

## Substance Abuse Coalition minutes 2.2.16

Attending: Debbie Anderson, Mike D'Entremont, Mike Butler, Jessica Gardner, Amy Thomas, Janet Whelton, Cathy Cardinale, Carol Reed, Dan O'Connor, Fallon Ambulance representatives, Susan Fay  
Jessica opened meeting with Calendar update:

April 7(?) "If Only" film presentation

Summer, 2016: candlelight vigil as well as have a presence in the Flag Day Parade.

New Business: Recent Chris Herren presentation at DHS well-received.

: The four town consortium: Needham, Dedham, Westwood, Walpole has collected data as to drug use patterns. In Dedham there student focus groups as well as RN focus groups and parent focus groups. 76 interviews and 16 focus groups were completed. The data is being put into a report by MassTap for each town about underage substance abuse. Risk factors, such as age of onset, will be highlighted.

: The state will most likely support this four-town grant for 7 years, 4 years is guaranteed. Profiles of all these communities are very similar, which will hopefully allow some common programming. Current objectives are to decrease binge drinking, and to increase the age of onset for alcohol use. Current studies reveal that children who start drinking prior to age 14 are at high risk for later drug abuse.

Fallon Ambulance presentation: In 2015, in Dedham, Fallon responded to 29 opiate overdoses: 22 male and 7 female. Average age is 36.2 years old. Narcan was used 36 times – can be used in non-drug overdose situations. This also includes Narcan given by bystanders.

Past data: 2013: 20 overdoses with average age of 36.5, 2014 27 overdoses with average age of 36.2.

Mike Butler reported that the Coalition will need to report to Selectmen in March on progress made. Jessica and Mike met with three Dedham clergy on 1.20.16 for an initial sharing meeting. The issue of stigma was discussed along with general concerns and ideas.

"If Only" movie night: April 7(?) at 6:30 p.m James Wahlberg available to attend. The film was made locally by Wahlberg Youth Foundation. A showing of the film in Charlestown drew 500 people. Many groups were present with informational tables, as well as a panel of speakers. It was suggested we should also have panel: Dr. John Kelly, Dr. Wally, and/or a MOAR representative were all suggested. Deb reported on the available materials from the state through the No More Stigma campaign. Cost is from \$125 - \$225 for banners. It was decided to purchase 3 of the larger banners for display around town.

Dan O'Connor from AdCare reported on housing services for those in recovery. Sober houses are not under auspices of BSAS and are often exploiting those addicted. There is a movement to improve sober houses and bring them under state regulations. Treatment beds are still in short supply and become more scarce as treatment progresses.

One upcoming bill, S2022, An Act relative to Substance Abuse Prevention will help provide for more clarification from insurance companies. House Bill 3947 Mandatory Prescription Monitor Program limits opiates to a 7 day supply.

AdCare has both inpatient and outpatient facilities. They hold an informational meeting in Boston every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – see Jessica for more information.