

# **Barrington's Substance Abuse Task Force**

**Drug Free Community Coalition**

**Barrington High School**

**220 Lincoln Ave. Barrington, RI 02806**

**Monday, April 1, 2013 at 8:45 am.**

## **Minutes**

**Present: Kathy Sullivan (Staff), Dr. Kristen Westmoreland (Staff), Nancy Guertin (Organization involved in Reducing Substance Use), Joanne Royley (School), Ariel Alves (youth), Stacie McLaughlin (Parent), Marta Iachetta (School), Stacie McLoughlin (Parent), Deb Perugini (Staff), Jonathan Ashuler (School), Deena Davis (Parent), Ariel Alves (youth), Sage (youth), Sara Kriz (media)**

**Not present: Lauren Walker (youth), Alexandra Ray (youth), Aria Nirrandone (youth), Maycie Culley (youth) Lara Courturier (parent), Martha Donovan (Parent), Susan Freel (Parent), Denise Alves (State Organization with Expertise in field of substance abuse), Rev. Jeff Larsen (Religious Organization), Harper Berriman (youth), Diane Block (health care), Bill Cameron (business), Grethe Cobb (healthcare), Jill Cuzzone (Parent), Claudia Gordon (Parent), Maureen Janetta (School), Eileen Johnson (Healthcare), Bob Shea (School), Michael Squatrito (Youth Serving Organization), Heidi Fanion (Parent), Mimi Karlin (Youth) Sara Kriz (media), Eleanor Swe (Parent), Chief John LaCross (Police), Deb Jerome (Civic group), Bill Dewitt (Business), Elsie Wright (School), Amelia Hill (youth),**

**Health Education Presentation – Corey Downey, Department Head**  
Corey briefly outlined the evidence based prevention curricula used in the schools. These include: Protecting You/Protecting Me at HMS, Project Northland at BMS, Delta 9 at BHS, and Class Action at BHS. We are fortunate that we have such commitment and support from our health educators for substance abuse prevention.

### **Marijuana Changes and PSAs**

KS outlined the new decriminalization law which came into effect on April 1st in RI. The coalition is trying to use the change to educate parents and encourage dialogue with teens and adults about the risks and harms of marijuana use.

The leaders of the BAY Team have been working with other state prevention leaders through the Ocean State Prevention Alliance. They have attended state house hearings, advocated to legislators, and worked to create weekly legislative updates. The BAY Team leaders, Kathy Sullivan and Dr. Westmoreland, have been contacted by local media for comments. We have also met with proponents of legalization to look at common ground (youth protection) and air our concerns.

### **Committee Reports**

Parenting – Working of the Dinner and a Movie Stress conference.

**Planning a Parent2Parent meeting for 4/26 to coincide with Sports Night at BMS.**

**Marijuana – a letter to all parents will be sent from the Superintendent. We have sent our a Monthly Parenting Tip on Decriminalization. The spring newsletter, the Buzz, has a feature story on Decriminalization. We are urging parents to speak to teens.**

**Policy – working on tightening up local social host law.**

**BAY Youth –the group is working on Mocktails which will take place on April 11th. This is an annual competition where students create non-alcoholic drinks honoring a person killed by a drunk driver. It is organized by MADD.**

**The group just did a fun awareness raising event for Kick Butts Day which rec'd some great press. :**  
**<http://barrington.patch.com/articles/students-asked-to-kick-butts>**

**CHOICES – recently held a Non-smoking Poster Contest.**

**St. Andrews – Whacky Wednesday – an opportunity for students to freely choose a fun class to participate in. Stress relief and fun sponsored by the SADD chapter.**

**Prescription Drug – next Drug Take Back Day is on 4/27/13 from 10-2 at the Police Station. The committee is also planning the Dinner and Movie. We are grateful for the input of Nancy Guertin of the East Bay**

**Center who secured a grant to support the showing of Race to Nowhere.**

**Member of the Month!**

**Martha Donovan for February!**

**Dena Davis for March!**

**Thanks to both who work tirelessly to help promote positive prevention in our community!**

**Any Other Business: Volunteers Needed!**

**Spring Conference – Race to Nowhere 4/23/13!**

**Drug Take Back – 4/27**

**Adjourn**

**[http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/providence/marijuana-decriminalization-law-to-take-effect-today](http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/local_news/providence/marijuana-decriminalization-law-to-take-effect-today)**