

The April meeting for AYHSC was held on April 7th, 2016 from 5:30-7:00pm at the Whittemore Robbins House.

In Attendance:

Adults: Ivy Laplante, Karen Dillon, Colleen Leger, Deanna Wu, Mary Kowalczuk, Austin Styfe, Cindy Sheridan Curran, John Scheft, Jack Flood, Joe Curro, Steve Porciello, Kevin Flood, Mike Leach, Paul Franzosa, Pat Egan

Students: Sana Mohtadi, Ellie Egan, Cooper Schoenthaler, Megan Laurendeau, Julie Powers

I. Welcome Introductions:

Student Advisors and community members all introduced themselves and shared their respective roles in our community.

March Meeting minutes: Cooper S. moved to approve, Megan L. and Julie seconded; all approved the March meeting minutes.

II. Student Coalition Updates

Students will be participating in Sticker shock on April 10 2016. They are thinking of surveying the students in the junior class to see what they think of having a First Blast (after prom party) next year.

III. SAP-C Grant Updates

Ivy and Karen continue to attend monthly meetings and are working with the BSAS cluster on a strategic plan. The cluster is focusing on ease of access also perception of harm issues. There is an emphasis on "communities favor use" pertaining to underage drinking. Hopefully more social opportunities for youth will help Arlington teens find alternatives to gathering in local parks etc... There is potential for developing a regional social and emotional health curriculum.

IV. Project Updates

First Blast tabled for this year: Potential after prom party tabled till next year.

Patriot's Day Parade: Parade will be on April 10th. Student advisors will be marching and distributing candy and stickers.

HRC Camp Summer 2016: Plans are underway for the 7th year of HRC camp. Great collaboration between AYHSC, the police and fire depts. We are looking for student volunteers to be counselors. An improv group will be leading performance workshops for 5th & 6th graders focusing on substance abuse prevention.

V. Policy Updates

Good Conduct Rule: Our evaluator sent us a copy of a Good Conduct rule for students in Utah. We are considering adopting this rule in APS especially at AHS. The theory is that all students should be held to the same standard. Ivy located a policy used in Iowa schools. The policy out of Iowa upholds the belief that participation in school activities is a privilege and one that should be open to students that follow rules and lead a healthy lifestyle. AYHSC is looking for a STAT or subcommittee to evaluate the adoption of this in Arlington. Cindy Sheridan-Curran, Steve Porciello and Sana Mohtadi volunteered for this STAT.

Joe Curro advised that there are two ways for the town to adopt a policy change. One is as a school district change (required approval from the School Committee) and the other would be as a school specific change and this is approved by administrators. The middle school is approved by SC also.

Ivy will be speaking to the School Committee in May about SBIRT and might have time to mention this also.

Students asked if the policy is a strike system (ex: three strikes and you are out). Ivy explained the penalties would be a tiered system, similar to MIAA penalties for alcohol/drugs (i.e. first offense you miss 25% of season or activity, then 60%).

VI. Comprehensive Strategy Planning-Marijuana Presentation by John Scheft

In 2006 Marijuana was decriminalized. The state set up a law that people caught with a large amount would enter a diversion program but that program was never set up.

In 2013 Medical Marijuana was legalized. A system of dispensaries will be allowed as a stand alone--only existing to sell a particular drug. If you are poor and cannot buy it, you are allowed to grow your own resulting in the poor having access to a cash crop. State will not enter or regulate.

People have the opportunity to vote on the legalization of recreational marijuana in November 2016.

John Scheft is involved in making an argument with other advocates against this bill to the Supreme Court to include "marijuana or hash oil" in the ballot question.

The legalization will include anything containing THC (states anything over 2.5% of THC). The marijuana on the street that teens have access to is typically 80%/90% THC. It is much stronger than the marijuana from the 60s and 70s.

Of particular concern is the way the new bill is written. Communities will not be able to opt out if the legalization is causing crime and accidents in their community.

Of note: the Mayor of Boston (Marty Walsh), MA Governor (Charlie Baker), and MA Attorney General (Maura Healey) are against legalization.

Ohio recently voted against legalization.

Perhaps the most detrimental area is in edibles. A typical marijuana infused cookie contains so much THC that the serving size is 1/6th of a cookie. Onset of effects take place 45 minutes after ingestion.

Students commented on YRBS being administered after NYE and that the questions pertaining to 30 day use might be in NYE and only one other time of the year.

What are Minnesota, Illinois and NJ doing? They are regulating the use of dispensaries and the source is controlled by the state. Legalization could lead to commercialization.

So what can the coalition do to educate the community? John Scheft encouraged AYHSC to talk to groups in town (i.e. PTA, OPAC)

VII. Community Update - "What's happening in Arlington?"

Cause and Event Race: Colleen Leger spoke about the Cause and Event race coming up on May 22nd. AYCC is hoping to receive some support via donations for their team.

Meeting Adjournment 7:00 pm

Next Coalition Meeting - May 5th, 2016 at 5:30pm at the Whittemore Robbins House