went over to the bouncy house area where parents will be present. Traci asked where the Task Force table is going to be and Elizabeth mentioned it is going to be right up front where most of the traffic walks by.

Melissa thought getting ahold of the superintendent and maybe asking him to send out a link through their email blasts to parents, putting it in the next 3 Rivers News, and setting up in the lobby at BRCC while Headstart, Tiny Twisters, and the Rec Center families are dropping off and picking up their kids. Melissa mentioned this would be a great opportunity to reach parents as they are waiting. Scott thought that possibly reaching parents at a sporting event would be another way to reach parents. Melissa said that we should check with Dan Sylvester to see if there is a game that would be good to attend and then we can send out a call to action to recruit a couple of folks to volunteer.

Melissa mentioned that we were invited to attend the Spring Sports Banquet at the high school on June 14th, so that could be another opportunity to reach parents. The Task Force will be present at this event and Melissa mentioned maybe using that opportunity to show a short video in front of everyone which would be a good use of a crowd.

Melissa asked Lauren if there were any volunteer opportunities that were coming up, Lauren mentioned that so far for June there aren't any but will keep everyone updated. Traci asked if anyone knew of any innovative ways or apps to communicate with groups, and to keep her updated if anyone knows of anything. Elizabeth mentioned that there is an app where you subscribe to a texting service and we could utilize this to send out reminders.

Group Updates/Comments:

Elizabeth wanted to share a situation which reinforces the power of peer to peer rather than coming from an adult. She mentioned her and her daughter had a conversation about one of her

daughters friends talked to her daughter about a friend who was using and her daughter did not realize things were happening to this particular individual. Elizabeth emphasized how much peer to peer conversation is so powerful. She also mentioned how important our work is when we go into schools and talk to the kids about peer education.

Chief Goldstein updated the group that he spent a great deal of time with the Senate. He updated the group that the Governor signed the decriminalization of marijuana today. The Chief expressed his concern with our efforts in regards to marijuana prevention. Melissa mentioned that this does not mean that we halt our efforts with educating the youth about the dangers of smoking marijuana. Melissa also mentioned the group of students at the high school are very passionate about educating their peers about the dangers of substance misuse and that speaks to the power of the message coming from their peers. The Chief expressed his concern about how difficult it will be to arrest those who are found with marijuana on them. Elizabeth mentioned how much effort and passion the Chief has spent on this but she emphasized we will come back and we can't give up!

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

✓ **June's Coalition Meeting:** Thursday June 8th, 2017 from 5:15-7pm at BRCC

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by Lauren Malloy