



June Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 10, 2016

Attendees:

Morgan Cosentino - *Representative from MCCA*

Mike Crespan, M.P.H., R.S. - *Director of Health Department, Town of New Milford*

Rev. Jack Gilpin - *Reverend, St. John's Episcopal Church*

David Gronbach - *Mayor, ex-officio*

Kathy Hanley - *Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator*

Emma Johnson - *Clinical Outreach Coordinator, Steps to Recovery*

Erica Keane - *Early Childhood/Child Development/Health Teacher, New Milford High School; S.A.D.D. Advisor*

Melanie Kinman - *MCCA Specialist, Recovery Support Services for Individuals*

Mary Jane Lundgren, RN, MSW - *New Milford Town Council Member*

Gene Marino - *Board of Directors, New Milford Youth Agency; parent of a young person in recovery*

Max Marino - *Young person in recovery*

Lindsey Marr, *Doctorate in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner - Youth Advisor, New Milford Youth Agency*

Peg Molina, LCSW - *Director of Social Services, Town of New Milford*

Jason O'Connor - *Youth Advisor, New Milford Youth Agency; EMT New Milford Ambulance*

Beth Trott, MSW - *Director of Social Services & Municipal Agent to the Elderly, Town of Sherman*

Joan Wyner - *LCSW - Representative, New Milford Hospital*

Absent: Sgt. James Dzamko, Cornelia Edgeworth, Scott Hoffman, Mary Jane Lundgren, Brendan Miller, Dana Pollack

Observers/Guests:

None

Opening Comments:

Lindsey reminded us that we are top-heavy on the recovery side; we need to devote more attention/effort towards prevention.

Lindsey recapped the Visioning retreat conducted by Allison & Kathy earlier in the month. Materials were distributed and volunteers were assigned for different tasks identified during the retreat.

Discussions re establishing a Safe Haven model in New Milford:

We talked about this effort some more. We agreed that our first step is to identify the communities that have been successful at establishing safe havens and build our efforts around existing models. Gene has collected some info and will share with the group. Joan offered to research ongoing safe haven programs and share her findings with the group. Emma says that Bucks County, PA might be an example, as are Groton & Hamden. Lindsey will try to make contacts in these communities to see what we can learn. Peg suggested we reach out to Joan Montgomery of Greater Danbury Aids Project, and offered to follow up on that.

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Update:

Erica re-capped our decision to take a position on the opening of a medical marijuana dispensary in New Milford. She explained that the perception of harm from marijuana use is perceived as low by young people. Joan and Mike noted that they are both seeing preliminary activity where people are looking to establish qualifications to be able to access medical marijuana. Jason is a member of a state coalition on marijuana impact and will reach out to them for guidance, info. Erica & Kevin reminded the group about [Kevin Sabet](#), a public speaker on the topic who they saw, and mentioned he might be of value in our efforts... a potential speaker for us to bring into town...?

We agreed we need to reach out to the operator, Russell Lutz, and Rev. Galpin suggested we make a coordinated statement with him once we hear each other out. We need to follow up on this. Gene to find out contact info for Russell Lutz. *Who will follow up on this?!*

NOTE: Since the time of the meeting: Russell Lutz is the CEO of New Options Healing, LLC. They have a website <http://www.newoptionsh healing.com>, and his contact info is there. (GM)

Update re SROs/ NMSAPC Presence in Schools:

Impediments to this effort were brought to the group's attention. SRO OT, being away from assigned posts, etc. Jason & Erica suggested a NMSAPC subgroup meet directly with them at the schools. Some one else suggested meeting directly with Asst. Principals. We agreed that Cornelia should contact Laura Olsen to see what direction we might take, who might be kindred spirits in our efforts in the schools. Peg reiterated we are community partners & sb working in tandem .Jason suggested talking with Superintendent, then Principals if that path is not productive. We want the valuable input from people on the ground level at schools.

Other:

Joan introduced the group to a program: Teen Challenge. Some reservation was expressed among the group about the religious component of the group, but we agreed it would be worthwhile to hear their pitch Are they licensed, how are they structured, what are staff qualifications, etc. We agreed to invite them to a future meeting to make a 15-minute presentation at the beginning of our meeting.

HVCASA Updates:

We need to complete our HVCASA grant application

NOTE: Since the time of the meeting, this has occurred. (GM)

Miscellaneous:

- Narcan Training 8/29
- Erica's E3 Program training 8/30
- Substance Abuse Awareness Day 8/31

Please contact me if I have omitted or misrepresented any details.

Our next NMSAPC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 21 at 11:30 a.m.**

Thank you.



Respectfully submitted 9/21/16 by
Eugene Marino III
Secretary
New Milford Substance Abuse Prevention Council