

NATICK OPIOID TASK FORCE
and
NATICK TOGETHER FOR YOUTH

Natick Town Hall Third Floor Training Room

8:00 AM January 18, 2019

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS and DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Astrid Dretler, Community Member
Cheryle Lucenta, SOAR Natick
Katie Sugarman, Natick Health Department
James M. White, Jr., Director of Public Health
James Hicks, Chief, Natick Police Department
Michael Lentini, Chief, Natick Fire Department
Ian L. Wong, Natick Board of Health
Fran Green, Social Worker in private practice
Karen Rufo, Nurse Leader, Natick Public Schools
Timothy Luff, Natick Public Schools

ALSO PRESENT: Jean M. Cotter, Natick Health Department

1. Citizen's Concerns: none
2. Integration of prevention, treatment and recovery efforts

A draft Organizational Development of Substance Use Prevention & Outreach Program Natick Health Department was provided.

Ms. Sugarman reviewed the intersecting goals and overlapping participants of each group: the Opioid Task Force (OTF) and the Natick Together for Youth (NTY).

There was a discussion about the potential benefits of integrating the two groups into one central organization. There was consensus that together more consistent messaging from one group is valuable. It would be an advantage to have the strengths of each group available to all demographics in Natick. The Board of Selectmen's charge for the OTF is for opioid crisis but combining with NTY would create one organization to cover many substances. One unified organization for referral would lessen confusion for the public. Retaining each group's community presence and including all special populations is important.

3. Organization structure

The discussion continued about how a combined group would be structured without losing all the partnerships and community connections of each group. Clear oversight while maintaining involvement including all demographics is important.

The OTF and NTY could be combined into one new coalition managed by the Health Department because the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant, which is to fund this type of work, is the fiscal agent. A central Advisory Committee consisting of currently active OTF, NTY and other community stakeholders could have Action Groups for specific objectives in prevention and recovery efforts.

4. Next steps

There was a discussion and consensus to move forward with the suggestion to combine the OTF and NTY as one coalition and that each group had to vote to proceed.

The members of the Opioid Task Force present:

Chief Hicks, Chief Lentini, Ms. Lucenta, Mr. Wong, Mr. Luff, Ms. Sugarman, Mr. White

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Opioid Task Force be dissolved and integrated with Natick Together for Youth to create one unified coalition under the administration of the Board of Health.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The members of Natick Together for Youth present:

Ms. Rufo, Ms. Dretler, Ms. Green, Ms. Sugarman, Mr. White,

A motion was made to dissolve the current structure of Natick Together for Youth and integrate with the former Opioid Task Force to create one unified coalition under the administration of the Board of Health.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Document(s) used at this meeting:

Draft Organizational Development of Substance Use Prevention & Outreach Program Natick Health Department