



Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force
 Task Force Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, June 9, 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>Andrea McFall</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</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>Tamara 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>Karen Darling</i>	<i>Civic/Volunteer Group (Choose Franklin, Franklin Jr. Youth Group)</i>
<i>Ken Merrifield</i>	<i>Mayor, City of Franklin</i>	<i>Joe Giunta</i>	<i>Religious/Fraternal Organization: Franklin Elks</i>
<i>Beth Bellows</i>	<i>Grandparent</i>	<i>Corey Gately</i>	<i>LRGHealthcare</i>
<i>Tracy Goldthwaite</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Scott Burns</i>	<i>School Board</i>
<i>Michelle Lennon</i>	<i>Other Organization Involved in Reducing Substance abuse: Family Resource Center</i>	<i>Linda B</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Bob Lucas</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>	<i>Bob Grover</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Cody Laflamme</i>	<i>unknown</i>		

Melissa Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She explained that Angela Lynch is not attending this evening as she is preparing for her Wedding on Saturday. The room then went around and gave brief introductions from everyone in the room she reviewed the agenda and pointed out the design that gives space for notes and on the back of the agenda we have the meeting guidelines that coalition member created last year. Melissa asked if anyone would be the timekeeper and Scott Burns volunteered to do this. *Thank you Scott!*

Mayor's Minute

Ken shared Chief sent an email to himself and the City Manager the day before about comments made the day before that by an Executive Councilor and candidate Chris Sonunu, in which he stated that there is “no leadership at the state or the local level on the issue of drugs.” The ironic part is that Ken had dinner with Chris Sonunu last night and he had said this to Ken in person, which opens up the opportunity for a conversation in the near future, at an appropriate time. For Ken, it raises the question about whether we are broadcasting this effective or not. To have a candidate like this who is not aware that we have these efforts at the local level is concerning.

Guest Presentation:

LRGHealthcare Recovery Initiative

Melissa asked Corey if she can help explain and differentiate this initiative of LRGHealthcare's and the Franklin Recovery Initiative that has been led by Allyson Vachon (who presented to the coalition this past December). Corey is talking specifically about

Chief Goldstein

Chief Goldstein shared some experiences and notes from some things that have been happening recently. At a conference recently,

First time offense, which was always a Class A misdemeanor... Despite what some may have heard on the news or elsewhere, prosecutors and courts do not have the rights to reduce that charge. If it is statutory, it stays there. So over the last session they've

Melissa noted that this just reiterates that prevention is so crucial

Data Discussion Follow-up

Melissa began this work-session by briefly reviewing the work that was done at our April meeting, after we looked at the most recent YRBS data. The group had generated a list of the data points that stuck out to them most, whether it was positive or points that were concerning. So building off of this list, tonight the group worked on generating a list of "actions" that can be taken/worked on to help improve or reduce those concerning data points and/or to continue to support what may be attributing to the positive data (looking at protective factors).

PSAs from the youth to increase awareness and share positive messaging (peer messaging). PSAs regarding risk/harm of use, PSAs that share experience(s) and what they've gone to, PSAs regarding positive decision-making, regarding the dangers around Marijuana use.

A venue for an assembly at the schools. With someone with experience(s) to share. The trouble with this, is often people bring in older celebrities that the younger population often doesn't know who they are and they have trouble relating, which speaks to why many say that this type of event isn't very effective. However, this type of event is great when paired with other strategies and activities, etc.

What brings us full circle, is that the people who remain the most influential and important in a young person's life, is their parent(s). So how to reach them? Unfortunately, what we're seeing is that the generation of parents now doesn't see the harm in Marijuana use so they may not discuss this with their youth and they also may be using and as role models, modelling use. How to we address this? Parental education, but when? We need to go to the parents. Maybe partner with Life of an Athlete and utilize their mandatory parent meeting time(s) and other opportunities. It is difficult to get parents to come to you. Another important piece is to begin younger like kindergarten or even preschool. So how to reach these as well? Could we partner with some of the food programs, like the food pantries? Even if it's just written education at those locations?

Visuals are also important. To have more visuals/visual aids that are engaging, try to reduce print. These can be used to bring to locations like the potential of the food pantry.

With regard to working with the Police Department, if a kid or parent gets caught or ticketed for use or having something like Marijuana, that this is an opportunity to also somehow educate them. Like with kids, could we invite the kid and parent in to have a discussion? What about a Drug Court?

The Lazy Daze store downtown is also concerning with regard to the bold messaging on their windows and it is in such a central location.

Different Role Models should encourage other role models to speak out. People in the Military could be very powerful role models, as people view them as America's heroes. Why are they not sending a message? Locally, the community adores FACT so this is a great opportunity to utilize them as a role model. FACT Camp 1 in the

summer is sponsored by our coalition as it is a great experience that teaches empowerment and positivity, etc. Could we do something more to tie this in and utilize this as an opportunity to reach the parents at the show, and maybe with the kids prior to.

Alex's Story, maybe this could be brought to the school again?

Sports games/events: Something people are already going to. We've graciously gotten permission to have a table at events/games and to periodically do something during a halftime or two. Tables on their own aren't as powerful as being able to speak or do something to the whole audience there. Maybe show a powerful video clip, etc.

Concerts in the Park events: Karen shared the idea that we could always have a table at these as well. Something for the summer months to potentially reach a different audience.

Belmont recently showed The Anonymous People (with a panel following) where coaches even asked their kids to attend. Their showing was packed full of people. There were probably over 300 people there. We can try to be more creative as to how to get people to come to events/activities.

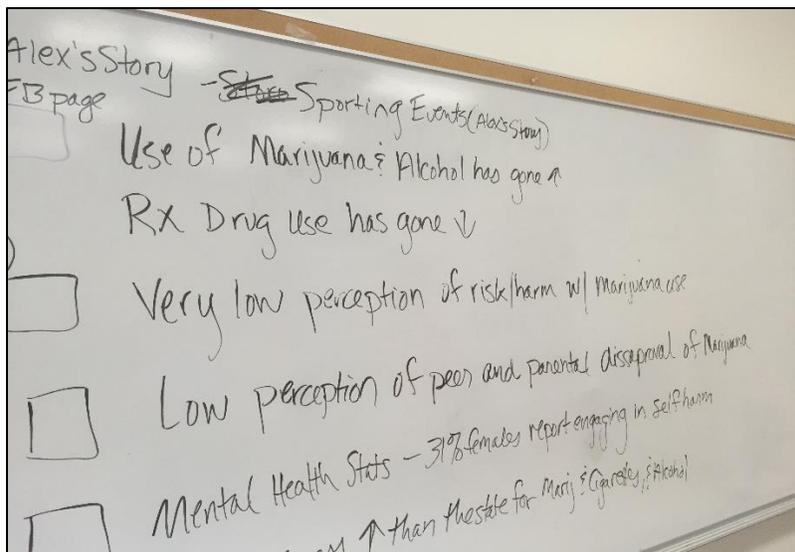
Tam shared something she read about having a mock teen bedroom set-up, maybe at Community Day, with professionals to help guide and share with parents what to look for and how to react/address any potential concerns or issues. Would need to be kept private, no youth allowed, so maybe we could use a trailer? Karen shared that someone went to the event, that had this mock bedroom that our coalition held this past February, and they found it to be powerful and this person wanted more because there was so much information and so much to learn and it was a very engaging format.

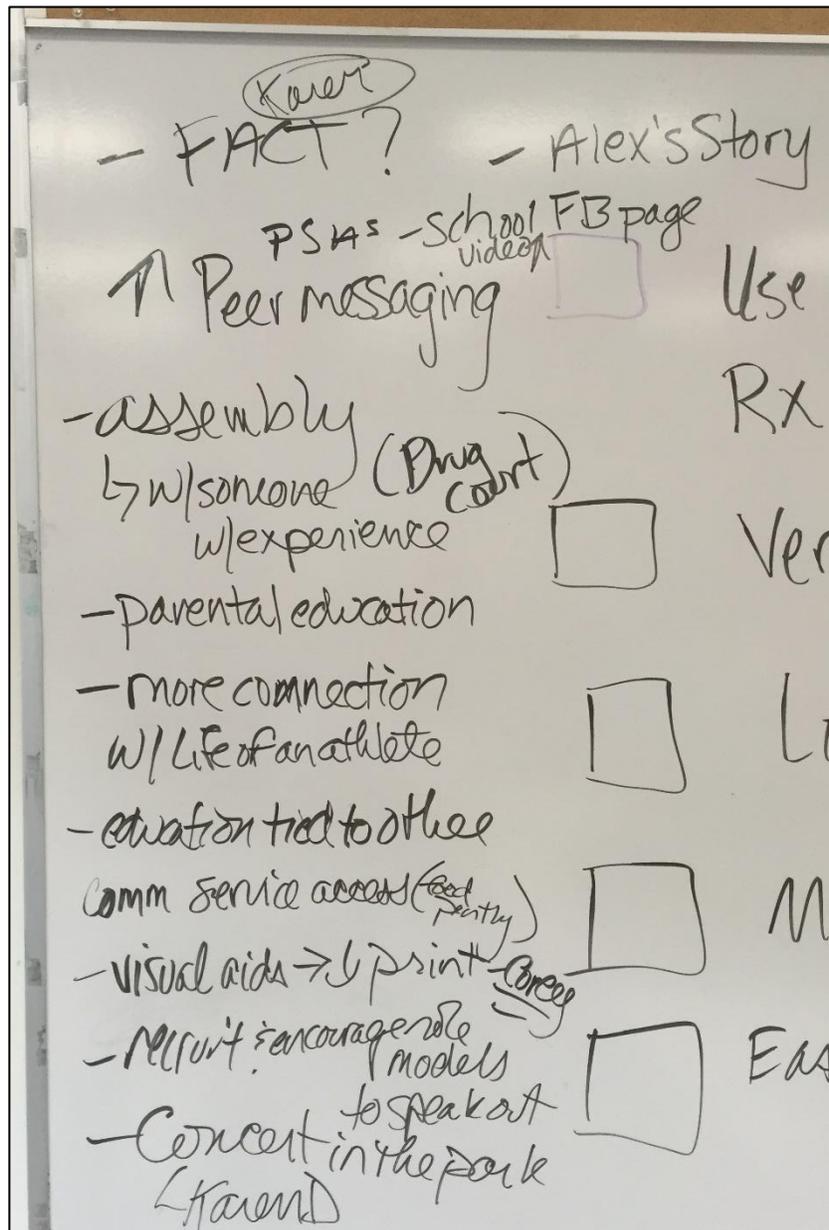
People willing to look into/work on one of the ideas discussed:

Joe: Looking into Alex's Story

Karen: Looking into FACT (increased involvement in) and Concerts in the Park

Corey: Visual aids, esp. regarding Marijuana, something that may be impactful.





Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

- **FACT 1 Performance:** Performances Thursday, July 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Franklin Opera House *need volunteers to help represent the coalition and at our table
- **July Coalition Meeting:** Thursday, July 14th from 5:15-7pm @ BRCC
- **July Business Sector Meeting:** Wednesday, July 13th from Noon to 1pm at Franklin Studio
- **Hazardous Waste Day:** Saturday, July 30th at the Public Works Garage on Bow Street *Need volunteers to

Coalition Updates

1. **How to Talk to Your Teens:** We are looking to reschedule this for early in the next school year, so be on the lookout!
2. **Franklin Farmers Market:** Coming up at the hospital on Tuesdays from 3 to 6pm. A great opportunity for families to access healthy, local foods. People can use their SNAP or EBT dollars at the market and they are even doubling SNAP/EBT dollars up to \$20 this year. So if someone spends \$20, they'll get another \$20 to spend at the market. There will be some music this year and more fun

stuff going on at the market as well. FSB is also supporting us to utilize a free bus to get to the market this year as well.

OTHER:

Reaching younger students, like elementary... How do we do this? Barriers include the time in the elementary school's day, parents often still have the mentality that they don't want their kids to be taught about this subject even though we continuously find that these kids already know. Project AWARE: Could we get a presentation/update on this in the future? We've been partnering with this grant and in looking at what is already going on, we've found that there is not currently an evidence-based curriculum at the elementary school level. So this is something that is being looked into.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Angela Lynch

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