



**Executive Committee Meeting & Cultural Competency Training
Minutes**

December 14, 2016

EHS Conference Room 5:00-7:30 pm

Topic/Goal/Strategies	Description/Action	Next Steps
Welcome and Minutes Review	Approved October 19 th EC minutes. <i>Present: Sue Welson, Laurie Loisel, Stephen Linsky, Albie Park, Gail Cannon, Lois Levin, Cherry Sullivan, Corinne Briggs, Ruth Ever</i>	
<p>Building Capacity</p> <p>Preventing Underage Use</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report back on DA Conference. People read the written report backs from Nancy Dunn and Chris Soverow about the Healthy Relationships DA’s conference that the coalition paid for them to attend. We were delighted that Ms. Dunn received a free curriculum at the conference that she can use. Noted that the DOE offers <i>free</i> trainings on LGBTQ issues with an excellent local trainer, Hillary Montague. 2. Strategic Plan. We finished our discussion started at the action planning retreat about which problem drugs to focus on and agreed as follows: alcohol and marijuana will continue to be our main priority areas, but we will now add opioid/prescription drug misuse to our action plan with some specific action steps related to this. General agreement that our focus is really on <i>addiction prevention</i> but that it will likely manifest as overdose prevention and for purposes of our DFC funder, we will call it “prescription drug misuse” prevention work. We recognize that prescription or opioid misuse is not common among high schoolers, but that due to the heroin crisis and overdose epidemic happening, it is imperative that we recognize the problem in our community and include education and prevention work in this area. It is hoped that ongoing work around e-cigs and tobacco prevention work might continue with others like SADD at the high school, with our support but not as our focus at this time. Overall, the idea was reinforced about helping youth make wise and healthy choices. 3. Submitting testimony at Dec. 21 City Council There was concern about being too confrontational or specific about calling for a limit on the number of marijuana shops in town, as Williston and the EPSD School Committee plan to do. EC members felt we should focus our testimony on the coalition as a resource, here to help prevent youth access. We will include the MMA (Mass Municipal Assoc) letter outlining what towns should be thinking about as MJ becomes legal. Next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 15 unless we skip February. 4. Finish Cultural Competency training with Elaine Brigham. See notes below 	<p>Ruth will begin work on Year 5 action plan, incorporating changes</p> <p>Ruth will work on testimony which she expects to read during open speak on 12/21.</p>

Ideas Generated about how to improve cultural sensitivity of coalition and reach more diverse sectors:

- Share at beginning of each coalition and committee meeting a short piece about cultural humility
- Variegated membership—different ways to be connected, task forces, topic focused, etc.
- Opportunities for joining for specific projects or events
- Dinner meetings with targeted groups to get feedback and input. Eg parents or families with history of addiction
- Watch out for “imbalances” and think about ways to include more eg English/non-english speaking; people in recovery/non-recovery;
- Create documents in multiple languages
- Use humor; lighten up
- Think about ways to reach teen culture via different electronic/social media channels
- Big Vision: create a community expectation that everyone is involved in the coalition in some way
- Re-envision the meeting model; do we even have to call them meetings?
- Notice assumptions we rely on
- Allow for recognition of self-determination and people’s ability to choose and have freedom.
- How do we resonate more with people who don’t (yet) resonate with us?
- Can we help build people’s skill for self-care?
- Add brief meditation segment, at least in the EC meetings; self-modeling!
- Words matter; being accessible matters; keeping language plain and basic matters
- Using a trauma-informed approach is helpful
- Ask: how can we be more approachable?
- Keep in mind: using drugs is often a better survival approach than the reality a person is living with. Building our compassion for why people use and conveying that we understand where people are at is important; using less jargon and speaking more directly is part of this.
- Being at EHS can be intimidating to some; can we change it up?
- Do a parent survey where we ask parents their top 5 concerns for their children. Find out where drugs and prevention even fall on their scale.
- Possible collaborators: Treehouse HEROES program; Vets; CHD.
- Be radically inclusive, ie creative, relentless, hopeful, flexible.
- “Pop Up Education”/ “Pop Up Health” Create a van as a bookmobile; do window displays at empty storefronts.
- Gather feedback from Chamber of Commerce members.
- Raffle and giveaways could include PVTA bus pass

Continue discussions at future EC meetings, including structure of workgroups and priority work.