

**Access to Services Action Team**  
 Virtual Meeting  
 Natick, MA  
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
 Wednesday, May 25, 2022



**Attendees (10):**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Sector Represented</b>
Rabab Abdel	Natick 180 / Student Intern	Local Government
Astrid Dretler	Natick 180 / Natick Health Dept.	Local Government
Kristyn Duggan	SMOC	Other organization involved in reducing substance misuse
Patricia Elmore	Community member	Natick resident
Kayla Guzovsky	JRI	Other organization involved in reducing substance misuse
Sarallyn Keller	First Congregational Church & Natick Interfaith Leaders Association	Religious / Fraternal organization
Stacey Randel	Community member	Natick resident
Elizabeth Reardon	HRIA / MA Substance Use Helpline (funded by BSAS)	Other organization involved in reducing substance misuse
Katie Sugarman	Natick 180 / Natick Health Dept.	Local Government
Annette Ziegler	Natick High School	Schools

Powerpoint:  Virtual ATS Meeting 5-25-22.pptx Slides

**Meeting Minutes:**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
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<p>1. Citizens' Concerns</p>	<p><b>Stacey Randel</b> - Community member who expressed concerns about the Neiman Marcus Redevelopment plan (by Bullfinch Co. &amp; investment group). The proposed plan is to repurpose the existing space for a new bio-lab. As it stands, there are no restrictions being put on the proposed redevelopment by the Town. Residents of Nouvelle at the Mall are concerned because at one of the town hearings, the safety consultant referred to small amounts of radioactive &amp; bio hazardous materials that may be present. This could cause contamination of Natick's air and water. Residents are concerned about the potential public health impact. Ms. Sugarman mentioned that since this is not a Board of Health meeting, this topic is not pertinent, and concerns should be directed to the Health Dept. The more appropriate meeting would be the next BOH mtg on Tues June 14th at 5pm.</p> <p>Another topic brought up was the public health consequences surrounding marijuana sales in Natick. The decision-making started with a ballot initiative in 2016. Natick approved sales, by 54%, in favor. The Selectboard then moved forward without taking a second vote in town, to allow for retail stores. The regulation allows for 20% of alcohol licenses which means 2 cannabis retail stores permitted in Natick; there is a cap that limits the number of stores. Applicants for licenses are approved by Selectboard, not BOH. Natick 180 did sit in on meetings, and expressed concerns and points of view.</p> <p><b>Patricia Elmore</b> - This community member expressed concern about the well-being of homeless residents who congregate at the Mall during the day. Nouvelle residents are concerned but she feels the town, as a whole, needs to be concerned. There are many thousands of visitors who patronize the Mall so this makes it a public health issue for everyone; especially with the biolabs being proposed. She feels the town needs to take action on regulations.</p>
<p>2. Approve meeting minutes</p>	<p>Minutes from March and April 2022 were presented but not voted on. We will address getting them approved at the June ATS meeting.</p>
<p>3. Updates and announcements</p>	<p><b>a. Reports from community partners</b> - none.</p> <p><b>b. June Coalition Meeting</b> - 6/9 from 5:30-7 pm. The meeting will be offered both hybrid and in-person at Town Hall. A light dinner will be available, and the Community Champion Award will be given. We will discuss accomplishments over the past year as well as strategic planning to occur over the summer.</p> <p><b>c. Post Overdose Support Team (POST) &amp; Rise On Van updates</b> - There was one overdose that recently occurred. Outreach by POST was conducted but the individual was not able to be contacted; a family friend was reached, and services and resources were offered. Another older couple called in a possible overdose from consuming too much edibles -</p>

this was not considered an overdose after evaluation. The Rise On van is going to be at the Farmer's Market next Sat (6/4). Dan Shea at Natick Service Council expressed interest in having the van come to the NSC lot. The NSC is a social support services organization which serves Natick, including a youth diversion program.

POST is integrating stimulant awareness training and signs of stimulant overdose, and how first responders should proceed in order to effect better outcomes. Natick 180 would like to receive and be involved in stimulant overdose recognition / training to then provide it to the community; it could be combined with Narcan training. Stimulants are present in many of the opioid overdoses, according to the death certificates. JRI has been seeing an uptick in overdoses and use of stimulants. N180 will do a social media post that reflects unique summer concerns and risks. Annette, NHS, is not hearing about stimulants but is still seeing a lot of vaping (some of the products are black market so it is not always clear what the contents are).

**d. Statewide Opioid Settlement updates** (Information available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ags-statewide-opioid-settlements>)

These funds are going to be designated for prevention, treatment, and recovery. Monies will be dispersed as soon as this summer. There is a FAQ section on the state website. It discusses how monies will be split up and distributed through 2038. There is a chart to show each town's breakdown. Another section provides resources on how to access treatment, support groups, etc. Natick will receive over \$80k the first year, plus projected annual payments. Natick's grand total is over \$719k. There are guidelines on how monies can be spent; most are broad categories that align with some of the work we are already doing such as addiction support, prevention, connections to care, and funding of coalitions & their work. N180 will continue to put together a priority list and will work closely with the town to help decide how our funding should be spent. We are not sure what the spending time frame parameters are but hopefully funds carry over from year to year, as this is an abatement process, not an earmark. It is likely that towns were awarded monies based on the state overdose data, which uses an algorithm to identify the number of overdoses. Local and state data can sometimes vary by +/- 1 to 2 people.

**e. Opioid Spoon Project** - Natick 180 is planning to bring the Opioid Spoon Project to Natick, during the town's annual Art Walk, which takes place on a weekday evening in July. This art piece is a large bent spoon and a conversation/advocacy piece about the opioid epidemic. Natick 180 is in communication with Dominic Esposito, the artist, who is located in Westwood. The display would be up for approximately 5 hours. Final details are being discussed with the Natick Center Cultural District. For more about the Project, see: [\(https://www.theopioidspoonproject.com/\)](https://www.theopioidspoonproject.com/).

<p>Planning monthly recovery events</p>	<p><b>a. International Overdose Awareness Day (8/31)</b> - This is a global event held on August 31st each year and aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death. This commemoration could be promoted at the July Art Walk. The Purple Flag installation has been placed on the lawn of the FCC for the past several years.</p> <p><b>September - National Recovery Month</b>  Natick 180 has been in communication with Natick High School teacher &amp; documentarian, Lisa Olivieri. She is in the final production stage of her new film “Recovery City” which chronicles individuals in MA on their path to recovery. The first hour of the movie will be screened at TCAN on September 14th. There will be a reception prior to the screening; following the film segment, there will be a panel discussion with those in recovery from the film as well as Dr. Armstrong, an addiction specialist at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. We would like to get local representatives, people from the Framingham recovery court, etc. to attend the event as well. Please put the word out to YARCM, SMOC, and Program Rise clients. Natick 180 will try and arrange for the Rise On Van to be at the event. For more information, see:  <a href="https://www.wmm.com/sponsored-project/recovery-city/">https://www.wmm.com/sponsored-project/recovery-city/</a></p> <p>Ideas for other recovery events for the fall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mikey Divver - wants to engage 3 local recovery centers in Metrowest to collaborate and promote services. The SMOC Framingham Recovery Center is still getting up and running. Collaboration with community partners would be helpful. N180 and the FCC / Interfaith Clergy will help share the calendar &amp; activities going on at the Recovery Center (age 18+). There are also some activities geared toward the younger population (contact Hayley Clifford of Metrowest Young Adult Services).</li> <li>● Recovery speakers at NHS &amp; Northstar - start planning now for next September. There was such positive feedback from bringing speakers in this past spring.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Set next meeting date/time &amp; adjourn</p>	<p>June 15th, 2022 from 1:00-2:30 pm</p>