



PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Prevention, Intervention, Treatment & Recovery

Task Force Chair: Traci R. Fowler, MSW tfowler@lrpph.org

Present: Traci Fowler, Katie Kachavos, Marissa Carlson, Tim Lena, Sarah Shanahan, Sarah Sadowski, Celeste Clark, Katy Shea, and Betsy Houde.

June 5, 2015

Legislative Update -- Sarah

Sarah provided updates on many of the bills that New Futures has been tracking:

- 1) Marijuana "Decriminalization" bill – the senate voted to "leave it on the table", which means it was not killed, so it may come up again in an amendment or as a trailer bill.
- 2) Growler Bill was defeated.
- 3) Good Samaritan bill went through. However it sunsets after three years.
- 4) Alcohol Fund – the senate recommended \$6.7M over the biennium.
- 5) Narcan passed.
- 6) SB 93 around fermented malt beverages – the senate capped a beverage at 8% which is heading to the committee of conference.
- 7) No images of youth are to be used for advertising alcohol.
- 8) SB 99 – Alcohol is not allowed to be SOLD in New Hampshire. No mention of possession.

Tim mentioned a national policy conference that promoted using graduated driver's license as a powerful tool to reduce underage drinking. Insurance companies are heavily backing.

School nurses can't administer Tylenol. The policy of school nurses' not administering therapeutic cannabis should be written in if it isn't already. Traci and Abby confirmed that they found language in the statute indicating therapeutic cannabis is NOT permitted on school grounds. Traci shared with Mary Bubnis and Donna Arias.

Sarah Shanahan expressed concerns regarding social norms. For example, some parents are openly using marijuana in front of their kids stating it's for anxiety. Also, students as young as 5th graders are vaping now because it tastes good (and is being marketed toward youth with flavors like bubblegum, etc). "Mod competitions" (for module) are taking place where people build their own pipes and compete for best smoke creation, etc.

Traci challenged the group to think about how we as the field will identify messaging for kids who are qualifying patients for therapeutic cannabis. We do not want to alienate those students and families.

Safe Messaging Workgroup -- Traci/Katy

Traci shared that Northeast CAPT (Center for Applied Prevention Technology) safe messaging for substance misuse, was done by the EDC (Education Development Center) who did the suicide messages. We need to be sure to accurately present data, which is not often done. Our goal is to recognize the warning signs and identify where to go for help. These CAPT guidelines

show you how to generate content, yet we need boiler plate text around, “If you or a loved one needs help...” Consider using NAMI framework that each sector has its own set of messages.

Sarah shared messaging for sexual assault as an example. There is a confusing intersection between suicide and heroin overdoses.

The Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets may help people feel a little less hopeless. It was suggested that we pull our workgroup together with subject matter experts such as Elaine DeMello (NAMI) and Jennifer (DrugFreeNH) and Media Power Youth, along with Katy and Tim. Project Success has a real life wall of impact that could be a good example.

Model School Policy – Traci, Katy, Sarah Sh., Sarah Sa., Abby, Tim

The group has not yet met, although the original goal was to prepare for an August re-release. We discussed moving information around and evaluating whether the initial document was ever used. Lisa Mure, the original author, created The Top 5 document for the education sector. Our subcommittee can use that as a jumping off point for discussion.

The original release included:

- 2-hour webinar for DFC and RN’s as technical assistance for local schools
- Presentation for principals through the principals association
- A Keene High School class used it as an exercise in policy change
- Partnership for Success (PFS) grantees were mandated to use it thanks to Val and Jess.

The results indicated good changes in the PFS schools, and policies now require SAP contact. Life of an Athlete has athletic codes whereby schools submit codes which are reviewed separately by Donna and Dan and then recommendations are shared with the core group from the school. They’ve done 39 presentations, but haven’t documented whether policy change occurred.

How can we help rather than interfere with Life of An Athlete? Coalitions want to help promote LOA, they are excited about building community awareness, and potentially have financial resources to bring to the table. Traci, Katy and Betsy agreed to meet to talk about ways to integrate LOA and regional coalitions and will reach out to Donna for brainstorming.

Synthetics Bill -- SB106 – Restricting Sale or Possession of Synthetic Drugs

The Governor’s Commission needs to do a study and report on the State of the State with regard to synthetics. Tym asked the Prevention Task Force to handle this requirement. BDAS already created a flow chart due to the synthetic state of emergency. The Template is basically complete. Traci will send the emailed version to the PTF and we will add it to our August agenda.

**Next Scheduled Meeting, Friday, August 7, 2015
9:30am to 11:30am
57 Regional Drive, Concord, NH**