

**Dedham Coalition for Drug and Alcohol Awareness
June 4th, 2019**

Town of Dedham Health Department
Selectmen's Chambers
26 Bryant Street
Dedham, MA 02026

In attendance:

Jessica Tracy - Health Department
Kristina King - Health Department
Cassandra Bigness - Health Department
Fred Newton - Hope House
Michael Buckley - DPD
Mike Butler - Board of Selectmen
Laura Hickson - Dedham Savings Bank
Debbie Anderson - Parks and Rec
Kim Fisher - Riverside Mental Health Services
Gail Kelley - Dedham High School

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Old Business

Coalition Plans

- Cassandra announced that a working group had been meeting regularly to create a revised coalition leadership structure to be implemented in the fall.
- The coalition will not be meeting in July or August, and will resume meetings in September.

New Business

Intro to Problem Analysis

- Kristina went over the technique of Problem Analysis, a method of collective brainstorming to help the coalition identify what Dedham's local conditions are surrounding youth substance use and which data we have to support these conditions. The activity also helps to identify where more data needs to be collected in order to better understand how substance use happens in Dedham specifically.
- Local conditions can usually be categorized into one of the following categories that represent risk factors for youth substance use: Availability/access, favorable youth attitudes toward use, favorable adult attitudes toward use, inadequate enforcement of laws, price and promotion of substances, and community norms favorable toward drug use.
- Kristina explained that local conditions generated through this activity should be specific (you can take a picture of it), identifiable (you can measure it using data), and actionable (you can do something about it). An example of a local condition would be "youth in Dedham are buying alcohol from retail vendors."
- Each local condition should be backed up by at least two data points, either quantitative or qualitative.

Working Group

Problem Analysis

- The team split up into two groups that conducted a problem analysis. One group was assigned marijuana use and laws/enforcement, and the other was assigned alcohol and price/promotion. Each group spent time identifying possible local conditions and selecting data to back it up using local data made available for the meeting.

Open Discussion

- The group identified next steps for data collection. In the fall, the coalition will plan to conduct focus groups to hone in on local conditions regarding alcohol and marijuana use in Dedham. Fred and Krissy will also work to collect state-level data on youth treatment referrals.

Meeting ended at 10:00 AM