



Decisions at Every Turn Coalition

Meeting Agenda

October 10, 2017

Ashland Middle School Library, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

David DiGirolamo, Steve Greenberg, Denise Conti, Kathy Silva, Claudia Rose, Dave Muri, Kelly Roy, Mark Oram, Amy Turncliff, Pete Regan, Liz Byrnes, Saumya Sankhavaram and Kristin French

The meeting convened at 5:35 PM.

Introductions opened the meeting.

Minutes from of September 12, 2017 were accepted.

Coalition Retreat Recap

Saumya has been reviewing the responses collected during the Focus Group activity which encouraged discussion around ideas and perceptions around youth substance use in the community. She looked closely at themes that emerged across the different sectors.

Focus Group Highlights: The themes that rose to the top 1) The role of caring adults and 2) Cultural norms and social norms – especially norms that parents perpetuate which are not in-line with good prevention practices.

Ashland Business Association

Reality Check: Denise shared information about *Reality Check*, a grant funded financial literacy program that Keefe Tech will be hosting soon. *RC* is a 45-minute program where students choose a profession and then go around to different tables which have certain scenarios where the students have to make choices to manage their finances. The model was shared to see if there was a way to replicate the program using “Healthy Decisions” as the learning objective and students would go to different tables and learn about healthy decision-making. The idea is very interesting and we could look at using BAA funds to run such an event.

Kathy mentioned that there is a Transitional Support Program which integrates real life expectations. Students under an educational plan participate. Maybe we can investigate the Bureau of Transitional Support for ideas.

There was a suggestion to look at educational plans from insurance companies, MET Life, etc. who may already have a developed program.

It was also suggested to look at Middlesex Partnership for Youth – they offer a range of different healthy choices programs. APS has brought them in for cyber-safety.

Ashland Sporting Association - Spring Half Marathon

Steve Greenberg gave a brief history: 7-8 years ago the Ashland Redevelopment Authority was looking at ways to increase utility of Marathon Park. A half marathon was a way to simultaneously promote economic development and Ashland's role in the history of the Boston Marathon. Teamed up with MW YMCA as a strategic partner in the fall and the Ashland Emergency Fund in the spring. ASA liked the community connections being made through this model and looks to expand the local groups who would benefit.

Interested in having a partnership with DAET for the spring half marathon to be held at the end of May/beginning of June.

DAET would be responsible for reaching out to local businesses to get donations. Could enlist youth to solicit local businesses or parents' employers.

Ashland Sporting Association has all of the materials for the project. DAET would be responsible for getting the donations and having a few volunteers on race day. DAET can set up a table at the event. DAET keeps 100% of the money raised.

The Ashland Education Fund is also a Spring partner. Last year AEF earned \$7000.

DAET can also set a table up at this fall's half -marathon as well.

One barrier might be getting youth to participate on the day of the event because of busy schedules.

A decision to participate needs to happen by the end of December. The Leadership Team will discuss further.

Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC)

Kristin gave an overview of the "Caring Adult" strategy being used in SAPC to reduce underage drinking. The strategy focuses on building positive connections between youth and adults using a youth development model. Thus far 90+ adults in the 6 cluster communities have been trained in the 40 Developmental Assets. The next step is to present the data and youth development approach to each community and to identify ways of incorporating the information. Still very early in the planning process to have many details. Some thoughts:

- Trainings would be great for school counselors but would be best held right after school
- Support kids at middle school in finding a positive role model
- Be clear about boundaries in relationships

- Integrate learning for kids to develop assets for themselves
- Grades 6-8 prime time for 40 Developmental Asset training.
- To build natural connections, bring adults into the schools – such as in the library - in low key ways to introduce them to the kids. Linking the community parents to students while in school.
- KNO at MIndess
- There is the challenge of creating connections between adults with middle school students, at an age when the kids do not want to have relationships with adults. Crave independence.
- AHS – Health & Wellness peer leaders with students who come to advisory is a great connection
- YMCA is a great resource but transportation is the biggest issue. Picking up after the YMCA program is the greatest barrier.
- Teen Thursdays at the outdoor center – but difficult to get kids there because of commitments from town sports to scouts to childcare.

Updates

Ashland's BOS are trying to determine how to move forward with the medical marijuana proposal and will continue to gather information.

Regarding the recreational marijuana policy, the last discussion was to put the Opt Out vote to the voters. The vote goes on the ballot, possibly early next year, and then to town meeting vote in May.

MA-DPH is responsible for overseeing medical marijuana. The Cannabis Control Commission through the Treasurer's Office oversees recreational marijuana issues.

Celebrations

The first regional POWER program movie and discussion of *If Only* with Hopkinton is on October 11 at the Ashland Public Library.

The Coalition retreat.

Parent as Partners was a great event, especially the ability to link parents with the coalition.

ABA partnership has succeeded in connecting the coalition to several new promising relationships including Ashland's Pop Warner youth football program.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

NEXT MEETING: November 7 @ 5:30 PM AMS Library