**Dedham Coalition for Drug and Alcohol Awareness**

**March 5th, 2019**

**In attendance:**

Jessica Tracy, Kristina King, Janet Whelton, Mike D’Entremont, Leanne Jasset, Kathy Reda, Fred Newton, Mary Ellard, Susan Fay

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

**Community Updates**

* Jessica reviewed the community hiring process for the new Drug Free Communities Program Director. Representatives from the schools, health department, parents, HR, and other community groups met to review job applicants and score their applications based on assets such as youth engagement, previous work in substance use, and program management. Out of 19 candidates who applied to the position, 9 were invited for interviews, and 2 moved on to a final panel interview.
* As a result of this process, Kristina King was hired as the new DFC Program Director.

**Strategic Plan Review**

* Kristina presented the Action Plan for September 2018-September 2019, which was submitted and approved as part of Dedham’s application to the DFC grant. It outlines the Coalition’s strategies to build capacity and reduce substance use among Dedham youth in the next year.
* Kristina also presented a coalition baseline survey that will be sent out to the larger community in order to gauge knowledge of, interest in, and availability of working with the Coalition. It will also ask participants about barriers to participation. Several coalition members suggested changes and additions, such as asking about the possibility of a virtual meeting, which Kristina will incorporate and then send back out to the group for review.

**Open Discussion**

* The group discussed opportunities to engage faith groups, the schools, and other sectors in our coalition work.
* Leanne brought up the concern that some community members might mistakenly get the idea that the Coalition is only concerned with youth substance use. The group suggested having an Elder Action Team and making sure to include initiatives that were focused on the general Dedham community.
* Susan brought up the idea of connecting with the Town Meetings and asking for a representative of each precinct to come to coalition meetings.
* Fred suggested the Drug Free Clubs of America as a promising avenue for youth-led substance use prevention using positive incentives and social norms.
* Jessica also brought up Dover2Dover as a youth-led model that we should look into.
* Kathy suggested we look into hosting a viewing of the locally made film, “If They Had Known,” about a 19-year-old from Winchester who died after combining Xanax and alcohol at a party. The film was shown to all Needham High School seniors and was very successful.

Meeting ended at 7:00 PM

Action items:

1. Kristina will make edits to the coalition baseline assessment and then send it out to the group.
2. Kristina will reach out to faith groups, the Youth Commission, and others to start scheduling one-on-ones.