



PREVENTION TASK FORCE

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

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

Governor's Commission Prevention Task Force August 7, 2015 Meeting Action Steps

Attended: Traci Fowler, Celeste Clark, Katie Kachavos, Valerie Morgan, Katy Shea, Betsy Houde, Tim Lena, Marissa Carlson, Jessica Blais and guest Sgt. Corey Caza, NH National Guard.

SB106 -- Synthetics Bill

The Prevention Task Force has been tasked with providing recommendations to the Commission on a public awareness strategy to address the health risks of synthetic drugs. Traci shared the Statewide Public Awareness Strategy developed last year when NH declared a State of Emergency. Val suggested several updates including removing last two columns and cleaning up the section on strategies/approaches. Val offered to reach out to the public health network in New York to see what they are using for updated messages for our Fact Sheet. The evaluation information gathered from last year's effort was provided back to the Governor. Katy will forward that information to Traci to see what may be included to improve the quality and reach of this strategy.

There are approximately 230 public health officers throughout the state that fall under the Division for Public Health that could play a role with this strategy through their Healthy Homes initiative. Under "Government" activities, we can add utilizing public health officers as part of the strategy. In addition, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinators already have connections with these folks in their communities. Traci will ensure our document will make this connection between Substance Misuse and Emergency Preparedness for an "Aha!" moment.

Everything the National Guard does in terms of activities and risk mitigation is data driven. While they can test for synthetics, they haven't seen anyone test positive in recent months. However Guardsmen can increase their awareness to help the community in case they notice a store selling products, etc. **As of 1/5/2015 through 7/1/2015 no National Guard soldiers tested positive for synthetics.** JPPO's are now starting to test for synthetics, as well. It's important to let the community know that you CAN test for synthetics now, so people who turned to synthetics to purposefully avoid detection are no longer able to do so. The public awareness strategy could include where one can go to access testing for synthetics with contact information. Jessica will reach out to a contact for more information.

Jessica also explained there is a new synthetic called "Flakka" that has recently come on the market. Much discussion ensued around how to best describe synthetic drugs -- how they are used, what they are called, etc.

The group discussed identifying a "chain of command" on how to roll this information out to communities, potentially partnering with Neil Twitchell and the Emergency Preparedness model. The idea was discussed to recommend engagement strategies with different partners (business owners, DFCs, Emergency, health care, military, schools). Who needs to be the convener/champion with the credibility/authority to carry the message?

MODEL SCHOOL POLICY UPDATE

Katy shared the updated the policy, re-branding as The Top 5 -- Actions Schools Can Take to Help Prevent and Reduce Youth Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Use. While dissemination of the original policy was decent, any follow up or changes to existing policies have been weak. Partnership for Success grantees changed their policies to require SAP visits for alcohol/drug offenses which has shown progress. In Life of an Athlete project, 39 schools had their athletic codes reviewed, schools formed a policy review committee and the NHIAA recommended changes to their committees. There are no numbers for schools that actually followed through with the NHIAA recommendations, however. Financial incentives from the NHIAA motivated schools to share their codes of conduct.

In the Keene area, major revisions were done to school policies by a broad-based group of community members. Further, Student Assistance counselors in the North Country have taken a lead role in moving school policies forward -- most are PFS schools, but not all of them.

Katy proposed a pilot to work with NHIAA and their Life of An Athlete team:

When NHIAA is reviewing athletic codes for a school district, they will invite the school's SAP, the local SMP coordinator and DFC/local coalition if applicable, CFEX for convening and T/A purposes for a total of three schools in the coming year to participate in a code of conduct review. When recommendations are shared back with the school, a school board member, youth, parents, etc. are typically in attendance to help the recommendations take shape.

The last two pages of the document include a checklist for the reader/review team to use to evaluate their own policy. Please get any feedback to Katy by 8/14/2015. Great job Katy and Lisa!

Other:

Having attended CADCA's mid-year training earlier this week, Betsy shared information about the increases in teen marijuana use in communities with medical marijuana dispensaries (30-day use rises by 8%) given that Merrimack is in the zoning board stage relative to a dispensary to support Hillsborough and Merrimack Counties (pop 600,000).

Betsy also shared her draft "What's Your Message? Quiz" brochure that she's been working on with colleagues in greater Nashua as an informational piece for parents/adults. Please get any feedback to Betsy. It was suggested that Hope for Recovery NH should be added as a resource on the back.

Nancy Jackson Reno retired as of last week. The Clearinghouse is still open. Theresa Cruz ?? is the person to contact if folks want current Clearinghouse materials.

See you next time!

Next meeting: **Friday, October 2, 2015 – 9:45-11:45 (note time change)**
at **Division of Enforcement and Licensing, 57 Regional Drive, Concord.**