

Melrose Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Monthly Coalition Meeting—Thursday, March 4, 2010

Present: Karen Andrews, Diane Bagley, Maureen Beecy, Ruth Clay, Diane Ely, Sue Federico, Mary Elizabeth Ford, D.J.Gagne, Donna Macdonald, Mary Beth Margolis, Janet Nevin, Bianca Palumbo, Joe Singer, Hannah Singleman, Emma Svoboda, Allen Swartz, Anna Tramontozzi, Cornelia Walsh. **Total Attendees: 18.**

Sectors represented: Youth, Parents, Business community, Media, Schools, Healthcare professionals, Governmental agencies, Other organizations.

Next Meeting Dates:

- 1) Action Team meetings (assorted dates/times/locations).
- 2) Next Monthly Coalition Meeting: **Thursday, April 1, 2010 – 8:00--9:30 am, Superintendent’s Conference Room, Central Administration.**

Please note: Earlier start time for member coffee/socializing – 8:00-8:30 am

Topic	Discussion	Decision/Action Step
Welcome/Introductions -Joe Singer	-Role Assignments	-Joe Singer (YAT leader) filling Kara’s role this month!! Joe: Props for stepping up to the plate! -Regular member roles: Sign-in sheet (Ruth) , Table Tents (Donna), Latecomers (Maureen) -Donna M. appointed Reader and Mary Beth M. appointed Timekeeper.
Coalition Business -Joe	-February 4th minutes -Current Efforts	-Approved, as written. -DFC In-Kind Tracking form passed out to membership. Members filled out and turned in. -Planning Committee vacancy vote – Members received ballot to fill Paula Kelly’s PC seat for balance of year. Cornelia Walsh or write-in candidate option on ballot. Membership voted and ballots collected (results to be disseminated via email).
Town Hall Meeting Task Team –Joe	-Current Efforts -Coalition Discussion	-Preparations underway for March 22 nd event at MVMMS auditorium. Parent goodie bags to be filled and handed out at end of presentation (<i>thanks to Kristin Thorp for organizing student/parent volunteers!</i>). Before speaker (Steve Maguire), audience will watch 10-15 minutes of interactive skits developed by Joe Singer, other student action team members and SADD members. -Lots of discussion on messages we hope will get across at the presentation related to binge drinking and ramifications kids may <i>or may not</i> face if they report a friend who is passed out at a house party (post-Prom or otherwise) to police. Allen reported on “Good Samaritan” legislation, discussed at MOAR meeting, which would allow action at “discretion of police officer” if 911 employed in a life-threatening situation.

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	-Next Steps	-Press release to run in both local papers (weeks of 3/8 and 3/15). YAT and SADD kids to finalize skit(s) for presentation. Goodie bag take-homes to be filled by volunteers (see above).
Other Business -Janet	<p>-SPOTLIGHT!!</p> <p>-AT Updates</p> <p>-Article of Interest</p>	<p><u>-On Bianca and Tracy!!!</u> We are so pleased with the resourcefulness and initiative shown by these Youth Action Team members! Bianca and Tracy volunteered to hand out MDTL palm cards and hang our MSAPC banner at hockey games and upcoming hockey try-outs. They represent us well among their peers and are a credit to our group. Thanks so much, girls – keep it up!!!</p> <p>-In your packet – of particular note in Policy Action Team (state level) report: Allen reports on Omnibus Bill on Beacon Hill (which includes aforementioned 911/Good Samaritan legislation, as well as prescription drug monitoring program, pain management education for MDs, tamper-proof prescription pads). Members encouraged to contact Allen if they would like to get involved with him in following state policy/legislation. Another regional item of interest was a bill to ban billboards from public property (Oak Grove), which we have followed in the past.</p> <p>- In your packet.</p> <p><u>NEXT COALITION MEETING:</u> <u>Thursday, April 1, 2010 – 8:00-9:30 AM in Superintendent’s Conference Room, Central Administration.</u> <u>****Please note: 8:00 start time for Coalition Appreciation Coffee Break!****</u></p>
Community Concern/Open Forum		-Much discussion prompted by Mary Elizabeth Ford’s question on what impact new liquor stores (beer/wine “boutique” stores) have had on community. All agreed that of the 3 new businesses, only Sweet Thoughts embodies vision the community/LLC had in mind. Members also agreed that Coalition needs to encourage LLC to work with the 2 stores to change up balance of food/liquor to comply with terms of original applications. All agreed we wish them to be successful but also want them to comply. Some Coalition members have written – as citizens – to the stores voicing various concerns related to window displays, signage, food/liquor balance.

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		<p>-Some discussion (Sue F.) about MHS website not providing enough information on community service/healthy options for activities for students. Ruth offered to ask Brigid A. in Mayor's office to send Diane Carpenter (Principal Dillon's assistant) a link to City Hall volunteer opportunities, to be posted on the site. Also someone mentioned summer job options may be posted at Melrose Public Library. Allen S. talked about a website that matches volunteers to programs in local communities that correlate with their interests. Will try to get that information to membership.</p> <p>-Mary Beth comments on the recent death of a Gloucester teen due to mushroom ingestion and whether or not membership thought this was a local problem. Some student comments on how we may have mushrooms and other illegal substances in community (to a lesser degree), but the "drugs of choice" seem to continue to be alcohol and marijuana.</p> <p>-Janet mentions that the Melrose Draws the Line banner will be hanging across Main Street for part of this month, courtesy of the Mayor's Department and the DPW.</p>
Networking		-Informal networking
Adjournment		-Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.