Minutes DFCDAA 2/7/17 6 p.m.

Attending: Jessica Gardner, Fred Newton, Deb Anderson, Amy Thomas, Janet Whelton, Chief D’Entremont, Detective Mike Buckley, Fallon Ambulance, Elizabeth Martin, Janet Whelton, Susan Fay

Jessica opened meeting highlighting proposed initiatives for this year. One initiative is to form a team that would be able to visit local groups and present information - as an alternative to holding a forum that may be poorly attended. St. Susannah recently hosted Amy Thomas, Mike Butler, Janet Whelton and others to speak to their parish/confirmation classes. This was seen to be very successful, and the hope is to replicate that experience. Amy noted that the presentations should deal with addiction in general so as to include alcohol addiction and not just drugs. Dr. Dan Alfred was mentioned as a potential team member.

There is a new law allowing for partial filling of opiate prescriptions. There is also now a way that people can document that they want to “opt out” from any narcotic prescriptions while in a healthcare setting.

Jessica will now be doing home visits to recent overdose patients with a staff member from the Norfolk County’s DA office.

Chief D’Entremont noted that a new review of files counted 11 OD deaths in Dedham last year, Many of these deaths involved fentanyl, which is 50 times stronger than morphine. Jessica noted that families will need to be made aware of Narcan dosing when fentanyl is involved. Following fentanyl overdose, a hospital visit is medically necessary. It was noted that some people are taking a mixture of 7 - 8 drugs including cocaine as well as opiates.

Detective Buckley noted that families may benefit from knowledge of Good Samaritan Law. There is a short video explaining the law which he will try to obtain. The important message is that people should not be afraid of arrest and should call for assistance.

Fallon Ambulance reported 21 total drug calls this year to date? 1 marijuana, 1 unknown, 8 alcohol, and 11 opiate.

Jessica noted that it may be a good time to review the mission statement for the DCFDAA.

Fred Newton discussed a second initiative planned for this year: a series of informative television programs for Dedham Cable concerning substance abuse. The format is wide open. Episodes could also be posted on YouTube. Preliminary meetings with Dedham Cable were well-received. We will need to form a group to spearhead this activity. Fred, Mike, and Deb have already volunteered. The intent would be to let audience members call or text in questions to create an interactive program. Potential episodes could include: recovery, new laws, loss, …

The difference in laws around involuntary commitment were discussed: Section 12 is a mental health observation period of 72 hours, while Section 35 is a holding period of 15-17 days for addiction issues. A social worker in a school can also get a youth immediately into a detox bed. ( this is a new law)

Other resources were reiterated: Interface mental health hotline: 1-800-327-5050. The State substance abuse hotline is 1-800-327-5050.

Interface had logged 19 Dedham calls in second half of 2016.

Gail Kelly had reported in morning meeting that SBIRT screening had begun for 10th graders. Dr. Ruth Potay (?) will be speaking at Dedham High on May 25th at 7 p.m. about adolescent brain development.

Carol read had reported that she is working on PSAs that could be used across the four towns involved with the grant.

Two other issues were briefly mentioned: Narcan training perhaps to be offered every month or so, and the need to recruit more members to DCFDAA.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.