



MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2018

2:15pm

Smithfield High School Media Room
215 Pleasant View Ave.
Smithfield, RI 02917

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Dina Heroux at 2:23pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Cathy Riley, Jon Ricciarelli, Cory Carpenter, Maxine Cavanagh, Harold Hemberger, Ward Harrison, Amy Wilson, Jean Harnois, Melissa Moroni, Amy Webster

Absent: Barry Sutcliffe, Colleen Judge, Donna Moan, Frank Luca, Chief Seltzer, Larry Sasso, Ken Hopkins, Addie Schwartz, Dr. Judy Paolucci

III. Minutes of Meeting: December 20, 2017 and January 17, 2018 (Motion)

A motion to accept the December 20, 2017 minutes was made by Harold Hemberger, seconded by Ward Harrison, unanimous to approve. A motion to accept the January 17, 2018 minutes was made by Cory Carpenter, seconded by Maxine Cavanagh, unanimous to approve.

IV. SADD Report Update

This issue was tabled until next month's meeting

V. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Regional Grant Update

The board was informed that the coordinator has been attending bi-monthly Regional Coalition meetings. The coordinator explained that one of the advantages to being part of a region is that the coalitions can share resources between the regions. Johnston, Cranston, Foster/Glocester and Scituate coalitions have the PFS (Partnership for Success) grants through the State and have created some great campaigns and resources that the board can use within their town. All that would need to be changed is the logos, which would cost minimal amount of money to do. Also, the regions will be able to work together on campaigns to carry throughout all of the regions. One of the environmental strategies that the Region is mandated to do is Project Lazarus, which addresses the Opioid Crisis. The region was awarded approximately \$34,000.00 to work on Project Lazarus. As a region, the coalitions decided to purchase a campaign called "Count it, Lock it, Drop it" as an environmental strategy to be used through the region. However, the regional coordinators decided to build off of this campaign and created "Count them. Lock them, Drop them". This is in reference to counting your medication, lock your medication safely and Drop the medication at the 24 drug drop box. The region had their graphic artist design a flyer that can be will be used in several ways throughout the region. The coordinator explained that the other coalitions in their region will be displaying this campaign on billboards in their towns. Unfortunately, Smithfield does not have a billboard so the coordinator decided to display the campaign on bus shelters within the town.

One bus shelter will be on Putnam Pike in the center of town and the other bus shelter will be on Route 7 near Bryant University. The coordinator passed around the flyer for the board to view. The coordinator also stated that this will be placed in the Smithfield Times. The regional coordinators have also decided to create a video based on this campaign that will hopefully be run on closed looped televisions within the community. The coordinator informed the board that she has been visiting the local banks and urgent cares in the town to see if it would be possible to run the video at their establishments. The board will be kept updated on this issue. The regional coalition hired a company called John Snow Inc. (JSI) to complete the needs assessment for the region. This will help determine the strengths and weaknesses of each town in the region. JSI is in the process of conducting key informant interviews with the coordinators and some board members from each coalition. The coordinator stated that the next step is to hold focus groups. There will a youth focus group and a parent focus group. The youth group will hopefully be held in the morning at the school. The focus group shouldn't take more than an hour and every student that participates will be given a \$15.00 stipend. The parent focus group will be held the same day as the youth group but at night and the parents will receive \$25.00 stipends. The board will be kept updated on the regional meetings.

Reappointment Forms

Those board members that had not completed their reappointment to the board forms filled them out and gave them to the coordinator.

ATI Recruitment Cards

ATI recruitment card developed by the Johnston Coalition was passed around for the board to view. The coordinator explained the concept of Above The Influence (ATI). It is a program that promotes youth being above the influence not only of drugs and alcohol substances but also bullying, self-image, relationships etc. The coordinator stated that she would like to try to incorporate this group in the middle school since the High School has a strong SADD group. Cathy Riley, the SADD group's advisor stated that the SADD group is not that strong or active this year as previous years. Cathy stated that the SADD students are involved in so many other groups and activities that they haven't been able to devote a lot of time to one group in particular. Cathy stated that she really liked the concept of ATI and that she thinks it would be a great program to bring to the school and hopefully incorporate it into the middle school. The coordinator explained that there are many different activities in the ATI curriculum that can be used in both the middle and high school. The board was in agreement that the ATI program is a great idea.

Prom Tip Cards/X Plan

Another resource that the Johnston Coalition created that the coordinator would like to use was Prom Tips and the X Plan. The X plan was developed as a safe way for a youth to notify their parents that they are in a situation that is either unsafe or makes them feel uncomfortable. The concept of the X-Plan is that if the youth is feeling unsure about a situation, all they need to do is text "X" to their parent and this prompts the parent to call the youth and tell them that "something came up" and that they would be coming to pick them up. This way, the youth is not subjected to peer pressure. Another part of the X Plan is that the youth is allowed to tell their parent as little or as much as they want with "no questions asked". However, the parents can decide for themselves how they want to handle the situation with their youth. The X Plan card was passed around for the board to view. Students were given several "prom tips" and they chose the ones that pertained to them the most and the tips they would listen to and think about. Johnston Coalition created a Prom Tips information sheet and attached it to each Early Dismissal form that was sent home for prom season. The board agreed that both of these ideas would be beneficial in their community. A suggestion was made to have Smithfield

students pick out some prom tips that pertain to them and use those on the informational sheet.

Vaping Myths and Realities Post Cards

The board was informed that SRO Ricciarelli asked one of the students he has been working with if he wanted to create the Vaping Myths and Realities sheet for the coalition. The student said he would and he has been working hard on it. The coordinator and Jon Ricciarelli met with the student today, February 21st, and he stated that he is almost done with the Vaping sheet. When he has completed it, he will give it to Jon to show the board. The goal is to have this informational sheet sent to parents via this listserv as well as put on the dasher board at the ice rink.

Model Tobacco Policy – (Next step)

The board was informed that Geri Guardino from Department of Health attended January's meeting and explained the Model Tobacco Policy to the members that were in attendance. The Model Policy varies from community to community depending on the needs and the climate of the city or town. Geri Guardino had suggested that the next step would be to have an informational meeting with the Town Council to explain the Model Policy and what parts of the policy the board would like to adopt. Some of the cities and towns put a Tobacco 21 in their policy which means that no tobacco retailer can sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21. Another city put in their policy that vape e-juices and flavored tobacco are not permitted to be sold. The board agreed that they would like to move forward with the Model Policy. The coordinator suggested having an informational meeting with the Town Council to educate the Council on the Model Policy and start a conversation about the next steps in working towards having the Town Council approve the Model Policy.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

Cory Carpenter stated that the Chief of Police started holding a Drug Take Back Day the first Wednesday of each month from 10am -12pm. Cory stated that the first day was in February and only a couple of people dropped off medication. The board was informed that as part of the Regional Coalition, there will be an ad placed in the Observer about the drop off day.

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Cory Carpenter, seconded by Ward Harrison; unanimous to approve.

Next meeting: March 21, 2018 at 2:15pm

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Smithfield Prevention Coalition. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation is needed, please contact the Smithfield Town Manager's office at 401-233-1010 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.