

MILTON SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2017 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

BID Milton Hospital – Nangeroni Education Center

1. Welcome and Introductions

This was the first meeting of the Core Stakeholders Group (CSG) of the MSAPC. The CSG makes up 14 sectors of the Milton community. The Health Director introduced all stakeholders in attendance and explained their role, as members, with regard to attendance of meetings and events. She also explained the role of the Steering Committee and introduced the members. Ms. Kinsella informed members that they are invited to vote on key issues. She also introduced a new student representative, Arielle Solomon, a student from Milton High School. Miss Solomon replaces Della Jrolf who resigned due to her upcoming graduation and related commitments. Ms. Kinsella also explained that as the official overseeing the Coalition, according to federal guidelines, she cannot also serve on the Core Stakeholders Group.

2. Updates and Accouncements

Ms. Kinsella announced that she, along with Coalition consultant Deborah Milbauer and Stakeholder member Noel Vigue attended the New England Patient Network (NEPN) meeting on January 10th regarding the proposed Milton location for the marijuana dispensary and that the Milton Board of Selectmen will decide whether or not to support the NEPN. The next hearing is scheduled for January 31st, at which time the Board of Selectmen will decide whether to offer a letter of support or no contest to NEPN. She explained that this is not the appropriate time to take a stance on the establishment of a medical marijuana facility as the Coalition is new, however, the Coalition may want to express a position at a later time.

Ms. Kinsella also announced that the Milton Board of Selectmen unanimously included a Warrant Article relative to proposing a 1% tax on alcohol sales in Milton. This proposal is a strong show of support to the MSAPC, as proceeds would support the MSAPC. In addition, Ms. Kinsella announced that she and Coalition Consultant Laurie Stillman attended a meeting with Park and Recreation staff, David Perdios and Paul DiManno in an effort to gain support for the MSAPC from the Park and Recreation Department. They discussed the shortage of youth activities around Milton and the idea of offering a wider range of activities for Milton youth in an effort to reduce substance abuse. They agreed to host a "Town Hall" in the coming year to discuss ways to develop positive activities for the youth of Milton.

The Health Director addressed next year's discontinuance of the Blue Hills Community Health Alliance Grant and focused on the Coalition's efforts towards obtaining a Drug Free Communities Grant. She

stated that it is a \$125,000 per year federal grant of which much work will be required. She informed the Stakeholders of the amount of time involved for Laurie Stillman to write the Grant, which has very specific requirements. It is required that each stakeholder submit a MOU (memorandum of understanding) about servicing on the Core Stakeholders Group. Coalition Member Laurie Stillman stated it is very competitive, but also stated that she feels very positive about the Town being awarded with the Grant. She explained the importance of strategic planning and the need for the appropriate Mission Statement for obtaining the Grant. She outlined the guidelines for the Strategic Plan which are: Mission, Values, Goals, Objectives, Strategies.

3. Mission Statement Revision.

Laurie Stillman stated that before the Town can awarded the DFC Grant, that the Mission Statement needed tweaking. She presented current and proposed versions and received input from the Stakeholders. She explained that there is language required in the Mission Statement which is required for the DFC Grant and that the Mission Statement must portray a clear focus on youth. The Stakeholders agreed on the following language for the new Mission Statement:

The Milton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition focuses on preventing and reducing youth substance abuse. Through a committed collaboration of diverse community members and sectors dedicated to a comprehensive and long-term approach, our efforts will foster a healthy, supportive and compassionate town environment.

4. Goals

Laurie Stillman explained that the two goals required by the DFC Grant are to:

1. Increase community collaborations through the Coalition and
2. Reduce and prevent youth substance abuse

Ms. Stillman stated that she may present an Annual Report of the Coalition each year and that she may add that idea into the writing of the Grant. She said that statistics on marijuana, alcohol, prescription drug and tobacco use needed to be tracked if Milton is awarded the Grant, as well as 30-day use rates. She explained that the "Youth Risk Behavior Survey" will be administered every two years and that the DFC Grant wanted three grades specifically monitored: primarily one middle school grade and two high school grades. The 2014 Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be a baseline. One and five year goals were discussed as well as the idea of comparing Milton to similar towns and comparing Massachusetts vs. United States statistics.

5. **Contributors and Strategies**

Strategies for the four contributors of substance abuse were outlined. The four contributors are: 1. Stress, 2. Depression, 3. Boredom 4. Low Perception of Risk/Harm. Various strategies were discussed for eradicating said contributors including the expansion of social opportunities; reducing stigma so that students feel comfortable to access services for help; training parents/caretakers on recognizing mental health issues; and, school support and referral. Additional contributors include community attitude/beliefs and easy access to substances. Strategies were listed including, but not limited to: the offering of positive youth programs; participating in prescription drug take-back programs to safely discard drugs from homes; securing drugs/alcohol at home; skillbuilding for students and the campaign to increase awareness about the social host liability law.

6. **Policy Approval for Receiving Donations from Substance Retailers**

The CSG voted unanimously to approve the following policy, as written, relative to receiving donations:

“MSAPC will not accept funding support from any retail stores selling drugs, medications or alcohol while they have any approvals pending before town government.”

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

