

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

**Drug Free Community Coalition**

**Barrington High School Library**

**200 Lincoln Avenue**

**November 3, 2014 at 8:45 am.**

### **Minutes**

**Goals of Meeting: Highlight Statewide Efforts to Reduce Drunk Driving**

**Attendance:**

**Present: Kathy Sullivan (Staff), Dr. Kristen Westmoreland (Staff), Joanne Royley (School), Stacie McLoughlin (Parent), Deb Jerome (Civic group), Sara Kriz (media), Jen Sapolsky (parent), Susan Freel (parent), Deb Perugini (parent), Denise Alves (State Organization with Expertise in field of substance abuse), Steve Bucka (Healthcare), Ann Johnston (School), Joanne Royley (School)**

**Not present: Martha Donovan (Parent), Eileen Johnson (Healthcare), Alexandra Ray (youth), Harper Berriman (youth), Diane Block (health care), Bill Cameron (business), Grethe Cobb (healthcare), Claudia Gordon (Parent), Maureen Janetta (School), Bob Shea (School), Chuck Lzbash (Youth Serving Organization), Eleanor Swe (Parent), Kim Kelly (youth), Chief John LaCross (Law Enforcement), Heather Annis (Faith Community), Brendan Curran (Faith Community). Heidi**

**Fanion (Parent), Jonathan Ashuler (School), Elsie Wright (School),  
Deena Davis ( Youth Serving Organization)**

**Call to Order**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Presentation**

**Denise Alves acting Executive Director of MADD RI, did a presentation on the work of MADD to prevent drunk driving. Denise outlined the many efforts of MADD, including youth training through Teamspirit and Youth in Action. Denise spoke about the work with victims and their families. MADD works on state policy and was successful with interlock devices in the recent legislative sessions. Now firsttime offenders with a .15 BAC or above will be required to use an interlock device. The group spent time discussing the weak RI DUI laws.**

**MADD is looking at new technology such as self-driving cars to address impaired driving. They host an annual Candlelight vigil and a Mocktail competition for youth.**

**MADD is making an announcement in January. Currently they can sit at the table on discussions around Marijuana and Prescription Drug impairment.**

**As for the Zero Fatalities program, there are currently no inmates who qualify to speak in the program – a good thing in terms of fewer driving fatalities, but a missed educational opportunity.**

**For Sobriety Checkpoints in RI ( a tool that is effective in lowering drunk driving), the RI constitution would need to be amended or a police department would have to be willing to set one up and have it challenged successfully in the courts. Law enforcement does use Blue Riptide money to work together with surrounding communities to detect impaired drivers and remove them from our roads.**

**Deb P reminded the group of leaders such as the health teacher at BMS who espouses an alcohol and drug free life.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Parenting – Jen S. is chairing the group and gave a thorough update of the plans the committee will be working on, including prioritizing activities such as recipe card distribution, monthly tips, adopt a spot, secure your liquor messaging, parenting meetings, Family Read, What's Your Passion, Work with Pediatricians, Spring Conference and putting a curriculum summary on the BAY Team website.**

**Marijuana – The Marijuana group is working on a plan to educate parents, faculty and the community about the risks of marijuana to a**

youth's developing brain. It is challenging to use social norms with teens because they do not believe the data and simply tend to believe that "everyone is using". We will use the local paper, a mailer, a media insert, social media and monthly tips to convey the messaging. JR will also present the risks of electronic cigs to the BHS Faculty.

**Policy** - the group successfully offered a training to all servers and sellers of alcohol as part of local ordinance. The group also coordinates the Alcohol Awareness Training for all those who violate local alcohol laws.

**BAY Youth/CHOICES/St. Andrews** – BHS students are hosting dodgeball and will be attending the Candlelight vigil. A texting a driving assembly, It Can Wait, was postponed until December. On Nov. 20th there will be a DIRT Assembly for 9th and 10th grade students.

The 7th and 8th grade CHOICE students have started to meet with Ann Johnson.

**Prescription Drug** – This group will meet on Nov 13th at the BAY Team offices. They have had their final drug take back event. They have invited a representative from CVS to participate on the committee and will be working on ways to engage the medical community in their efforts.

**Social Action – This new committee is about to start and will be bringing together members of the faith community to promote a shared message about issues such as youth mental health, substance use and strengthening families.**

**Any Other Business: John Morello, DIRT Assembly on 11/20**

**KS needs volunteers to help with the Festival of Lights on 12/6 from 2-6 pm. Possibly to serve a Mocktail – hot cider with the BAYouth.**

**Adjourn 10:00 am**