



Minutes
December 13, 2012
5:30pm-7:00pm
Whittemore Robbins House

- I. Welcome and Holiday Fare:** (17) Lynn Rosenbaum, Cindy Sheridan Curran, Mary DeCoursey, Ned Walsh, Cindy Bouvier, Cindy Starks, Lynn Horgan, John Scheft, Joe Curro, Ethel Doyle, Jack Flood, Judith Carroll, Laura Juitt, Maureen Murphy, Rich Flynn, Christine Connolly, Colleen Leger

II. Short Term Action Team (STAT) Updates:

Coalition Development:

**Diversity Planning:* Current STAT volunteers: Ethel Doyle, Joe Curro, Colleen Leger, Lynn Horgan. Other interested Coalition members are invited to participate.

Next meetings: Wednesday 12/19/12 7:45am-8:45am and Friday 8:00am-9:00am at the Board of Health. These meetings will provide an opportunity to revamp Coalition brochure/one pager, clarify operational structure, processes and volunteer roles and responsibilities for Coalition, and identify outreach strategies and opportunities for 1:1 community conversations.

Summary: This STAT is now underway thanks to the November Cultural Diversity training with Emily Bhargava. The recommendations from this training will be used to guide Coalition outreach strategies and examine how we will operate as a Coalition in the future. Goals and action steps from the training include: increasing community perception that the Coalition is welcoming and open to everyone, locating and engaging a broader range of individuals, groups and businesses in the community, including those that may have different beliefs than the Coalition, and clarifying volunteer roles and opportunities.

**Drug Free Communities (DFC) Request for Applications-* In January, we will begin the process of applying for continued DFC funding- years 6-10. AYHSC last applied for, and was awarded a DFC grant in 2008, and many individuals in Town participated in the process, including Christine and Cindy B. There will be numerous opportunities for Coalition member involvement this time as well, including assisting with data collection, responding to questions in the application, and reviewing responses to ensure overall consistency and comprehensiveness.

Public Relations:

Newsletter Development:* **Coalition volunteers needed. This STAT will focus on the development and distribution of a Coalition Newsletter in January of 2013. Lynn reviewed the content of previous newsletters and asked for recommendations on content that will appeal to community members, provide essential information and honor busy lifestyles and time constraints. Multiple Coalition members provided suggestions for the newsletter, with discussions expanding into the area of Website development. Cindy Starks and John Scheft narrowed down the ideas generated, illustrating the need to enhance the capabilities of the Coalition Website.

Website suggestions:

- A link to the Arlington Public Schools webpage and the Safe Schools (red button) link. Cindy B. invited members to recommend resources to be added to the webpage.
- A link to most recent and previous Newsletters (outgoing Newsletter should also have a link to the Coalition webpage).
- A button that allows individuals to select "Sign Me Up" to receive the Newsletter
- Enhance content of website

Newsletter suggestions:

- Consider providing a Q & A section that pertains to issues that might be concerning to community members, such as: “Will there be a marijuana dispensary in Arlington?”
- Streamline the content to include brief teasers with links to full articles
- Highlight Coalition success stories and ask for assistance. An example of this would be: ”Here is what the Diversion Program did for Arlington youth...Looking for companies that can offer 5 hours of community service to youth in the Diversion program.”
- Review current email contact list and include individuals, groups, agencies and businesses that might be omitted.

Outreach suggestions:

- Coordinate meetings with pharmacy managers regarding medication disposal options in Town. Members mentioned certain pharmacists that they believed would be open to conversation and involvement in the Coalition.
- Elementary and middle school PTOs- Maureen offered to make contact with the OPAC at the Ottoson.
- Make a Coalition sign up list available at all events, meetings, workshops and parent forums.
- Utilize listservs to share information or post requests for assistance (ex. PR)

Parent Education:

Navigating the Teen Years (NTTY): Lynn thanked Coalition members Rebecca Wolfe, Laura Juitt and Lauren Boyle for their time and efforts in facilitating the first two home gatherings of the NTTY program. Two parent volunteers hosted the NTTY gatherings, each inviting 6 friends to their home for the 2 hour program. Both programs went very well and participant feedback emphasized the desire to have more time to discuss tough topic scenarios and exchange strategies. Plans are underway for additional home programs, as well as a Boys & Girls Club-sponsored program, with support from Dee S. of the Arlington Boys & Girls Club. Lynn invited interested members to help develop the NTTY “High School” program for parents of older teens. **Volunteers needed.** Cindy Starks expressed interest in joining this group.

Social Norms:

Parent Survey: Current STAT volunteers: Cindy Starks, Ethel Doyle, Colleen Leger. Members from this STAT team met to review various examples of parent surveys, and to develop one appropriate for Arlington parents, incorporating recommendations made at the October Coalition meeting. The survey is designed to assess parental attitudes, knowledge and behaviors related to youth substance use. Colleen asked for group feedback on whether to include certain questions pertaining to demographics. This group plans to meet again to finalize the survey.

Tobacco Peer Leadership: Colleen reported that she and Mary DeCoursey are facilitating a series of 3 Peer Leadership trainings for roughly twenty AHS students. The trainings cover workshop/training facilitation, peer pressure, social norms and social norms campaign development. Several of the students will work with OMS students on a tobacco-free peer leadership project for Kick Butts Day, while others will introduce these topics to freshmen advisories or to the general AHS community, through Club 84. The trainings, peer leadership development, and the tobacco-free social norms campaigns are all part of a collaborative project of Arlington Public Schools, Mount Auburn Hospital, AYHSC and Arlington Enrichment Collaborative, funded by the Sanborn Foundation. The Coalition discussed other ways to engage these students in prevention efforts. Offering community service hours was suggested.

Environmental Strategies:

Medical Marijuana:

John Scheft updated Coalition members on three major efforts currently underway by Massachusetts Prevention Alliance (MAPA) and clarified roles of user, grower, personal caregiver and dispensary.

- 1) Delay implementation of the law, which is slated to take effect on January 1, 2013
- 2) Submit proposed regulations to DPH that will provide clarification and limits to address the difficulties inherent in this law. The proposed regulations are important because DPH must begin approving licenses 120 days from January 1, 2013 (from that point, DPH has 90 days from when an application is submitted to either approve or reject it). An example of proposed regulation to DPH: Doctors can only write the prescription if they have a bona fide relationship with the patient (been treating patient for a condition), have tried other forms of treatments, gone to a class.
- 3) Provide local communities more information on zoning restrictions.

III. Coalition Annual Survey

- Feedback from Evaluator- Recommendations from the Coalition annual survey report include, developing an orientation packet for new members, reviewing on an annual basis the basic operations and infrastructure of AYHSC, developing an outreach plan to reach underrepresented sectors, and provide more leadership and training opportunities to Coalition members. ***This conversation was cut short due to time; a brief summary will also be included in the January meeting.*

IV. Other Upcoming Trainings & Events

Jan. 8, 2013	Strategic Prevention Framework: 101	Waltham 8:30-4:30	Training- http://www.cvent.com/events/bsas-034-strategic-prevention-framework-101/event-summary-dc0292da9e9e4abbbc2d4c4f4db1565a.aspx
Jan. 23, 2013	Chris Herren	AHS- 9:00 OMS- 12:30	Student Assemblies Coalition members welcome to attend
Jan 25, 2013	Town Meeting Warrant Closes		Warrant articles must be submitted prior to January 25 th .
Mid-January	DFC Request for Applications (RFA)		RFA released in mid January, and applications will be due roughly 60 days after.

V. Meeting Adjournment

- Next Coalition Meeting – January 17, 2013

Happy Holidays!