

Dedham Organization for Substance Awareness
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2021

In Attendance:

Krissy King – DFC Program Director
Mike Butler – Coalition Chair
Monica DeWinter – Vice Chair
Jessica Tracy – Public Health Nurse
Charles Boateng – Program Coordinator
Pete Kane – Calvary Baptist Church
Sarah MacDonald – Select Board Member
Carol Read – Needham Public Health Department
Greg Graustein – Chief Medical Officer of Recovery Connections of America
Karen Mullen – Project Coordinator, Needham Public Health Division
Liz Parsons – Regional Prevention Coordinator
Michael Brier – CEO of Recovery Connections of America

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Coalition Updates

- **Youth coalition** – Charles Boateng is hard at work outreaching to Dedham youth ages 13-18 for a youth coalition. Please spread the word and contact cboateng@dedham-ma.gov with any questions or suggestions for how to recruit students to the coalition. A major success DOSA is building off is the Dunkin with DOSA and the DYC event which brought middle and high schoolers together for lawn games, bingo, food and information about DOSA and its goals. The two main goals are to establish a middle school action team and a high school coalition. This will give students the opportunity to do community service, develop transferable skills, and engage with their community while having fun.
- **Dedham Day call for volunteers** – DOSA had a table at Dedham Day on **September 26 from 12 to 5**. DFC Program Director Krissy King put out a call for volunteers to come help hand out resources to the community on Dedham Day. The day was successful with volunteers along with Youth Ambassador Chris Foley joining the table to distribute resources and chat with community members.

Alcohol policy presentation – Prevention coordinator and alcohol policy expert Liz Parsons gave a primer on alcohol policy change for coalitions, with suggestions for how DOSA could approach alcohol policy advocacy at a local and statewide level. The presentation is attached in this email as a PDF.

- Follow up points: attendees were in favor of the creation of an alcohol policy work group. Next steps include coalition members reading up on alcohol regs and

educating decision-makers on possible policies, including checks on alcohol service with expanded outdoor dining.

- Liz's email is eparsons@medford-ma.gov if you have any questions.

Parent Action Team

There is a SAMSA grant for “communities talk.” This grant can be used to plan an event about preventing underage drinking. The Parent Action Team has until December 2021 to utilize this grant. Some potential ideas for this event could be a sober tailgate or establishing a support group for parents. The parent action team has also been important advocates in promoting the youth coalition throughout the summer.

Harm Reduction Team

The team continues to talk about Narcan distribution in the community and raising awareness for the medication. The Harm Reduction Team is wondering if more Narcan can be purchased with funds from the town budget. Meanwhile, the public health nurse Jessica Tracy and Officer Sullivan are providing Narcan to families in post overdose after care visits to make Narcan and other resources more accessible.

Health Equity Team

This team has been collecting data and looking to specifically collect qualitative data through key informant interviews. Krissy King and technical assistance provider, Jessica Goldberg, have been training volunteers on how to do key informant interviews with community leaders. Some themes of the interviews include how community leaders observe health inequities in Dedham and what they think is contributing to this. Furthermore, the interviews also seek to draw data on how community leaders and members think these issues can be addressed and resolved. The people being interviewed consist of representatives in schools, an anti-racism coalition, the housing authorities, food pantry and more community leaders.

Meeting ended at 7:30 PM