

Access to Services Action Team

Virtual Meeting

Natick, MA

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Wednesday, March 29, 2023



Your community resource
for addiction education,
prevention & recovery.

Attendees (9):

Name	Organization	Sector Represented
"Loveable" Lizzy Chalfin	Natick 180 / Natick Health Dept.	Local Government
"Joyful" Jessica Cliff	Natick Health Dept.	Local Government
"Astounding" Astrid Dretler	Natick 180 / Natick Health Dept.	Local Government
"Sunshine Scotty" Francis	MOAR	Other organization involved in reducing substance abuse
Lt. "Charming" Chad Howard	Natick Police Department	Law Enforcement
"Superstar" Sarallyn Keller	Natick Interfaith Leaders Association	Religious/Fraternal Organization
"Awesome" Ashley Scionti	Natick Police Dept. / JDP	Law Enforcement
"Kindhearted" Katie Sugarman	Natick 180 / Natick Health Dept.	Local Government
"Amazing" Annette Ziegler	Natick Public Schools	Schools

Powerpoint available here: [SLIDES](#)

Meeting Minutes:

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Citizens' Concerns	None.

<p>2. Approve meeting minutes</p>	<p>Minutes from the Feb. 8, 2023 ATS meeting were presented. The minutes were accepted “as is” without changes, approved by majority vote, and will be posted to the Town website.</p>
<p>3. Updates and announcements</p>	<p>a. Reports from community partners & resource sharing:</p> <p>-MOAR: MOAR is organizing a Metrowest regional forum/listening session on April 11th from 2-3:30 pm with the director of The Recovery Connection to gather input from the community on spending opioid abatement monies. Local police chiefs are having a huge impact on how monies will be directed and spent. It is important to gather input from both law enforcement as well as people in recovery, through community-wide platforms. BSAS will be involved in helping to organize meetings regionally. The next request for monies is due by April 18th (N180 has already filed a request with the town administrator / state).</p> <p>The MOAR Boston Public Policy Forum is being held tomorrow evening, March 30th from 5-8 pm. The meeting will include info on what is happening at the state level with regards to prevention, treatment and recovery; includes info on the state budget. Opioid abatement funds will also be discussed.</p> <p>-On Apr. 4th at 9:30 am, the Metrowest Health Foundation is hosting a regional conversation about how communities can use their opioid settlement monies.</p> <p>-On 6/6 at 10 am, Behavioral Health Partners will be holding a resource fair in downtown Framingham.</p> <p>-The New England Institute for Addiction Studies (NEIAS) will be holding its annual Prevention Summer School from June 5-8, in a hybrid format. Natick 180 staff will plan to attend; there may be funds available to send a few interested coalition members.</p> <p>-The Framingham Recovery Court will be conducting a graduation program for its participants on April 21st at 1pm.</p> <p>-Last week, at the Cedar Gardens property, Natick Housing Authority & N180 staff plus law enforcement visited to conduct a listening session with residents. Topics covered included public safety and concerns regarding possible drug sales occurring in the area. Maintenance staff will be brought into the conversation. Medication lock bags have just been</p>

delivered to N180 and will be distributed to community members, especially seniors.

The Monticello Hotel experiences a higher number of overdoses as compared to other locales. N180, NHD, NPD and NFD have collaborated on how to best handle these occurrences. Katie & Lizzy held a Narcan training session for staff and distributed Narcan kits to the main office (4 kits), plus 3 for personal use by on-site staff. There are no restrictions on who can purchase or receive Narcan, including by age. The only restrictions are on who can distribute it (must first receive state approval). Narcan can be given to students who are in need of it.

-FFDA - A virtual Families for Depression Awareness training will be held on April 27th from 6:30-8 pm. The topic will focus on "building the family/caregiver toolkit," and is aimed at a general audience. A flier will be available soon.

-National Drug Take Back Day will be held on Sat. April 22nd. There will again be two collection sites: NPD & Wegmans. N180 will be distributing medication lock bags at the event. JRI should be sending its Program RISE van to collect sharps behind the police department. N180 will start distributing promotional fliers.

- For Marathon Monday (4/17), N180 will have a tent and table at the Natick Common to promote events, resources, and give away swag. We are looking for volunteers to help out.

-Natick's Earth Day celebration will be held the weekend of Apr. 29-30th. The Cochituate Rail Trail Cleanup will occur on Sun. Apr. 30th, and Natick 180 and SPARK Kindness will be helping out from 1-3 pm. Please join us if you are available.

-N180 is hosting a Narcan training next Tues (4/4) via Zoom from 6-7 pm. NPD will help to promote the event through their Facebook page.

-The Wellness Fair at NHS will be held on 5/17 from 8:30-11 am. Contact Annette for more information.

b. POST updates: There were 2 recent overdoses in the community. Ashley and Chad are working together to conduct post-overdose visits. The goal is to conduct the visit with the individual and/or family members/loved ones within 48 hours of the overdose. Resource kits, provided by Natick Health Dept, are distributed at the visits. Not everyone

	<p>is accepting of a visit - some people may not be ready yet. Ashley attempts to speak with family members and directs people to the Health Department for Narcan and resources. The overall goal is to be sensitive and mindful when interacting and provide what is needed in the moment.</p> <p><u>CIMS data-tracking:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -On Feb. 6th, an 18 yo male with a known psychological issue had a negative reaction to cough syrup, cough suppressant, plus edibles; this individual was transported to Newton Wellesley Hospital. -On Feb 8th, a 22 yo male experienced possible overdose poisoning from brownies containing cannabis; this individual was transported to Newton Wellesley Hospital. -On Feb 8th, a 44 yo female overdosed on fentanyl & heroin and was found unresponsive by her significant other; this was a recent relapse. Multiple doses of Narcan were administered by first responders; this individual was transported to Framingham Union Hospital. -On March 7th, a 39 yo female overdosed on fentanyl & heroin; a crack pipe was found on scene. Narcan was administered and the individual was transported to Framingham Union Hospital. -On March 24th, a 23 yo male was carrying a marijuana pipe / smoking in public, A town bylaw violation was issued. <p>Comparative data:</p> <p>Natick has had 1 overdose death this so far year; there were 4 total in 2022).</p> <p>Year to date, Natick has had 10 overdoses so far; there were 6 overdoses at this time last year.</p> <p>For marijuana incidents, there have been 2 so far; last year, there were a total of 4. For prescription medication incidents, there has been 1 to date; there were a total of 4 in 2022. For cough syrup, there is 1 to date (not included as a specific substance in 2022).</p> <p>c. Inviting new members to the Access to Services Action Team: N180 will outreach to invite new people to our next meeting. Personal invitations will be made to the Natick Rotary, A Place to Turn, and Metrowest Family Promise. The Natick Human Services Dept. will be conducting a survey to help them reorganize and reassess.</p>
<p>4. Discussion</p>	<p>a. Expanding community education about the risk of fentanyl potentially present in ‘street drugs’ - this issue came to light recently when a regional partner on the Cape shared a concerning Tik Tok about someone smoking marijuana laced with fentanyl. Natick has not seen</p>

instances of this locally. Marijuana that is smoked would burn off any fentanyl that could be present. An edible, if containing fentanyl, would be rendered ineffective due to the digestion process. Fentanyl can very likely be present and have effects in cocaine that is snorted. Individuals and first responders should assume any street substance could contain fentanyl and proceed with caution; Narcan should be carried by at-risk individuals. Injecting and snorting substances does increase the risk for overdose.

b. Establishing a community process to gather input for opioid settlement monies- Regarding scheduling listening sessions, Natick 180 would ideally like to hold one in person and one virtually. We are looking for input on a timeline for holding the sessions (this spring or over the summer?) Financial reporting requires that we demonstrate how the funds are to be utilized. Natick appears to be ahead of the curve when it comes to plans on how to spend opioid monies. Natick and Framingham could pool funds for specific projects, services and supports, which work best when there is regional collaboration. One ideal goal would be to create a recovery high school in Metrowest including a recovery education component / drop in center for young adults post-high school aged. Scotty will inquire with other towns as to what the interest level is; there are certainly families who would support an initiative such as this. We can get expertise from individuals who run recovery high schools in MA to get a sense of the overall costs, process, etc. Consensus is to try to hold the first listening session the first week of June (before school ends). One potential drop in space is the former East School in Natick.

c. Providing recovery support to homebound individuals in the community- Natick Housing Authority has residents at their properties who experience substance use related challenges and who are homebound. The JRI van has been present at housing authority locations in the past but it was underutilized or not utilized at all. NHA would like to get a 12 step program started - the recommendation was to get folks involved in existing meetings as opposed to creating a new one. These meetings are being shared in NHA newsletters. Homebound individuals who might be interested in meetings but can't easily get out of the house - the idea was proposed for a recurring cable segment / show that is a recovery support program. Natick 180, a few years ago, created a video showing multiple pathways of recovery - we could update and re-share these segments. Turning Point Recovery Center in Walpole hosts podcasts & guest speaker interviews. We could help get these onto the cable channel. We could also help create a pool of people in recovery who may be available by phone to be resources for housebound

	<p>individuals. Need to reach out to folks in recovery to help guide this conversation and provide input.</p> <p>d. Developing harm reduction education communications for young adults/college-age students - tabled due to lack of time</p>
5. Set next meeting date/time & adjourn	April 26, 2023 from 1-2:30 pm