



Decisions at Every Turn Coalition
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2018
Ashland Middle School Library, 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Liz Byrnes, Saumya Sankhavaram, Jen Weiss, Kim Herter, Amy Turncliff, Claudia Rose, Dave DiGirolamo, Judy Margulies, Nancy Rosenblum, Kristin French

The December 12th minutes were accepted.

Nancy Rosenblum – MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Nancy had an Initial conversation with Saumya about the general work of the MWCSWG and their recent program on sexting. MWCSWG is one of 8 MA regions whose mission is to be a permanent voice for women and girls and to communicate that information to the state, then the legislature, to see if policy changes need to happen. They look at legislation that is being proposed and participate in public hearings. Senator Spilka and Representative Jack Lewis are both very active with the organization and the mission. Rep. Jeff Roy from Franklin is doing a lot of current work on child pornography laws to downgrade sexting offenses from felony to misdemeanor charges. It will soon move to the bill phase.

The MWCSWG sexting program is typically done at schools in a panel format with representation from police and legislative representatives to discuss the legal aspects of sexting. The panel could include a parent, professional, or youth. This includes a discussion of proposed changes to the current law which would instead mandate a “diversion program” primarily focused on educational aspects. Parents at recent meetings have expressed interest in how to have discussions with their children about sexting with regard to healthy relationships and about online predation.

Nancy would like to bring something like this to Ashland. There is interest in having it as part of the Fall 2018 POWER series. There was a similar DA program at the middle school 2 years ago which focused on cyber bullying, sexting, sharing passwords, and online relationships. The timing would be good next year to follow up on this conversation. If MWCSWC is hosts an upcoming program nearby by we can go to check it out.

The SEMH working group is looking to hold a program that is focused on healthy relationships and there may be an opportunity to share MWCSWC resources. We can also promote their information in DAET newsletters and on the website.

Funding request protocol update

DAET has created a protocol for members or outside organizations to request funds for programs, projects, trainings, etc. We have developed for process and forms for officially requesting funds. If a request is over \$2,500 it is brought to the Coalition meeting for a discussion and vote. Requests under \$2500 will be discussed and decided on by the Leadership Team. We often get requests from community partners for training opportunities and DAET will start to send out more information to DAET members for relevant trainings and/or put on Facebook.

If not already included, we will add questions to the Coalition Member survey on trainings they would like to attend.

DFC Progress Report – Coalition Evaluation Activity

The group participated in a short activity to assist DAET with the February progress report. This gave members an opportunity to share their perspectives on “the primary challenges facing our community” at the individual, parent, school and community level.

General Announcements

On January 30th, the POWER series will host the World Café: Let’s Talk About Trauma and will feature a panel of professionals discussing different aspects of trauma and the connection to social emotional and behavioral health.

The new Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant Request for Applications (RFA) was just released. DAET will be applying for funding for years 6-10. The RFA is due on March 29th. Many of the activities that have taken place at recent coalition meetings, as well as the DAET 2017 Parent Survey, will be used to write the application.

Ashland’s Board of Selectmen will put the recreational business opt-out item on the May ballot and town meeting.

Celebrations

DAET received \$75K in state funding (Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services – BSAS) to support coalition prevention efforts. The funds must be spent by June 30, 2018.