



Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force
 Task Force Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, July 14, 2016
 5:15pm – 7:00pm at Bessie Rowell Community Center

Present:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Sector:</i>	<i>Name:</i>	<i>Sector:</i>
<i>Melissa Lee</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Tam Feener</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Elizabeth Dragon</i>	<i>City of Franklin</i>	<i>Ken Merrifield</i>	<i>Mayor, City of Franklin</i>
<i>Dawn Sanchez</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Glen Feener</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Jason Vezina</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Marcia Feener</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>Rev. Karen Heavey</i>	<i>Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry</i>
<i>James Heavey</i>	<i>Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry</i>	<i>Joe Giunta</i>	<i>Religious/Fraternal Organization: Franklin Elks</i>
<i>Kayleigh Ash</i>	<i>LRGHealthcare</i>	<i>Corey Gately</i>	<i>LRGHealthcare</i>
<i>Barbara Olson</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Scott Burns</i>	<i>School Board</i>
<i>Paul Blackford</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Linda Backert</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Bob Lucas</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Cathy Baumann</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Two people not signed in</i>			

Melissa Lee welcomed

Mayor's Minute

He happens to be a subscriber to Fortune Magazine and there was an article in the July 1st edition about the experience in Colorado with legalization of Marijuana. Ken shared some passages from this article that he found interesting (note: this article can currently be found here:

<http://fortune.com/pot-marijuana-colorado/>):

Officials in Denver, which is home to one-third of the state's cannabis market, moved this spring to rein in pot capitalism. The city passed an ordinance capping the number of dispensaries and grow facilities at the present level. But discontent continues to fester in poorer communities, where many of these operations inevitably land. "We were told that legalization would take drugs out of our community," says Candi CdeBaca, a community activist who grew up in the mostly Latino and poor Denver neighborhood of Elyria-Swansea. "The drugs stayed—and the drug dealers changed."

CdeBaca points to, for example, an increase in school suspensions related to marijuana. And unlike the meatpacking plants and refineries that once dotted the area, CdeBaca says, this new industry hasn't brought her neighbors jobs. Instead, the money is flowing to outsiders.

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Groups serving the poor in Pueblo report a flood of homeless people arriving from other states. Local homeless shelter Posada, for instance, has witnessed a 47% jump in demand since 2014, including 1,200 people who reported to shelter workers that they came to smoke pot or get jobs in the industry, says Posada's director, Anne Stattelmann. She says her funding is tapped out. "It's changed the culture of our community," she says.

The intention behind sharing this, is to just note that there are an awful lot of “unintended consequences” that Colorado is experiencing as a result of legalizing Marijuana, that many people just do not realize. The Governor John Hickenlooper of Colorado has issued a warning to any state considering legalization to essentially not rush into this.

Business Sector Meeting Report

The second meeting occurred just yesterday (July 13th) at Franklin Studio (a big thank you for hosting us!) where Chief Goldstein was our “featured speaker” and he led the conversation talking about basically drugs and trends in general and the history as well as how our prevention efforts tie in with enforcement efforts, including what he has seen not only in Franklin but throughout his career.

We are pleased with this outcome. We had about 20 in attendance, a combination of people from the business community and citizens and a reporter. People were very engaged and stayed well beyond the advertised end-time, asking questions and discussing these issues and the strategies to help prevent and decrease them.

Media/Social Marketing tools

The group discussed ideas for upcoming events and marketing resources. Everyone watched a video PSA created by the Check the Stats NH initiative called “What Parents Need to Know” and after watching this PSA, they agreed that this would be a good one to play for parents/families at appropriate events, such as the FACT 1 Camp performances later on in July. (you can find this video here: <http://www.checkthestatsnh.org/media-center/>). The group also listened to a recent PSA recorded by the Middle School Franklin Youth Initiative (FYI) kids. This PSA is called “The Brain” and is adapted from a PSA script by Dover Youth 2 Youth. (You can listen to this PSA on our website: http://www.franklinnh.org/Pages/FranklinNH_Drug/fyi)

Coalition in Action: Data Discussion Follow-up

Joe G. to look into Alex's Story: Joe has a flyer to share with the group about this performance, which they travel with this. Elizabeth explained that the task force did sponsor this performance the previous year, when it first came out, and it was very well received. The concerns with doing this again are that the cost has gone up (\$825 plus mileage) and the concern of doing the same thing too soon meaning that the students who had already seen this would see it again and would

that performance then lose some credibility? This aside, which can be planned for, the biggest concern, however, that we learned from the last time is that we need to coordinate/be prepared for some sort of follow-up pieces to be in place because there were a number of students who were very moved by this and a lot of emotions and sharing came out of this so we need to figure out a way to have this in place so that we don't just have that "one and done" effect where a few days pass, those students reaching out aren't getting adequate attention/help and it is less effective of a strategy.

Corey Gately to look into visuals:

Corey shared a few of the images that she found in researching visuals that could go against the many pro-marijuana advertisements out there. Through her research, Corey explained, she really felt that it might be really more powerful to have some from the youth and especially from Franklin/local youth. Melissa shared that there are posters on the wall in the hallway at Bessie Rowell that we pass to get to the meeting space. FYI has been working on creating this type of messaging and images but this is a start. The group decided that it would be nice to see these posters/messages aimed to reach youth, in the community but that maybe we should also organize it so that we also have this messaging aimed at parents and adults in our community. The group discussed the difficulty for parents to not promote marijuana with their youth as there seems to be a pressure to look at it as a "soft" drug or "less harmful," etc., however looking at the effects it has on the brain and that it is actually one of the top damaging drugs with relation to the damage to the brain that it can do and the inability for us to reverse the effects. We need to find a way to explain this, gain understanding and how they can convey this in their day-to-day lives. It is a tough topic right now.

Karen Darling to look into FACT and Concerts in the Park series.

- **FACT:** Basically, we have the "yes" to looking into a pointed conversation with the FACT 1 camp youth surrounding life, positive decision making, etc. with the idea of a youth member (FYI or FACT Advisor, etc) doing this rather than an adult (they look up to the older kids). This is something that will take further exploration to coordinate.
- **FACT Pt. 2:** We have the "OK" to also play a video PSA for the parents before the show, which is that "What Parents Need to Know" PSA that the group watched and then the "Alex's Story" shortened version to the earlier showing which tends to have more youth from the Parks & Rec. Summer Program. The Franklin Opera House (FOH) is kindly willing to set us up for showing these, in addition to us saying a few words as we usually do.
- **Concerts in the Park:** We have permission to not only have a table presence at these events, but to also have a donations can set out and the proceeds as donation to our coalition, popcorn and bags to be provided by FOH as well (we just provide the table).

Upcoming Events/Activities:

- **FACT 1 Performance:** Performances Thursday, July 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Franklin Opera House ***need volunteers***
- **August Coalition Meeting:** Thursday, August 11th from 5:15-7pm @ BRCC

- **Hazardous Waste Day:** Saturday, July 30th from 8am to Noon at the Public Works Garage on Bow Street ***need volunteers***

- **Concerts in the Park:** ***need volunteers, no more than 2-3 needed at each***

We've been invited to fundraise by selling popcorn provided by the Opera House, and to have our materials on a portion of this table to raise awareness of our coalition work and engage community members. It would be ideal to have 2 volunteers for each event.

Below is a list of dates that we need volunteer help with:

- Thursday, July 21st from about 6:30pm to 8pm
 - Thursday, August 4th from about 6:30pm to 8pm
 - Thursday, August 11th from about 6:30pm to 8pm
 - Thursday, August 18th from about 6:30pm to 8pm
 - Thursday, August 25th from about 6:30pm to 8pm
 - Thursday, September 1st from about 6:30pm to 8pm
- **Farmers Market:** ***need volunteers, no more than 2 needed at each***
Any Tuesday from 3-6pm (or really an amount of time you're able to commit to) up until September 13th. "Man" a coalition awareness/resource table and use this opportunity to engage community members and educate them on our coalition's work, etc.

Below is a list of dates that we need volunteer help with:

- **Tuesday, July 19th from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital**
- **Tuesday, July 26th from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital**
- **Tuesday, August 2nd from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital**
- **Tuesday, August 9th from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital**
- **Tuesday, August 16th from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital**
- **Tuesday, August 23rd from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital**
- **Tuesday, August 30th from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital**
- **Tuesday, September 6th from 3-6pm at Franklin Regional Hospital OTHER:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Angela Lynch

Thank you to the coalition member(s) who provided the snacks to share!