



NATICK 180  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Remote Participation by Zoom

8:30 am March 8, 2023



MINUTES

Steering Committee Member or Designee	Organization	Sector Represented	Present	Absent
Lauren Lele	Newton Wellesley Hospital	Healthcare	✓	
Dr. Catharina Armstrong	Newton Wellesley Hospital	Healthcare	✓	
Adelaida Gibson	MetroWest Medical Center	Healthcare	✓	
Donald Breda	Natick Board of Health	Local Government	✓	
Art Ferguson	Natick Public Schools	Schools	✓	
Christine Guthery	SPARK Kindness	Civic / Volunteer		✓
Chief James Hicks	Natick Police Department	Law Enforcement		✓
Lt. Chad Howard	Natick Police Department	Law Enforcement		✓
Paul Joseph	Natick Selectboard	Local Government		✓
Shai Fuxman	Natick School Committee	Schools		✓
Saralyn Keller, Chair	Natick Interfaith Leader Association / First Congregational Church	Religious / Fraternal	✓	
Chief Jason Ferschke	Natick Fire Department	Local Government		✓
Johny Georges	Natick Fire Department	Local Government		✓
Cheryle Lucenta	SOAR Natick	Other organization involved in reducing substance misuse	✓	
Erin Miller	Natick Public Schools	Schools	✓	

Dr. Anna Nolin Vice Chair	Natick Public Schools	Schools		✓
Katie Sugarman	Natick Health Department / Natick 180	Local Government	✓	
Michael Boudreau	Natick Health Department	Local Government	✓	
Jessica Cliff	Natick Health Department	Local Government		✓
Staff				
Lizzy Chalfin	Natick Health Department / Natick 180	Local Government		✓
Astrid Dretler	Natick Health Department / Natick 180	Local Government	✓	
Member(s) of the Public				



Link to Meeting PowerPoint: [SLIDES](#)

**1. Citizens' Concerns:** None.

**2. Vote on January 23, 2023 Steering Committee Meeting minutes.** A motion was made to approve the minutes “as is”, seconded, and then approved by majority vote.

**3. Natick 180 Updates and Announcements:**

**a. Strategic Planning Presentation by Health Resources in Action (HRiA)**

HRiA provided strategic planning consulting services for Natick 180 this past fall and winter. The final version of the report is undergoing final edits, and will be ready by the end of this week. The slide presentation can be accessed here: [HRiA slides](#). Natick 180’s strategic plan has 4 priority areas, and will allow us to focus on engaging additional partners, securing funding, and growing our impact over the next 3-5 years. The plan is a living document and can be adjusted over time. The annual action plan operationalizes the activities Natick 180 will focus on. The theme of health equity will be present throughout all of the priority areas.

Clarification is being sought on how partnering with schools is going to be defined & achieved, especially with ensuring everyone has equitable access to programs and services, both strategically & financially. N180 will partner with the schools to continue to build upon the groundwork that has been laid, through outreach and meetings. With the impending departure of NPS Superintendent, there is a new opportunity to forge relationships and craft an approach. Regarding equity, N180 will work “top down & bottom up” to specifically define what “equity” looks like going forward, and how plans around it are executed.

Next steps include disseminating the plan, by what means & to whom; also identifying partners and working on the top priority areas; accountability and timelines must be established. Quarterly reporting and needed adjustments to the plan is a reasonable approach. A point was made that Natick 180's approach should be to build upon what we already do well but add and expand activities, and to be more intentional in the ways we outreach to communities that are currently underserved. Natick 180 must keep apprised of shifting environmental conditions and adapt to community needs. Regarding dissemination of the plan, Natick 180 may hold a public event or present to elected board members so as to raise awareness amongst community members and town decision-makers (target date Fall 2023). We could also do more targeted approaches (i.e. PTOs, other local organizations). Natick 180 Action Teams will serve as a vehicle to help disseminate the plan.

It was suggested that N180 and NPS conduct some small group meetings first to examine how students are currently served by NPS and how NPS collaborates with other agencies and organizations to support all students and families. Many parents are unaware or unable to find resources effectively. This work may require having small group conversations first before bringing the plan to the larger community. Supporting students post-high school is an important priority - there is a cohort of young people who are at higher risk for substance use and mental health challenges. It is also important to identify support staff within NPS who are good resources but who may need some additional training on this topic and how to incorporate the training effectively with students.

Holding a Town Hall this fall on the topic of substance use (underage drinking & cannabis) should be part of our Action Plan, regardless of whether Natick 180 receives the STOP grant. The goal would be to provide information and support to parents and caregivers, and to shift some of the community/environmental dynamics in favor of supporting youth outside of school. Making an impact of permissive parental norms is challenging, but is a priority for Natick 180, by providing education and skill building. Messaging will center on helping youth to delay using substances.

#### **b. Finance updates:**

**i. Opioid Settlement Monies** - The Town of Natick has already started to receive funds from the statewide opioid settlement. An advantage Natick has is that our coalition is already well-established and well-organized, and is ready to utilize monies to get to work. Natick 180 will be the entity that is best positioned in the Town to direct how the monies are spent because we have an existing public-private partnership within the coalition. Monies will originate from Distributors of Opioids funds over the next 16-18 years (Natick has already received over \$50k to date) and from individual corporations including Johnson & Johnson (lump sum for first 5 yrs at nearly \$135k), Walmart (anticipated \$85k), Teva (anticipated \$112k), Allergan (anticipated \$67k), CVS (anticipated \$149k) and Walgreens (anticipated \$162k). The Town Administrator will be signing on to the settlement agreements in order to participate. There are other additional settlements that may be coming soon. These monies will allow Natick 180 to expand its scope of work, including supporting harm reduction efforts, school curriculum, coalition building, fostering partnerships with other agencies, etc. The Town Administrator has agreed to support a 1.0 FTE Project Coordinator position; there may be funds available to support a .5 FTE Project Coordinator position as well. The accounting mechanisms allowing us to start to use the monies are being held up at the state level. The Town Administrator will comply with state governance requirements but will ensure that Natick 180 will be able to use funds in a timely manner. New treatment services could be brought in if Natick pooled its monies with other regional groups. Funds can also be used for grief support.

See: AG's Statewide Opioid Settlement website:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-the-ags-statewide-opioid-settlements-with-opioid-industry-defendants>

**ii. STOP Act Grant application** - Last week, Natick 180 submitted a grant application to the federal government which focuses on reducing underage drinking and youth access to alcohol. Funds will amount to \$60k for 4 years. The monies could be spent on staff, conducting compliance checks, and increasing outreach to serve currently underserved populations.

**iii. Financial Update:** Updates as of March 1, 2022

There was about \$18,000 in the Town Prevention and Outreach Fund. The DFC fund has over \$102,000. There is approximately \$3500 remaining in the PhRMA Grant, and the donations account has a balance of \$7450. The Coalition recently received \$25,000 in Legislative earmark funds which must be used by June 30, 2023 (not eligible to be carried over). These monies may be used to purchase Narcan, supplies for Narcan kits, and supplies and disposal services for removing used syringes/sharps from the community.

**c. Upcoming youth-centered activities:**

- Natick 180 will visit KMS health classes on 3/9 and 3/10 to discuss media literacy, refusal skills, promoting healthy, positive influences
- Equity Co-Op Day - 3/23 NATI will present on health equity and the intersection of stigma, racism and substance use
- Kick Butts Day will be held on 3/30 at the MA state house, and NATI representatives are planning to attend

#### **4. TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**a. Natick Police Department** - tabled due to SC member not present at this meeting

**b. Natick Fire Department** - tabled due to SC member not present at this meeting

**c. Natick Public Schools** - NPS will be working with its clinical staff for the remainder of this year and into the summer on mental health support and resources. NPS is creating a new brochure with this information. There are a lot of questions on child behavioral health services including how to access supplemental MA health insurance to support mental health services and treatment. The town has provided a referral service and will continue to do so. Interface is costly, and there are other options that can be considered. Natick 180 and NPS will continue to discuss which referral providers are most cost-effective.

**d. Health Department** - Michael Boudreau may have some guidance for NPS on MA Health and can make referrals to agencies if the schools do not have the information. NHD is collaborating with local hotels/motels to provide some training on intervention strategies around overdoses. The annual Household Hazardous Waste Days will be held on Sat. May 6th - register in advance.

Program RISE, with whom Natick 180 partners and has an MOU, has had some recent unanticipated challenges, including staff turnover and conflict with the landlord of their current location. The Program RISE van has been delayed in being present in Natick. New staff has been hired so hopefully the van will be making routine rounds this spring, including along the rail trail. It is an important asset in terms of providing outreach and services to folks in need. Natick is in JRI's catchment area.

Because of the recent fatalities occurring on the railways in Natick, it was suggested that a working group be established, including the Town Administration, Health Dept., first responders (Fire, Police), and Senior Services to examine railway-involved fatalities and broader suicide prevention within the community. The goal is to come up with a comprehensive approach and provide training.

**e.** There is a Selectboard meeting scheduled for Wed. Mar 22nd during which updated alcohol policies will be discussed. The meeting will cover the explicit list of sanctions / penalties if an alcohol license holder should violate the terms. Natick 180 has been present at some of the working group meetings that

have recently been held. The Coalition will keep a focus on reducing youth use and promoting the public's health.

**f. Health Sector**

i. **Newton Wellesley Hospital** - there is a lecture SUS and Resilience project event via zoom supporting teen mental health and SUD 3/28 from 7-8:30. N180 will share this with the schools. NATI youth will join the panel discussion to share youth perspectives.

ii. **MetroWest Medical Center** - none.

**COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

a. **SOAR Natick** - the majority of requests for funding received recently by SOAR are from mothers in recovery. They are requesting help with expenses associated with daycare, transportation (i.e. car repairs to enable access to support).

b. **SPARK Kindness** - tabled due to SC member not present at this meeting

c. **Interfaith Leader Association** - none

d. **Recovery community** - tabled due to SC member not present at this meeting

**Action Team Upcoming Meetings:**

- Access To Services - March 22nd, 1:30-3:00 PM - Focus: recovery supports, recovery friendly workplaces, & grief outreach
- Education and Awareness - March 14th, 9:00-10:30 AM - Focus: Programming & planning for 2023
- Policy Action Team - TBA - Focus: Natick alcohol policies

**Set the next meeting date/time and adjourn**

- The next Steering Committee meeting is proposed for Wednesday, April 5th from 8:30-10:00 AM.

*Agenda items will be addressed in an order determined by the meeting facilitator.*