



Policy/Systems Change Work Group
 Tuesday December 8, 2015 11:00 AM
 Payson Ave
 MINUTES

Strategy/Goal	Action	Next steps
<p>Welcome and review/update since our last meeting</p>	<p><i>Present: Stephen, Chris L, Ruth E, Jeff H, Jason G, Kari R, Cherry S, Melinda C.</i> Ruth read out the minutes from 10/28 which will be written up and sent out. Approved preliminarily.</p>	<p>Ruth will type up old minutes and this meeting too and send out</p>
<p><i>Goal: decrease underage alcohol use</i> Issues: Liquor licenses Strengthening ordinance Building partnerships with liquor establishments Compliance checks</p>	<p>Update on increasing liquor licenses hearing: Stephen and Ruth attended. Stephen had gone to the subcommittee meeting a few days before and expressed coalition concerns and the fact that we had just found out about this issue. After the massive article that quoted Tamara Smith (city councilor) saying that she only felt okay about increasing the number of licenses because of the strong coalition in E'ton, Tamara called Ruth at home to introduce herself and apologize for not talking to her first. They had a long fruitful discussion, which Ruth felt very positive about. Both Stephen and Ruth spoke at the hearing and expressed cautious support for local businesses, while being thoughtful about how to be sure youth do not have increased access to alcohol. City council members were very interested in the proposed stronger liquor license regulations that have not passed the Licensing Commission yet, which we handed out at the meeting. Unanimous approval to increase by 8 the number of liquor licenses, with preference expressed for businesses serving the newly expanding part of town. Unclear how decision will be made moving forward though—1st come basis? Can the Lic Comm set criteria?</p> <p>General discussion about how to stay more informed about city policy meetings and related events, so we can be better prepared in the future. Could we ask our allies (Mayor, Tamara, Salem?) to keep us in loop when possible? What mechanisms can we put in place? Can other policy work group members help by checking city website or otherwise looking into when upcoming meetings are? Neither BOH nor Licensing Comm seem to list their meetings on city website.</p>	<p>Unclear who will check on meeting dates. Ruth will try to follow up with website and Mayor's office.</p>
<p>Goal: decrease underage tobacco use</p>	<p>At the Policy Luncheon this Friday 12/11, coalition members there (Ruth, Stephen, Cherry, etc) will ask the consultant, DJ Wilson about how to proceed with getting both tobacco and alcohol regs passed. Can city council pass something if the BOH isn't operating?</p>	<p>Ruth will reach out again to city council, BOH and Licensing Comm members to</p>

	<p>Work group approved Stephen testifying on our behalf and a letter of support being presented to Southampton BOH which has hearing on Dec. 9 about raising tobacco age to 21 and banning flavors. Brainstormed the key points: as a neighboring community there are access issues for our youth; the more local ordinances get passed the easier it makes it for our Legislature to pass it statewide; from our work, we know there is widespread support for this; it will help keep tobacco out of high schools.</p> <p>Discussion about the large e-cigs article in Gazette today, and agreement that overall it's a good piece. Should there be any response? To put focus more on harm and impact on youth?</p>	<p>invite them. Mayor had to cancel due to conflict and AI has conflict too. Ruth will invite other police officers.</p> <p>Ruth will write up the letter as a first draft. Melinda will send Ruth info about where to send it or who to contact.</p>
<p><i>Goal: decrease underage drug use and increase ability to strengthen or ensure enforcement of policies</i></p>	<p>We reviewed the sustainability plan of coalition and discussed the role that the policy workgroup will play, particularly in helping to inform members and community about policies. Re: compliance checks—although they may not be critical to addressing the access issues for youth, we want to be sure we are focusing on building partnerships to ensure that people in community see the value of the checks, and the beverage server trainings too. So we want to keep partnering with police and stores.</p> <p>In plan is idea of creating a layperson's guide on our website to policy issues. This is likely more about collecting the information and researching it than creating something new. Maybe a high school tech student could help or even a UMass public health student. Jeff pointed out that on the Cooley Dickinson community health page there is already a lot of information that we could link to. MasTAPP website also should have a lot of info both general and regional.</p> <p>Part of the importance of our work is in creating value of the work, and the partnerships that should be sustained. If enough people see the value of the coalition work, that could help sustain it beyond this grant.</p> <p>Next meeting: Tuesday January 5th at 11 am at 50 Payson.</p>	<p>Ruth</p> <p>No action planned immediately. Ruth and Christopher will decide how to update the website, in consultation with web-tactics.</p> <p>Ruth will email whole group and send out e-cigs article.</p>