



**Decisions at Every Turn Coalition**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 6, 2018**  
**Ashland Middle School Library, 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

In attendance

Chrissy Reynolds (Business), Jennifer Weiss (Parent), Kathryn Silva (Schools/Director of Student Services), Paul Vera (Schools/Assistant Superintendent), Haley Bocsusis (Youth/ BTB), David Amberley (Parent), Kim Herter (Parent), Audrey Lacroix, RN (Healthcare/School Head Nurse), Neha Shabeer (Youth/BTB), Al Porter (Media), Lily Orr (Youth/BTB), Jim Adams (Schools/Superintendent), Kelley St. Coeur (Schools/AHS Principal), Elizabeth Amberley (Parent/Coalition Programming Chair), Jack Emberley (Youth), Ed Burman (Police), Brian Garrigan (Schools/SADD Advisor), Claudia Rose (Parent/DAET Treasurer), Elizabeth Byrnes (Parent/DAET Co-Chair), Kristin French (DAET Project Director)

Review and Acceptance of January 16, 2018 Minutes

Attendees were asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the January 16, 2018 Coalition meeting minutes. No one had any changes. A motion was made to accept the January minutes. A second motion was made to accept the January minutes. The January 16, 2018 were accepted.

Agenda Review

The Project Director reviewed the meeting agenda.

- 1) DFC Years 6-10 Update
  - a. Action Plan for Application
  - b. Project Narrative Questions
- 2) General Updates
- 3) Celebrations

DFC Year 6-10 Update

The Project Director reviewed the DFC Competing Continuation application process. Over the next month DAET Coalition staff, Leadership Committee, and Steering Committee will continue to gather and evaluate data, analyze results from the 2017 DAET Coalition Parent Survey, and seek input from community members and other key stake holders to inform the project narrative and action plan. Drafts will be available for review at the March 13, 2018 Coalition meeting.

## Action Plan for Application

The Project Director and DAET Co-Chair reviewed the purpose and process for developing the Year 1 Action Plan. A draft was distributed to each attendee and the Co-Chair walked everyone through each DFC Goal and the related Objectives, Strategies and Activities. Attendees provided comments, suggestions and feedback, which will be considered/incorporated into the next draft.

## NOTES ON SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN ITEMS

### Goal One: Increase Community Collaboration

Objective 1 - Strategy 1 – Training: Training opportunities are available for staff and volunteers to help increase member and Coalition capacity. Some potential training ideas are prevention, leadership, and coalition-building. The DAET annual retreat and coalition meetings are good examples of how/where the Coalition can provide specific trainings for community members. CADCA (National) and BSAS (Massachusetts) are also open to the broader community and coalition members. If anyone has any training ideas, please let Saumya or Kristin know.

Objective 1 – Strategy 2 - Increase recruitment of Pre K-5 parents: The Coalition has positive name recognition within the community and strong partnerships with many different organizations and groups. We have prioritized the recruitment of Pre-K-5 parents to 1) Share important primary prevention information with parents before risky behavior starts 2) Begin engagement early to achieve long-term sustainability of efforts and 3) Increase the volunteer base to help support Coalition events and activities. Our vision is to continue to weave prevention into the fabric of the schools and community. We have begun to talk with parents about starting a PreK-5 parent working group. Other ideas for the Action Plan:

- Ashland Raises Happy and Healthy Kids
- Engaging youth sports organizations
- Ashland youth soccer (talk to Betsy)
- Cub Scouts – Girl Scouts
- Connection to BTB
- Community Conversations – revamp these conversations with families of different ages using a Train the Trainer model for volunteer facilitators.

Objective 1 - Strategy 3 - Increasing youth involvement: Breaking the Barriers can play a significant role in engaging other youth groups and students not otherwise involved in clubs or activities. They are also instrumental in reaching students in Middle School in a mentoring and recruitment capacity.

- MetroWest Youth Teaming Together regional summit. BTB to recruit Ashland students to participate in the summit. Participants will learn about prevention and community-based strategies. Students will work together to identify a regional project and how to bring efforts back to their local communities.

- Coalition engagement: BTB can raise awareness about the Coalition and volunteer opportunities through its own network, website and outreach activities.
- Middle School – BTB students will hold a second SPARK rising middle school leadership summit for Grade 5 in the Spring. This will increase engagement of youth in leadership and prevention roles and can lay the foundation for participation in the Coalition as they enter high school.
- Beautifying the community project - BTB would like to spearhead a community beautification project, open to all students. Segments of the project would incorporate prevention messaging, for example: cleaning up areas littered with nip bottles and displaying the collected bottles as a way start a public conversation about the issue and its impact on youth.
- Partnering with St. Cecelia's Peer ministry: BTB and other youth groups can connect with St. Cecelia's Peer Ministry to increase involvement of the youth sector and strengthen the partnerships among youth and with the Coalition and faith community.

Objective 2 – Strategy 1 – Increase participation of under-represented populations: The Coalition has made some headway in partnering with individual groups who could contribute vastly in establishing a diverse membership, but we could do a better job in bringing the individual groups together to work on increasing member involvement.

- Diversity & Inclusion working group – Establish a new Working Group and invite leaders from Ashland is United, Ashland Parent Advisory Committee (ASHPAC), Ashland Business Association (ABA), and the English Language Learner (ELL) Program.

## Goal 2: Reduce Youth Substance Use

Our objective is to decrease the reported rate of youth use for alcohol, marijuana, nicotine, and prescription drugs by 2%. The 2% decrease reflects a reduction in the 30-day use (each substance is separate) reported overall (ages 12-18).

Highlight the Youth Diversion/Intervention and Education Program. Is there a way the Coalition can help people understand what the policies and procedures are and can communicate this to the community? Yes, we can publish an article in *Ashland Directions* and include it in an upcoming newsletter. Sgt. Burman reported that there is an overall shift in thinking about consequences for youth infractions. There is a push towards diversion programs and using education and intervention strategies to put youth on a positive path. Ashland's program has been used quite a bit and has been very successful. He reported that there has been a post-diversion increase in GPAs for students who have gone through the program. How does it work? If a student commits a minor crime (B&E for example), we can ask the DA to divert it. The DA generally agrees and sends the case back to Ashland. The case doesn't get arraigned (no CORI). There is a meeting with DA, parent, student and C4RJ program (restorative justice, 6-month plan typically requiring community service, letter writing, no substance rule. If these requirements are met, then everything goes away. If the youth does not participate or breaks the law during this process, then chargers move forward. Smaller infractions do not go to DA

and stay in-house. A plan is determined at the school level. In the past two years, 9 out of the 10 cases assigned to program have been successful.

Vaping: The Deans are working on a vaping diversion program to avoid consequences of suspension. Would be great to have a teacher, staff training on vaping.

Opioids: The opioid education program for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade health classes will take place during the last week in February to first week in March. Parents will be sent home a letter and DAET's *Parenting for Prevention*: Opioids to assist in conversations with their teen about opioid and other substance use.

Alcohol and Marijuana: Using Edventi classroom education program. The second cohort year should be complete. Andy McKay is the lead contact.

Marijuana: Underage use is never legal. Look at the different access points for underage use and perception of harm by youth to include in the STAND social norms campaign.

Substance use: SADD will conduct its annual Sticker Shock program in partnership with local alcohol retailers. Middle school students will participate in the "Caring Cards" program and make cards for prom attendees. Red Ribbon activities will continue at the Middle School.

### Project Narrative Questions

The Project Director and DAET Co-Chair reviewed the purpose and process for developing the Project Narrative and led a discussion using grant narrative questions.

Question 4 - D. *Describe how the coalition plans to disseminate the data outcomes to the community and how it will ensure that all segments in the community receive the information.* We specifically sought feedback on how coalition members feel about how data is currently distributed (i.e. MWAHS)/what they would like to see improved and ideas for other distribution methods:

- Continue AAHS presentations - try to get more people there
- Work with WACA and have students present key data in a PSA
- Weave key data points into other programming, i.e. before a POWER program highlight related AAHS results
- DAET in its messaging should be very clear and consistent on what the most important data is (30-day use) and not go back and forth between 30-day and trends and lifetime. it gets confusing for the public.
- Create a webinar that can be used by school staff/faculty and the broader community to understand data and information
- Focus on the "perception" data
- Conduct youth focus groups - different kinds to find out about their belief in the data results or to delve deeper into the data

Question 5 - D. *Describe how the coalition will evaluate the effectiveness of youth engagement.* We specifically asked participants to consider current youth engagement, how can we improve this existing engagement, and to identify new ideas.

- Look at diversion program success
- Youth surveys
- Youth focus groups
- Have a youth rep on all working groups
- Look at school data
- Looks at trends in community service (prevention related) participation
- Attendance in POWER programs, coalition meetings

Question 5 - E. *Describe youth will be engaged in communicating the coalition's efforts to the community?* We asked the participating youth to come up with new ideas, how we can engage more youth in this process and how the Coalition can support them.

- Have a social takeover (one day of blitzing info) of coalition related information, data, efforts, etc.
- Working with younger students/mentorships
- Instead of the STAND posters designed by professional, have a youth poster contest to create the imagery
- Find out how to connect with home-schooled families
- Collaboration among youth groups - BTB, SADD, Peer leaders, captains (make it a requirement), STUCO, NHS, Make a Wish, Theater

Question 4 - C. *Describe how the coalition will make a determination that modifications need to be made to the 12-Month Action Plan to more effectively achieve the goals and objectives in the 12-Month Action Plan*

The Coalition has a current review and modification process, but would like to engage more members in the review/modification process, get feedback on what is working and what needs to be changed about the process, and identify what areas of concern need to be addressed by the Coalition. The goal is to have the community make decisions.

#### General Update

We will continue to work on the DFC application and have the Action Plan (final or close to final) at the March Coalition meeting.

#### Celebrations

BTB will be heading out for their service trip to South Africa over February break.

#### Next Meeting

March 13, 2018

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 PM