**Dedham Coalition for Drug and Alcohol Awareness**

**March 5th, 2019**

**In attendance:**

Jessica Tracy, Kristina King, Mike Buckley, Fred Newton, Mike D’Entremont, Mike Butler, Jason Sullivan, Allison Staton, Gail Kelley, Mike Welch

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

**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.
* The group discussed next steps in sending out a baseline coalition survey that will gauge community members’ interest and availability in participating in Coalition prevention work over the next year.

**Open Discussion**

* The group discussed opportunities to engage faith groups, the schools, and other sectors in our coalition work. Mike Welch suggested reaching out to the PTO groups which convene in the fall, winter, and spring.
* The group also discussed other opportunities for outreach, such as connecting with other coalitions (e.g., Stoughton and Weymouth) with high attendance.
* Allison pointed out that youth are no longer active on Facebook, and that engaging with them via other media such as Instagram and Snapchat.
* Jessica brought up the option of meeting less frequently, and the group discussed the pros and cons. Based on respondents’ availability from the baseline survey, the coalition may decide to meet quarterly as opposed to monthly.

Meeting ended at 10:00 AM

Action items:

1. Kristina will look into creating a coalition baseline assessment.
2. Mike Buckley will send Kristina information on the alcohol compliance checks that were performed in January 2019.
3. Kristina will attend the spring PTO meeting on May 13.
4. Kristina will reach out to faith groups to start scheduling one-on-ones.