



October Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2016

Attendees:

Morgan Cosentino - *Representative from MCCA*
Sgt. James Dzamko - *New Milford Police Department*
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*
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: Mike Crespan, Sgt. James Dzamko, Cornelia Edgeworth, Rev. Jack Gilpin, David Gronbach, Scott Hoffman, Gene Marino, Max Marino, Brendan Miller, Dana Pollack

Observers/Guests:

Adam Ponsky, Steps to Recovery

Discussions re establishing a Safe Haven model in New Milford:

Lindsey updated on input from Mayor Gronbach. He continues to try to make sure Village Crest can provide reserved beds for people in crises/recovery. It was stressed that the council is not and should not be involved in treatment options, which should be left to specialists.

Prevention Rally:

The Prevention rally went very well and was attended by a number of council members. Thanks to all who were able to attend to make it a success. Discussions ensued about delegating tasks, and the understanding that we cannot "program out ways out of things". Our focus needs to be on community-wide activities/events/changes that affect all 28,000 New Milford residents, instead of only targeting certain populations. Suggestions were made on how we can accomplish this goal: Mary Jan suggested identifying a single issue facing the community and then concentrating on affecting that ONE issue, vs. trying to do everything. Emma agreed with the concept of assessing community needs in total, then prioritizing to put practical applications in place to address. Melanie underscored the importance of addressing what the community is most interested in. Beth felt that the effort of doing research before going to the community with changes/suggestions, etc. was the most important message she got from the rally.

It was determined that we need a structured approach in order to truly bring about community change. The effort is best approached through large scale approaches vs. smaller efforts. A strategic prevention framework is based and practiced on evidence/data, like a public health model. Therefore we must consider that all effort begins with assessment - identifying problems, solutions, goal - then we can create our plan to work towards our stated mission. We may want to update our mission to better reflect this assessment/identification-of-problems strategy.

Strategic Prevention Framework:

Lindsey and Jason practiced developing a logic model on underage drinking. It was easier than originally thought.

Implementation and Evaluation - using surveys to evaluate.

Importance of having individual jobs/responsibilities in order to have a strong group and enhance our effectiveness was stressed. If you have not signed on for a specific roll, please be sure to do so in order to have the workload and build on our strengths. Subcommittees will work together to create and move together and report back to each other at the meetings. Meetings will be an action center instead of a brainstorm center. In this way we can fairly distribute the workload among our group and increase our chances for success. This is the definition of a coalition and will make us stronger together.

Erica reported that 3 underage drinking parties occurred during homecoming week. These were posted on social media. Some resulted in hospital treatment by attendants. Melanie reported that DFC can be called in to investigate when there is social media evidence. This underscores the need to increase our efforts on this issue. We need to do more awareness campaigning. The idea of a newspaper article was suggested. We need to all take a role in data gathering and work together on what we learn.

Data Gathering - we need to all take part and work together on what we learn.

Event Planning - growing group

Identifying Needs in the community-setting goals- Community assessment provides root causes (risk factors) and can also identify the strengths, and the environment, and the consequences.

1. Data collection sources- surveys, qualitative data (why, how, where, when), student focus groups), key informant interviews, town hall meetings, forums (what is the community concerned about), observations, environmental scanning (evidence of areas of high use).
2. Archival data- from the educational system, Josh Smith will give quarterly reports of what is happening in the schools. SRO's would not be the best source, admins. are a better source for this info. Law enforcement is "supplemental data" FOI- public information we can access. Health care- we can speak to the ER about what they are seeing in the ER. Commerce- stores and places where things are being sold. Are they carding kids? Census- population data. Ask Cornelia for quarterly reporting...
**could we get info and stats from DEMHS.*

Lindsey will follow up on getting quarterly school inputs provided

Community Surveys - 8, 10, 12 graders to provide assessments and asked the BOE for \$600 to pay for the surveys 7 out of 8 of the BOE voted yes! We also need to reach out to Sherman public schools. Projected date: 1st week of December? Survey has been tested for validity so if a student doodles or makes pictures, the survey is thrown out.

Information from youth groups - Jason, Erica works with SADD, Peg & Beth are checking in with church youth groups to see if they can put some input on "trends" they see as youth in our community that we need to focus on.

Informational forum - push for this to happen this fall... but we should plan for this to happen in the spring of 2017 and we can disseminate the findings.

Census - data from the town (Beth will look into). **Town profile:** Lindsey found online- Lindsey and Beth will have NM in a nutshell put together on a worksheet.

Other:

Jim Dzamko working on grant- due by Dec 1st

Jason & Kathy are going to run a program through SAMSA- underage drinking town-hall event, Federally funded program, program will be for the community. They have to create the application and submit.

Stacey and Lindsey are working together for the juvenile detention program (from the juvenile review board), 1st offender program- met with MCCA – kid with 1st offence drug related charge or kids that have a risky profile, they would be put into a group run by MCCA . MCCA would be screening kids to make sure they are not fully addicted yet but have been trying here and there. Family Children's Aid has a program like this and has been

running well, called the ABC program. In their ABC program the kids go to counseling and the adult/parent has to go also. Could we give MCCA enough referrals to get this going? Stacey will be checking in with our police department to see what we can do. This will be helpful since the Danbury Superior Court is closing their juvenile program.

E3 Program is up in the air, being rewritten.

Jason working with the Teen Advisory Board to create a local chapter of Project Purple, the Chris Herron-inspired community event/agenda program where students participate and purple-ize their town to promote healthy teens, substance abuse awareness, etc.

Generation Found- Emma

Is a program similar to Anonymous People (from the same company) - a documentary about cultivating a community around abstinence and getting help. The outreach contact would set up a place & we would have an obligation to sell about 40 tickets. Maybe we could set up information tables, tie it into the 1st prevention program and the peer prevention program. Have Alternative Peer Groups- "APG"s. NM film commission could advertise this on their website. Emma will sit down with their outreach director- Mario Diornior. He'll start setting up a place, and would consult with us about date.

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

Our next NMSAPC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 16 at 11:30 a.m.** Lunch will not be served.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Marino III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Respectfully submitted 10/28/16 by
Eugene Marino III
Secretary
New Milford Substance Abuse Prevention Council