

MIDDLETOWN PREVENTION COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2017

MIDDLETOWN TOWN CHAMBERS

1. Welcome and Introductions: Meeting began at 6:06pm.

- **In attendance: Lori Verderosa (MPC Coordinator), Tom Lyons (Chair, Business), Jennifer Baldwin (DFC Coordinator), Jon Brett (Healthcare), Susan Schenck (Other Organization), Jake Cathers (Vice Chair/Parent), Helen Sowinski (Civic/Volunteer), Kate Manning (Other Org), Meghan Guild (Parent), Alexa Furtado (Media), Kristen Petraca (Youth Serving), Hillary Leonard (Media), Cameran Mas (Student Assistance Counselor), Hannah Gibbison (Youth).**

- **Excused absence: Rick Lombardi (Governmental Liaison), Dennis Soares (School), Laurie Pauley (Faith), Dave Guerriero (Law Enforcement), Pamela Martin (Military Liaison), Beatrice Casaula (Student Assistance Counselor).**

- **Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Directed our attention to Coalition Sector Representative List and 2nd Tier/Friends of MPC list. Everyone introduced themselves around the table.**

2. Meeting minutes from Sep 21st reviewed.

- **Susan noted Paragraph 8 had the heading Mil Outreach, which should be spelled out as Military.**

- **Jake made a motion to accept; Jon seconded. All in favor, no discussion.**

3. Financial Reports

- **RISAPA: salaries & fringe benefits.**
- **General fund. No expenditures this month.**
- **DFC grant: salaries & fringe benefits. \$7500 expenditure for a project evaluator who is working on three projects for us. \$1500 expenditure for multiple event deliverables.**

4. In the News

- **Jenn provided an informative handout summarizing the latest news articles.**
- **Jon Brett wrote a letter to editor about breaking the stigma of addiction in support of September National Recovery Month.**
- **Jamie Lehane wrote an article in NDN emphasizing the importance of early intervention for youth suffering from mental disorders.**
- **Rhode Island Kids Count reported that e-cigarette usage is on the rise in the state. RI has the lowest youth cigarette usage rate in the country, but 8.8% of middle school and 25% of high school students report e-cigarette usage in the past 30 days.**
- **President Trump declared the opioid crisis a national public health emergency.**
- **Governor Raimondo was interviewed in the Providence Journal. She stated she is not ready to legalize recreational marijuana, there is research to be done first. She does support increasing the amount of compassion centers in the state.**
- **Jenn stated: Youth don't believe that driving under the influence of**

marijuana is dangerous, and some parents don't think so either.

5. Executive Committee

- The Executive Committee has kept its focus on membership & sustainability.**

6. Communication Committee

- Working with military outreach committee on November Military Family Appreciation Month letter to the editor.**
- Working on promotion of upcoming Lunch and Learn program at Middletown High School.**
- Developing media campaign for marijuana ads. We have four print ads and four video ads that will run on facebook.**
- Distribution of NCPC Healthy kids newsletter.**

7. Policy Committee

- Carol Formica was appointed as a member of the RI Marijuana Study Commission. Upcoming commission hearings will be held on Nov 7th and Dec 6th and can be viewed at the link: <http://ritv.devosvideo.com/show-videos?g=ed687894&page=1&filter=vod>**
- Commission is to report back to both houses in Mar 2018.**
- Tobacco Retailers Licensing (TRL) is active in our town. All but two retailers have returned applications, all but two have paid the licensing fees. TRL is on the docket for Nov 6th Town Council meeting for further discussion. All MPC members are encouraged to**

come show our support for the ordinance.

- ACLU sent letters to Middletown and other municipalities to examine marijuana ordinances, using Smithfield as an example. Town ordinances cannot conflict with or further restrict state laws on medical marijuana.**
- Meg brought to our attention the Oct 2017 Executive Summary from Colorado. Handout provided to coalition members.**

8. Needs Assessment workgroup.

- Kristen Petraca is a new chairperson for this committee.**
- Workgroup is focused on the upcoming Student Health and Wellness survey logistics and how to best use the resulting data.**
- Middletown Public Schools approved for us to conduct the survey earlier in the school year, we will administer it in November and December. The challenge is lack of teacher buy in. Workgroup and other coalition members will visit advisory classes to help kick off the survey.**
- Jenn is working with Gaudet to set up survey administration dates there.**

9. Military Outreach Committee

- November is Military Family Appreciation Month.**
- Letter to the editor is in work by Laurie Pauley and the communications committee.**
- Tom visited the Chamber of commerce to discuss military discount offerings at local businesses. He will bring feedback to the next**

workgroup meeting.

10. Islanders Committed:

- Lunch & Learns. 10 mini-workshop sessions will be held during Wednesday lunches each semester. IC has worked hard on marketing and implementation. The sessions are focused on health and wellness topics, and will tie into Ed Gerety's messaging.**
- Work is being done on rebranding IC's image, transforming it from primarily anti-drug messaging to more of a healthy lifestyle focus.**
- Hillary asked if the Student Health and Wellness survey has any questions that could give us feedback on student stressors. Lori will consider adding a question to our survey to address that.**

11. Coordinators reports:

- Lori – It's red ribbon week. Ed Gerety held his assembly at Gaudet. Similar to what he did with Anchor Academy, he plans to come back to Gaudet for a follow up program. Staff has been asked to identify 7th and 8th grade student leaders for this follow up session. A date is being set, though Ed is not available until spring.**
- Meghan discussed a disconnect in the schools messaging of red ribbon week with the students, particularly the lower grades. Lori will follow up with Gaudet staff.**
- The Family Day bonfire was a big success. A large number of attendees – over 300 people participated. We will have a feedback session with Planning Committee soon.**
- NCPC implemented "Count it. Lock it. Drop it" opioid prevention**

campaign. Swag & info will be distributed at DEA Drug takeback day Saturday 10/28.

12. Topic of the Month:

- Sustainability session. Lori started a Coalition 101 in September for the benefit of our members. She continued for this meeting:**
- Coalition 101. To involve the coalition in a greater way. Use of logic models. CADCA Academy wanted a pinpointed actionable item that we could create a program to prevent.**
- Logic Models will be developed for each substance the coalition is targeting. Alcohol, marijuana and tobacco are our main focus. When data comes in from Student Health and Wellness surveys, we will begin to develop these logic models. The models guide us on what is important for us to focus on. As we develop a strategic plan for the development of a sustainability plan, the models will help create a road map for our future. At future MPC meetings, members will be divided up to work on this, and Lori and guide us in their creation. Our data will be gathered through surveys, focus groups & key informant interviews. Evidence based practices - marijuana prevention specialists have used alcohol prevention practices, environmental strategies and individual strategies. Individual strategies will not result in community norms changes. Environmental strategies – for example media, messaging, policy changes, law enforcement are the way to change community norms.**
- Lori wants MPC members to think about the substances that we would like to work on as we determine how to divvy up the coalition**

into workgroups to work on logic models.

- **Lori is planning a future mini – retreat for MPC members.**

13. Old Business

- **DEA drug takeback day is Saturday October 28th.**

14. New Business

- **Project Purple. Initiative developed by Chris Herren for people who choose healthy lifestyles. We are running this as a county-wide initiative, with NCPC. Baskets of purple bows will be provided to island businesses for a \$25 donation. Project Purple Committee members solicited – Meghan, Tom and Kate volunteered.**

- **Nov 11th is Veterans day; Friday Nov 10th veterans day is observed. Tom asked us to think about the many veterans in our community & to thank them for their service.**

- **Nov and Dec meeting dates. Jenn will send out email to poll members on availability.**

15. Adjournment:

- **Helen made a motion to adjourn. Jon seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.**

Next full committee meeting will be ... TBD. Jenn will send out an

email to poll members on our availability for November and December meetings.