



## Minutes -September 20, 2012

5:30-7:00pm

*Whittemore Robbins House*

**I. Welcome & Introductions:** Cindy Starks, Judith Carroll, Ned Walsh, Kathy Hirsch, Cindy Sheridan Curran, Lynn Horgan, Christine Connolly, Rebecca Wolfe, Dee Savioli, Carlene Newell, Cindy Bouvier, Jack Flood, Laura Juit, Ethel Doyle, Colleen Leger, Joe Curro, John Scheft, Lynn Rosenbaum, Tomi Olson, Richard Rosen

### **II. Conclusion of Drug Free Communities Grant- Year 4**

Colleen expressed gratitude to Coalition members for making the time to meet with DFC Project Officer Greg Grass during his site visit on June 20, 2012. Greg provided a written summary (see attached) of his findings and recommendations for the Coalition and indicated that AYHSC is performing well for a Year 4 grantee. Colleen shared with the Coalition the PowerPoint presentation from the site visit, which provided an overview of AYHSC, including the history, priority areas, prevention strategies, accomplishments and challenges. The power point presentation is also attached.

### **III. Coalition Updates**

- ▲ **Marijuana:** Coalition members, Attorney John Scheft and Lynn Horgan attended the “Ma Vote NO on Question 3” Campaign Kickoff presented by the Mass. Prevention Alliance (MAPA) on 9/2/12. The campaign was held at the Headquarters of the Mass. Medical Society. This forum provided education, information and materials for attendees to share with their respective communities re: the November Ballot Question. Lynn passed out “Be Informed” flyers for members to review. John has worked closely with MAPA over the past several months, and in July made a visit to the Supreme Judicial Court to appeal misleading language describing the proposed ballot question. These efforts proved successful and the SJC ordered the AG to make the revisions to the ballot question. John spoke to Coalition members about the November 6<sup>th</sup> “Ballot Question #3” providing clarification on aspects that may be unclear to the public. John prefaced his talk by saying, “If you know nothing about it, you think this is a good idea. If you read the law, you realize this is going to be a disaster to MA.” John summarized key components of this law; if passed, there will be 35 dispensaries (i.e. treatment centers) and an anticipated high number of consumers (Maine has 8 dispensaries and ~27,000 people serviced). Other concerns about this proposed law include loose regulations around cultivation, no age requirement for consumers, and general abuse of the program (statistics from other states with medical marijuana programs indicate that the average consumer is a male, in his early thirties, with an undifferentiated diagnosis and history of substance abuse). This is in contrast to those medical conditions for which medical marijuana has been specifically indicated and promoted (such as AIDS, Glaucoma and Cancer). John summarized by saying that he, along with Dr. Kevin Hill from McLean, will present more on this topic at the upcoming Parent Forum- “Marijuana & Your Teen – What’s the big deal?” It is scheduled to take place on 10/23/12 from 7-8:30pm at the Ottoson Middle School.
- ▲ **Diversion/ Diversion Expansion:** Cindy provided a summary of the current Diversion Program and explained that the Diversion Expansion program is now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3-year grant. This year, efforts will focus on providing needed services to AHS students. Cindy stated that youth

misperceptions are common re: substance use and efforts are underway to enhance conversations and treatment needs. Motivational Interviewing (MI) has been identified as an effective model for reducing youth substance use. In an MI session, clients are guided to find change from within, rather than having it forced upon them. This appeals to the client's sense of autonomy (highly valued by adolescents). Plans are in motion to offer groups for parents of substance involved youth and to partner with the AHS on the new Bridges program, offering a Cognitive Behavioral Group and drop-in hours for motivational interviewing.

- ✧ **AHS Above the Influence Campaign:** The Coalition continued to work with Mr. Vatan and his AHS CADD students this past spring. Students created designs that depicted positive ways they and other people their age stay above the influence. Several designs were turned into posters, magnets and window decals and displayed throughout the AHS halls and classrooms this fall. A sample of designs was on display for members to view during the meeting.
- ✧ **Developmental Assets Training:** A summary of this training will be shared with Coalition Members at the next meeting.

#### IV. Looking Ahead: Drug Free Communities Grant (DFC) - Year 5

##### ✧ **Projects & Action Teams**

Lynn explained how this year, the Coalition is looking for interested members to assist with various projects in the upcoming year. Members were provided two handouts:

- 1) An AYHSC organizational chart
- 2) An informational sheet describing plans to implement "Short Term Action Teams" to tackle specific projects outlined in our DFC grant. These STATs will provide members an opportunity to utilize their skills, talents, and interests in a way that is meaningful and manageable. Members were encouraged to read through the different projects and consider how they might like to contribute to the workings of the Coalition. The STATs included:

1. Public Relations
2. Parent Education
3. Social Norms
4. Environmental Strategies
5. Coalition Development

Several members reviewed the STATs and signed their name to the clipboards provided.

#### Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities:

Date	Event	Time	Description
09/27/12	Alcohol Compliance Training APD	1:00-3:00pm	Training opportunity: sting & shoulder tap guidelines, update on ID law change
10/17/12	Michael Thompson	7:00-8:30 pm	Best Friends, Worst Enemies
10/19/12	Annual Wellness Summit Westborough	8:00am-1:30pm	Training opportunity: <i>Healthy Choices: winning choices</i> . Workshops & exhibits
10/19/12	AYCC Night on the Town Gala	7:00-10:00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser at Town Hall
10/23/12	Marijuana Parent/Community Forum OMS	7:00-8:30pm	Volunteer opportunity: event promotion & resource table support
Oct.29- Nov.26	Guiding Good Choices ACA	6:15-8:15pm	Volunteer opportunity: program promotion, soliciting food donations

#### IV. Meeting Adjournment

- Next Coalition Meeting: October 18, 2012 at the Whittemore Robbins House.