Dedham Organization for Substance Awareness

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

**In Attendance:**

Krissy King – DFC Program Director

Takeya Faison – Youth Engagement Coordinator

Charles Boateng – Program Coordinator

Jessica Tracy – Public Health Nurse Monica DeWinter – Vice Chair Kylee Sullivan – Health Director Kathy Reda – Vice Chair Board of Health Maria Antonuccio – Dedham High School Nurse Kathy Reda – Dedham Board of Health Pete Kane –Calvary Baptist Church Fiona Flynn – Youth Ambassador Ann Stephens – Parent Action Team Michael Buckley – Dedham Police Christopher Colleran – Norfolk County Sherrif’s Office, Community Outreach Coordinator Kim Tamaren – TILL Inc. Mental Health Services Kelly Celata – Harm Reduction Team Elsbeth Simoni – Harm Reduction Team Janet Whelton – Harm Reduction Team

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

**Coalition Updates**

* DOSA has officially elected Monica DeWinter to serve as the Vice Chair for a 1-year term to assist with agenda-setting and meeting facilitation. Monica previously served on the Parent Action Team.
* DOSA has hired Charles Boateng to be the new Program Coordinator. Charles will coordinate coalition communications with the general public, including the coalition’s monthly newsletter, social media posts, and press releases. Additionally, he will work with the two youth ambassadors to create events that engage the youth in the community and promote substance use prevention strategies.
* Fiona Flynn, who has been with DOSA for the last 2 years, has taken on an additional leadership role to serve as a youth ambassador. Along with Chris Foley, the two youth ambassadors aim to establish a youth coalition who will advocate for change, while earning community service hours and making connections with peers.

**Youth Engagement Coordinator Update**

The youth action team will work closely with Fiona Flynn and Chris Foley to plan events that engage the youth and offer peer education activities and workshops. Officer Jay Sullivan, Takeya and Fiona are currently planning a trip to TreeTop Adventures in Canton, Massachusetts. The trip will consist of high ropes, obstacle courses and team building exercises. The youth action team plans to have this event by the end of August and hope to promote DOSA as well as the youth coalition during the trip.

**Parent Action Team**

The parent action team hosted a remote event on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7 PM. Ty Sells is a certified prevention specialist and director of training for youth to youth international in Ohio. Sells had a presentation on how to create balance in the lives of parents and caregivers and offered tips on how to connect with the youth. The presentation was incredibly informative and helpful to the parents and caregivers in attendance.

**Harm Reduction Team**

The Harm reduction team met remotely to discuss the prospects of holding a public service educational campaign for MAT (Medicated Assisted Treatment). The goal of the campaign would be to increase knowledge about MAT as well as where and how to access this service. Additionally, the team has worked on making Narcan available in the health department which Kelly Celata made a flyer for. Also, Jessica Tracy has been distributing Narcan to clients during her post overdose home visits. Finally, the team members want to discuss distributing Narcan to churches and other locations to increase access.

**Health Equity Group**

The goal of this group is to identify health disparities in the community that the coalition can help address. The group is also tasked with finding populations that are not being reached and establish ways to support them. Currently, the health equity group is in the data collection stage and are working with a consultant, parents, schools and faith groups to gather data to work with.

**Summer Strategy Prioritization**

The focus of this section of the meeting was to prioritize underage drinking prevention strategies using a ranked voting system. Jessica Tracy facilitated the voting which generated the strategies DOSA plans to implement first. Each member of the coalition voted and ranked what prevention strategy they prioritized. The scores were tallied up and generated the coalitions overall rank of prevention strategies.

The first goal the coalition prioritized is to decrease how many youth report favorable views towards alcohol use by creating a high school youth coalition tasked with peer education activities. The second goal is to reduce the number of youth experiencing traumatic and toxic stress by decreasing the amount of youth reporting exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACES). Utilizing public education campaigns promoting norms against violence and adversity is one strategy that can help prevent ACES in youth.

*Meeting ended at 7:30 PM*