



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 05-21-09

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2009

5:30-7:00PM

Present: Cindy Bouvier, John Scheft, Andrea Razi, Ethel Doyle, Colleen Leger, Christine Sharkey, Susan Svencer, Christine Shultz, Leon Cantor, Annie LaCourt, Bryan Gallagher, Cindy Starks, Lucille Nicholson, Lynn Horgan, Caroline Ress

Attendees: 15

I. **Introductions:** Cindy Starks (School Committee) and Lynn Horgan (Board of Youth Services).

II. **Upcoming Trainings**

May 29th Creating Change Through Social Marketing Training

For more information about Social Marketing and substance abuse prevention, view

<http://captus.samhsa.gov/southwest/resources/documents/SocMkPrev.pdf>

June 10th Youth at Risk Conference

John, Chris, Cindy SC and Cindy S would like to attend. Other interested Coalition members should contact Colleen no later than 5/29/09.

July 27-30th CADCA Mid-Year Training (Louisville, KY)

Coalition members who are interested in attending this 4-day training should contact Colleen. All travel-related costs will be covered by the Coalition.

*For information about CADCA workshops, view : <http://www.cadca.org/events/midyearinstitute/2009/documents/Prelim.pdf>

III. **AYHSC meeting schedule for 09/10**

The AYHSC meeting schedule for the upcoming year ('09/'10) has been finalized. There will be no meetings in July or August. The 3rd Thursday of each month schedule will resume in the fall. Exceptions to this schedule include December 10th, to account for holiday parties, and February 25th, to account for school vacation. The Community Forum will be held on March 18th.

Colleen will request the Community Forum date be entered into the school administrative calendar, and will follow up with school principals to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Please note: This year's Youth Health and Safety Day will be held at the high school on Tuesday, October 13th, during the second half of the school day. This event will include a 20 year-old speaker, who has struggled personally with depression and substance abuse. The event will be funded by the Coalition.

IV. **Volunteers Needed**

May 27th YRBS at Ottoson Middle School

Annie, Susan, Cindy S., Caroline, Lynn and Lucille volunteered to help out.

June 19th Friday Night Lights

Youth Council's first big event! There will be fun (substance-free) activities, including volleyball, wiffle ball, improv booths, music mixed by student DJs and dancing. There will be pizza, soda, snacks and cake. Pizza will be sold for \$.50-\$1.00 a slice. Students will also be running a raffle and are soliciting donations from local merchants. The event is open to friends, family and community members, but is primarily for teens. One youth council member will be in charge of each activity/station, and it would be great to pair youth council members with adult coalition members.

June 29th-July 2nd HRC Summer Experience

Lynn is coordinating the health component of the camp, and will need volunteers to help run activities. Colleen will keep Coalition members informed about volunteer needs.

V. Community Outreach and Capacity Building

Over the next year, we should be focusing on building coalition capacity and conducting community outreach. We need to reach out to stakeholders in the community and anyone who wants to be more involved with youth. This process should be organized and strategic. Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA) recommends using one-on-one interviews to engage community members. The objective of conducting One-on-One interviews is two-fold: community assessment and capacity building. Interviews will help us take the pulse of the community, and identify themes related to community members' values, attitudes and perceptions. Interviews will also help increase Coalition visibility, and create opportunities to inform community members about the Coalition: who we are, what we do and how they can get involved.

In this process, it may be informative to stakeholders, and beneficial to the Coalition, to have a more clearly defined organizational structure, including identified roles and responsibilities that correspond with member commitment levels. With a better sense of who we need involved in the Coalition, why and how we need them involved, we can effectively grow Coalition membership. Colleen recommended convening a working group to review our organizational structure, define membership requirements and incentives, and create member agreements/MOUs.

In the short term, we need to reach out to the faith community. We do not currently have active representation from this sector on our Coalition.

VI. Working Group Updates

Diversion: Bryan reported that there are roughly 24 diversion cases, 4 of which are for marijuana. Some kids prefer to pay the fine for possession and take the mandatory class, rather than go into diversion, because the consequences associated with Diversion are longer lasting. Citations for marijuana are not reflected in driving records. It is not clear if schools can still suspend for marijuana smoking/possession.

Tangential discussion about new marijuana law

John explained that if adults don't pay the fine for a marijuana possession/consumption citation, the court can issue an arrest warrant for unpaid fines. In order to be released, the offender must pay fine, plus an additional \$50 fine. For underage youth, the fine increases to \$1000 after a year. Parents are jointly liable for fine. If it goes unpaid, a delinquency complaint can be filed, and the offense becomes criminal. John said that if there is marijuana in a vehicle that has been stopped, and any thought that the driver is impaired, the driver *should* be arrested. It was agreed that this message should be reiterated to police, and to youth. Town bylaw passed establishing a \$300 fine for public consumption of marijuana.

Guiding Good Choices

AYHSC is planning to implement Guiding Good Choices (GGC) in Arlington over the next year. GGC is a five-week parent skills-building program targeting parents of youth in 4th-8th grades. The program focuses on preventing substance abuse in the family, setting clear family expectations regarding drugs and alcohol, enhancing youth refusal skills, managing family conflict and strengthening family bonds.

We are looking to recruit parents, teachers, coalition members, and experienced facilitators to run these workshops in Arlington.

We will bring GGC trainers to run a 2-3 day training for up to 12 workshop leaders. Stipends will be available to group leaders for running groups. Coalition members made recommendations for group leaders. Training will likely occur in late August or early September. Colleen will follow up with potential candidates. Once we have trained group leaders, we will run GGC workshops at multiple locations throughout the year.