

Coalition Meeting Minutes July 12, 2017 5pm

Updates:

- **Membership forms:** Coalition members should redo a membership form each year, pick a task force and try to stick to the task force you have chosen
 - If a change in interest or a new need arises, do feel free to switch
- **Community Survey:** Marijuana questions are being added to the community surveys for a revamp of the 2018 survey
 - The community survey is a survey conducted for adults age 18+ in Middlesex County
 - Please fill out the demographics part
 - The survey is evaluated every two years and not meant for youth
 - It is Middlesex County specific and coalition members can feel free to grab a stack and hand them out at events such as Overdose Awareness Day and National Night Out
 - The survey is completely anonymous, but please make sure the demographic is filled out
 - Findings this year indicated that parents who agreed to lock up prescription medications dropped slightly
- **National Night Out** is being held on Tuesday, August 1 across Middlesex County communities (Dunellen, Spotswood, Metuchen, South Brunswick, more to come)
- Coalition members are invited to sign up and join any tabling event with a Wellspring staff member
 - Bring coalition resources, information and community surveys for people to fill out
- August 31 → **Overdose Awareness Day**
 - South Amboy's tabling event is brand new this year
 - Also holding tabling events in Old Bridge and Sayreville
- **Recovery Walk** on September 16th at Liberty State Park
 - It is a free event
 - We can get a bus or transportation for coalition members if enough people show interest
 - There is an interest in getting a team together from the coalition to represent Middlesex County
 - It is a whole day event
 - Idea of possibly making a banner to bring
- **Coalition trainings**
 - Bill Neary to talk about transportation services at the September meeting
- Jose Cruz from Rutgers Division of Psychiatry discussed his initiative to offer free Narcan nasal spray trainings to everyone, as soon as he has more information he will send it to Mara Carlin and she will send it out to the coalition

- The trainings are geared to respond quickly and include transportation hubs, schools
- A signup sheet was passed around for the coalition's interest
- Training would start approximately around the 2nd or 3rd week in August
- There is a large amount of interest in the Narcan trainings for schools (guidance counselors, SACs, school nurses)
- Dates are still to be decided
- The trainings would also discuss sharing medications, issues regarding overprescribing, gender, race, socioeconomic status
- The film "**Generation Found**" was discussed
 - Discussed possible locations to show the film
 - Middlesex County College, possibly a local theater like the ones in Dunellen or Metuchen, Rutgers
 - The importance of the film is to educate New Jersey and Middlesex County residents about the importance of creating recovery high schools
 - The film tells the story of a successful recovery high school in Houston, Texas
 - New Jersey has one recovery high school in Union County but it is not well-known or well-utilized as a resource
 - Purpose would be to spread awareness and education
 - Suggestion to use the room we used for the Be Smart About Medicine dinner at RWJ
 - Suggestions to use community center in East Brunswick
 - Share the information about the showing to Rutgers nursing students
- The **mobile billboard** is currently on Route 1 South In Edison
 - Next it is going to be moved to Old Bridge for Overdose Awareness Day
 - And afterwards it is going to Woodbridge
 - Members were asked to give suggestions about where the billboard can go next because no dates are set for October
- **Legislation Updates**
 - Tobacco 21 is currently on the governor's desk, and if he does nothing for 45 days, it will automatically pass (45 days from July 22 → would pass on August 7th if the governor decides to do nothing)
 - 1% tax on cigarettes would go towards prevention funding for cigarettes → is also on the governor's desk
 - Department of Education fact sheet for student athletes → also on the governor's desk
 - Would require parents to sign the fact sheet that discusses overuse, misuse and abuse of prescription drugs before the student can participate in sports
- Discussed turning the prescription drug task force into the "opiate task force" to encompass all opiates (prescription medication, heroin)

- The thought of allowing middle school students to view Generation Found in Schools → decided that the decision should be left up to the school and parents because of the age-appropriateness of the film
 - Target SACs and teachers in middle schools so they are educated about recovery high school being an option for their students if needed
 - Middle school students may not be able to understand the information offered in the film
 - Require parental and school approval
- **Next meeting: Viewing of Generation Found for all coalition members on August 9th**
- Idea to make it available to parents, teachers and guidance counselors to determine the appropriateness for students
 - Idea to offer trainings and discussions after the viewing of the film to go over more information and resources
 - Again, to educate about the option of recovery high schools because it is not a well-known idea in Middlesex County/in New Jersey
 - Use the beginning of the school year and Information Day in schools to provide information to school personnel and parents about Generation Found
 - Follow-up with a face-to-face meeting after the film is shown to get feedback

Task Force Updates →

- **Tobacco and Marijuana**
 - Discussed how to reach parents → created a Facebook group for parents regarding marijuana information and resource
 - Utilize connections to the Brunswick Square Mall to showcase an ad campaign targeting youth
 - Importance of educating about marijuana use
 - Making another addicting substance more readily available and creating a larger cultural acceptance of marijuana use is not going to help the problem
 - Some believe that marijuana will help the opiate problem, so education about use is critical
- **Underage Drinking Task Force**
 - Went over what activities were done in the past and discussed in what towns the need was greatest
 - Will go over the PRIDE Surveys and determine which towns have a great need for programming, activities and resources about underage drinking
 - Bring in more services
 - Determine which towns will benefit most from more services being offered
- **Prescription Drug/Opiate Task Force**
 - Use pictures of the mobile billboard at National Night Out Events

- Get more towns to participate in Take Back Day, adding drop boxes
- Possibility of creating a policy for those in hospice and what to do with medication for hospice patients
- Educate schools about recovery by bringing in information packets, pamphlets, and spreading the word about recovery high schools (Generation Found)
- Also providing townships to their current data of drug trends and use patterns for towns that do not believe that they have a problem