

Easthampton Prevention Coalition

1st Meeting

Thursday January 22, 2014

4-5:30 pm at 50 Payson Ave

Minutes

In attendance: Bryan Delaney, Jacob LaPrade (youth), Tricia Dandrea (parent), Vito Perrone, Meredith Balise, Nancy Follansbee, Nancy Dunn (schools), Chuck Conner (youth-serving), Pastor Sharon Frankel (faith), Lois Levin (healthcare), Sue Cairn (other substance abuse agency), Ruth Ever (staff)

Regrets: Michelle Downer, Andrea McCallum, Michele Komosa, Jana McClure, Jackie Duda, Jeff Harness, Allison Rebello, Matt Rigney, Gail Canon, Officer Alan Schadel, Chief Bruce McMahon, Mayor Cadieux

- I. Introductions
- II. Visioning exercise where we imagined Easthampton 10-15 years from now and how things have changed (for the better) for our youth and families. Created a big picture of why we do this work, and what our ultimate goals are with this new grant and other initiatives in the city. Visions included
- III. Ruth Ever and Sue Cairn presented a brief PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of the grant and its expectations for the next 5-10 years.
- IV. Next steps:
 - Four ad hoc committees are needed immediately to help move the grant forward. They are:
 - a. By-laws and organizational structure—this group will adopt by-laws (based on existing templates) and review options for a structure for the coalition.
 - b. Mission/Vision—this group will work on creating an updated mission statement for the coalition, which will guide our work.
 - c. Logo, Design, Info Packets—this group will work with a designer or find some way to update our logo, and help put together an information packet for new and interested coalition members and residents.
 - d. Alcohol Informational Packets and licensing issues—this group will try to quickly put together basic info for businesses that sell alcohol and likely work with the licensing board to move forward regulations and the process the task force started last year.

Most of these ad hoc committees will only need to meet a few times over the next couple of months, but the work does need to happen right away. Ruth will try to follow up with all those not here today to gauge their interest and invite them to join a group.

- Updates on projects: the coalition joined other local agencies in supporting the Easthampton Health Department in applying for a tobacco grant from Cooley Dickinson Hospital to focus on tobacco cessation and prevention. The grant included money for more training for youth, signage about new tobacco regulations, and monitoring of the “Smoker’s Corner” to encourage compliance with new regs.
- There is still interest in prioritizing moving forward on strengthening existing alcohol regulations in the city, and Ruth will pursue this now that she is on board.
- The group brainstormed names of other people who should be contacted about joining the coalition.

Next meeting date has been set for Thursday February 26, 2014 from 4-6 pm.