

## Minutes of New Milford Substance Abuse Council Meeting: November 16, 2017

Present: Erica Keane, Megon Lyon, Katy Francis, Peg Molina, Kathy Hanley, Kelly Sullivan, (Beth Trott's Social Work Student), Diane Swanson, Justin Cullmer, Reverend Jack Gilpin, Andrea Wilson, Jason O'Connor, Joan Wyner, Carly Brill, student representative .

Absent: Matthew Cassavechia, Morgan Cosentino, Mike Crespan, Michael Gold, Michael Gold, Scott Hoffman, Officer Locascio, Mary Jane Lundgren, Judy Callahan, Officer Parziale. Gene Marino has moved and is not on the council anymore.

New Members: 1. Justin Cullmer taking Kevin McVeigh's place. He is in Kevin's position in Western Connecticut Health Network now as the High Risk navigator. 2. Michael Gold from Geron nursing. 3. Officer Parziale, SMS Resource officer, 4. Officer Locasio, NMHS Resource officer.

### Old Business:

- "DIRT" coming to New Milford High School on January 31<sup>st</sup> and is approved for middle school. For January 31<sup>st</sup>, all shows in the evening are for parents. Discussion of what the middle school program would look like took place. Nothing decided definitively yet. Funding was approved but Megan is writing to the police union to see if they will provide more money to contribute to the program.
- Online survey still open. 84 responses so far. The perception so far from the survey is that school is the number one place kids use drugs and alcohol. Then in the car and then home. We are going to keep the survey open for now. Discussion about where do we go from here took place.
- A sub-committee may be formed to plan Strategic Prevention Programs. HVCASA has guidelines. They have a list of comprehensive strategies and can help us with what to do next. For example, we can make goals from the information we have already collected. We can get help to form a logic model with a problem statement and look at the root causes of why the problems are happening, then put together strategies to address specific problems. The council is looking at forming this sub-committee in January, 2018. Council members were asked to think about it and who wants to be on it.

### New Business and Future Events:

- SADD events: It was reported that positive bullets were written on the sidewalks, but it rained. The coffee house night was a night for kids to hang out, have refreshments and there was an open mic.

- Parent workshops to be done or to be put on by Youth Agency. November 8<sup>th</sup>, vaping. December 13<sup>th</sup>, Mental Health YMHFA. January 10<sup>th</sup>, bullying.
- “Talk.” They hear you campaign- put out by SAMHSA.
- For future, we would like to look into making adds with Green Wave TV; hope to get these to Bank Street and hospital: 30 second messages.
- Billboard idea: Make a billboard to target substance abuse. Justin to get the phone number to call.
- Project purple: goal is to have it in March.
- CARES sponsored a movie about a child who had Bipolar called Not Letting Go, a true story. Deb Berman was the contact person who got it to Brookfield CARES group. Joan will connect Deb with Katy to see about bringing it to New Milford. It highlights the difficulties this family went through for several years to cope and understand their son’s mental illness.
- HVCASA is cutting funding from 13 of their councils, so Allison is applying for funding through other sources.
- There are still grant opportunities to get up to \$5000 to do an opioid prevention program which our council may want to pursue.
- There was a suggestion to include someone from Canterbury School on our council as they are in town. Jack to look into calling them as he has a contact there.

Respectfully submitted

Joan S. Wyner