

**Natick Opioid Task Force &
Natick Together for Youth
Joint Meeting**

First Congregational Church of Natick
2 E. Central St.
Natick, MA 01760
Thursday, March 21, 2019, 5pm

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Setting the Stage
3. Year in Review
4. Coalition Structure
 - a. Discussing organizational structure
 - b. Subcommittees Planning
5. Wrap Up

Attendees (29):

Name	Organization	Sector Represented
Sue Abendroth	Community member	Natick resident
Mark Canegallo	Initial Design Group	Marketing consultant to coalition
Jessica Cliff	Natick Health Department	Local government agency
Scott Davis	Community member	Natick resident
Astrid Dretler	Staff	Natick 180
Doug Duncan	Partnership for Drug-Free Kids	Other organization involved in substance abuse reduction
Jennifer Garb-Palumbo	Natick Public Schools	Schools
Rev. Vicky Guest	First Congregational Church	Religious organization
Christine Guthery	SPARK Kindness	Civic / volunteer group
Officer Beth Heffler	Natick Police Department	Law enforcement
Sgt. Chad Howard	Natick Police Department	Law enforcement
Chief Michael Lentini	Natick Fire Department	Local government agency
Frank Lombardo	Food and Drug Administration	Federal government agency
Cheryle Lucenta	SOAR Natick	Other organization involved in substance abuse reduction

Michele Marotta	SPARK Kindness	Civic / volunteer group
Lauren Meurer	Natick Recreation and Parks Dept.	Local government agency
Shirley Tourmayan Miller	Community member	Natick resident
Anna Nolin	Natick Public Schools	Schools
Kennedy O'Keefe	Natick Above the Influence (NATI)	Student
Carol Oliver	EDC	Meeting facilitator
Judy Oxford	Natick Public Schools	Schools
Jacqui Peak	SMOC	Other organization involved in substance abuse reduction
David Rabinovitz	Business	Business
Lt. Cara Rossi	Natick Police Department	Law enforcement
Karen Rufo	Natick Public Schools	Schools
Katie Sugarman	Staff	Natick 180
Jim White	Natick Health Department	Local government agency
Ian Wong	Board of Health	Local government agency
Annette Ziegler	Natick Public Schools	Schools

Meeting Objectives:

- Build cohesion across the coalition
- Operationalize the new organizational structure
- Identify Action Team leaders
- Identify next steps for moving the work of the coalition forward

A quick history of the coalition work in Natick was presented. Challenges to the current coalition structure were discussed, including duplication of effort, overuse of the same people, and messages in the community being diluted. Decision-making needs to include a balance of municipal leadership as well as community members' voices.

Regarding the coalition's mission and values, those who responded to the recent internal survey sent by Katie reported the following priorities:

- Commitment to preventing substance use before it starts and connecting those who experience substance use disorders to treatment and recovery
- Ensuring that our organization's membership is representative of the community we serve
- Understanding of substance use disorder as a chronic disease; reducing stigma; connection to mental health services
- Promoting connection and collaboration among the 12 community sectors; sharing our work more in the community
- Emphasize using science and evidence-based information to guide our work

Strengths and Recommendations regarding proposed Coalition Mission & Structure:

Mission and Values	
Strengths	Recommendations
Treatment and Recovery included in the mission	First bullet- add community commitment
Fosters communication	Need to make sure we are reaching the whole community
Feels sustainable	Add in stigma more clearly
	Educating the community about addiction
	Use the word more frequently
	Make sure the language used is inclusive

Structure	
Strengths	Recommendations
There is an effort to share information with youth	Eliminate the School committee and selectman at the top as they are represented in the school committee
Connecting all community sectors	Ensure communication flow between the steering committee and action teams
Achievable goals	Rather than having separate media/marketing committee integrate it into the committees somehow
Streamline structure	Make sure youth are engaged in the coalition
Diversity of the membership is a strength	Will the coalition go beyond substance misuse?
	Are we keeping up with the problem

Suggestions for re-naming the newly integrated coalition:

Natick Acts Together, Natick Together, Natick Acts, Natick 180
Other suggestions??

Proposed Coalition Committees:

- Steering Committee
- Awareness & Education Action Team
- Access to Services Action Team
- Natick Above the Influence (NATI) - youth group at Natick High School
- (possibly a Media & Communications Action Team)

The **Steering Committee** will be comprised of municipal leaders, elected officials, and community members who are either appointed or elected to the committee. Representatives from the following organizations will be included: Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Natick Public Schools, Natick Police

Department, Natick Fire Department, Community Services Department, Healthcare sector, Civic group sector, Other substance use prevention organization sector, and 2 community at-large positions. The Steering Committee will set the overall goals for the coalition and plans for sustainability of funding and staffing; will also present to elected boards as needed.

Those coalition members who signed up for the Steering Committee include: Ian Wong, Anna Nolin, Chief Mike Lentini, Christine Guthery, Cheryle Lucenta, Karen Rufo, Cara Rossi, and Jim White

The **Awareness & Education Action Team** is open to any coalition member. It will be primarily focused on prevention of youth substance use before it starts. Coalition members who signed up for this team include: Jacqui Peck, David Rabinovitz, Lauren Meurer, Mark Canegallo, Scott Davis, Beth Heffler, Michele Marotta, Frank Lombardo, Shirley Miller, Sue Abendroth, Jen Garb-Palumbo.

The **Access to Services Action Team** is open to any coalition member. The group will be primarily focused on connecting Natick community members to early intervention, treatment, and recovery services after substance use starts. Those who signed up for this team include: Jess Cliff, Chad Howard, Vicky Guest, and Annette Ziegler.

Natick Above the Influence is comprised of NHS students. NATI is primarily focused on promoting a drug/alcohol-free lifestyle among middle and high school students. They represent the youth voice within the coalition.

Flow of decision-making - Elected boards have voting representation on the Steering Committee but individual elected boards cannot override Steering Committee decisions. Bylaws will be developed to assure communication between groups and inclusive decision-making.

Announcements & Upcoming Events:

A new clinician, embedded within the Natick Police Dept., has been hired through Advocates, Inc.

5/15/19 at 7 pm at Natick Service Council - Learn A Better Way (Series Part I) begins

5/24/19 at 7 pm at Wilson Middle School - Vaping education event with Dr. Chadi from Boston Children's Hospital for both middle schoolers and parents/guardians (2 separate, concurrent sessions)

5/27/19 at 10 am at Natick Police Dept. - National Medication Take Back Day

5/28/19 at 11 am at Natick Common - Earth Day Festival

5/29/19 at 7 pm at TCAN - Creating Outreach About Addiction Support Together (COAST) performance