

NATICK OPIOID TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Edward H. Dlott Meeting Room, Natick Town Hall

October 12, 2016

3:00 PM

PRESENT: Chief James Hicks (Natick Police Department), Jemma Lambert (Director, Community Services Department), Cheryle Lucenta (representative, SOAR Natick), Lt. Cara Rossi (Natick Police Department), Dr. Peter Sanchioni (Superintendent, Natick Public Schools), Katie Sugarman (Director, Natick Together for Youth), James White (Director, Natick Health Department)

Ms. Sugarman called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

1. Approval of minutes from September 13, 2016 meeting: Task Force members reviewed and unanimously approved meeting minutes.
2. Updates on MetroWest Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) grant: Ms. Sugarman reported that the Town of Framingham invited her to participate on the interview panel for the MOAPC Coordinator position, and the group has completed finalist interviews. There appears to be a lead candidate for the position. An offer should be made within the next week.
3. Planning for November 15th community forum: Task Force members discussed the structure and format of the upcoming community forum about Natick's response to the opioid crisis. Since the July 18th forum did not allow adequate time for community discussion, the focus of this event will be on community members voicing their thoughts, concerns and experiences related to the opioid epidemic.

Format will start with *brief* updates on what steps the Town has taken since the last forum, followed by responses to the questions/comments that were submitted at the last forum. The remaining time will be left open to community members to bring their questions and comments, which will be scribed on newsprint. Task Force members agreed to reach out to their constituencies to promote the event.

4. Discussion of Opioid Task Force membership and organization: Task Force members discussed its organizational structure and the need to create elected leadership roles. Task Force members decided to wait until there was a fuller group before electing such positions. Future meetings will include Chief Rick White and representatives from the Leonard Morse Hospital.
5. Updates on staffing for Opioid Task Force and Natick Together for Youth: Ms. Sugarman reported that funding for the Prevention & Outreach Program Manager will be considered for approval at Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 18th. Should this

funding be approved, Ms. Sugarman will assume the new position. Funding in the NPS budget that was allotted to sustain the Natick Together for Youth (NTY) director position for the current fiscal year will be used to hire a new 'Student/Community Outreach Coach' position that provides direct services to Natick High School students who are struggling with substance use and assists with NTY related initiatives at the high school.

ADJOURNMENT

The Opioid Task Force meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.