

Town of Natick Board of Health

JOINT NATICK OPIOID TASK FORCE &
NATICK TOGETHER FOR YOUTH
Awareness & Education Action Team

Natick Community Senior Center
117 E. Central Street, Room 201
Natick, MA 01760

8:00 AM Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attendees (10):

Name	Organization	Sector Represented
Sarallyn Keller	First Congregational Church	Religious organization
Frank Lombardo	FDA	Federal government agency
Michele Marotta	SPARK Kindness	Civic / volunteer group
Lauren Meurer	Natick Rec and Parks Dept.	Local government agency
Shirley Toumayan Miller	Community Member	Natick resident
Judy Oxford	Natick Public Schools	Schools
Jennifer Garb Palumbo	Natick Public Schools	Schools
David Rabinovitz	Community member	Local business
Katie Sugarman	Natick 180	Ex. Director
Amelia Twiss	Natick 180	Student intern

1. Citizens' Concerns:

- NHS is trying to move into and focus on a task of inclusion. Diversity and inclusion is a big part of the superintendent's goals. The Redhawk event is an event in which this is important. It is important for METCO students to be integrated into the community better.
- Host families for METCO students was brought up so that they are integrated into the community better and can stay in Natick for longer to go to evening events. It is hard without reliable transportation other than the van.
- These host families can also show up to events for the students, as it is often difficult for

- families of METCO students to come all the way out to Natick for early evening events.
- Host family, like hosting an exchange student, provides a strong connection for both parties, so that they can each take something from it. It is a form of mentorship, and should have a positive influence.
- The Boston METCO families should be able to choose the host families in Natick so they're able to find a host family that would be the best fit for their family and student.
- The goal is for an overarching lens of inclusion we care about all students and all families, how do we include them all?

2. Announcements and updates

Redhawk Fest: This event is an opportunity to bring students together to build connections with one another and police officers as well as other school staff. It is open to all students who live in Natick, not just those who attend Natick schools. Everything is free, and the cost of transportation will be covered for students from Boston. Activities include bubble soccer, a mobile escape room, student bands, and a chill zone. Food includes pizza, ice cream, and Starbucks. Many community sponsors, including Cognex, come together to fund and host this event.

Nicotine Cessation & Diversion Program at NHS: NHS is working with the UMASS medical tobacco research and training center, which is updating their tobacco cessation protocols to include vaping. NHS school nurses will be trained to be able to help students that do want to stop smoking or vaping.

The vaping diversion program is going to be changed to run on 4 consecutive days. There will be a pinpoint place for students to go when they begin to have a craving. We will work on creating strategies for students, which will overlap with other stress-inducing situations. Our plan is to bring in a guest speaker for the diversion program. There are safety issues from counterfeit pods. Training programs for the school nurses will be offered right before the beginning of the next school year. They will train school nurses as well as social workers and counselors and other trusted adults in the buildings. Full health and wellbeing is important and needs to be addressed, not just vaping.

Coalition Member Survey: We are planning to develop and send out a survey to all coalition members in July.

Upcoming conferences/educational opportunities: The annual New England Institute of Addiction Studies was held the first week of June. Several coalition members including Katie and Astrid attended sessions related to prevention, teen culture, and addressing the opioid crisis. school of addiction studies conference

The CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) mid-year conference is upcoming in Dallas in July(14th-18th). We plan to send 3 attendees.

Parent book clubs - the Natick School District has purchased books and organized parent book groups over this past school year. Readings tend to focus on social- emotional learning. They

have had a lot of participation and success with the book clubs. We are considering identifying a book over the summer to launch in the fall for people to read. If there is a particular subject that parents are interested in, we could plug it into the speaker series.

Summary and next steps

Educational initiatives for Fall 2019:

Parent coffee discussion groups

Hidden in Plain Sight - Planning stages will include having volunteers solicit donations for a teen bedroom. Jordan's furniture or Bob's furniture would be good to ask for donations. The timeframe is to occupy the space starting on Sept 9, launch event around Sept 12th, conclude the event on the 26th and breakdown on the 27th.

Natick Days - Sept. 7th - Natick 180 will host a table at the event.

Community Run and Rally for addiction prevention and recovery to be held the weekend of Oct. 5th. We are in the planning stages of this event, which will be a 5 K and family fun run. There will also be a resource fair and rally.

Next Meeting: July 23rd from 8:00-9:30 am

Agenda items will be addressed in an order determined by meeting facilitator.