

SUDAC Meeting 7/31/19

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DENNIS TOWN CLERK

Call to order at 6:00pm

Attendance: Marion Prendergast, Mark Lambdin, Walter Phinney, John Adelizzi, Kenny Gelnett, Robin Elised, Cory Martinelli, P.J. Rainwater, Chris McCormick, Beth Albert

Absent: Veterans Affairs, School Administrator, Student Member

Selectmen Liaisons: Bob Mezzadri

Update from Fire and Police Departments on current status:

John Explained current status is a dual response between Fire and Police, they have data on how many cases of Narcan has been administered.

Kenny brought explained how the police and community services unit work. By the time the police are involved the situation has escalated to an intervention mode for the safety and the police end up treating the symptom. The community services unit will follow up with the family to evaluate the situation and link people up with appropriate resources. More of a treatment of the problem and not the symptom. They have monthly meetings with several other organizations to discuss issues and align resources, taking a holistic approach to treat the problem. He explained what a section 35 is: as a court ordered way to make a person get the help they need. Explained the issue is more of a dual diagnosis issue involving mental health issues as well. Advised not to let the council get pigeonholed into dealing with just substance abuse because it is more than just that. Kenny explained there is a Victim Witness Advocate that follows up with people and their families. We need to identify how to make services work – how to follow up – how to make the efforts to help them are effective.

Chris asked for an explanation on the differences between Section 35 and a stay at Gosnold. Kenny: Gosnold is a treatment facility and a Section 35 would place a person in a lockup prison like facility.

Kenny – we want to stop mental health people out of the criminal justice system. However, as a last stand we need to charge people because of their behaviors. When the case is heard in court, we will advocate for a conditional release through getting treatment. If the person refuses the treatment, then they are put into the system.

Beth commented that the CCIT model is a great model and happy that Dennis is doing this. Anything SUDAC can do to assist in this would be beneficial.

Beth wanted to know about the post OD follow up, not sure what happens in Dennis: Kenny goes out with another person as a follow up in Dennis. Although the results are tough to tract due to geographic issues. Kenny invited everyone in the group to attend their meeting – every third Thursday at the month at the Dennis PD Station.

Additional discussions on statistics John and Kenny offered to share statistics.

Review of charge to start creation of a mission statement:

Beth and Walter recommended starting with what is currently in the charge. Beth would like to add Recovery and Harm Reduction after intervention. As a start:

“The Dennis Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council shall advocate for a healthy community by promoting best practices for the prevention, recovery, harm reduction, intervention and treatment of alcohol, tobacco, opioid and other substance use disorders.”

Mark: would like to have an educational component by promoting the interconnectivity between biology, environment and experience. Identifies characteristics or individuals.

Other topics that may be included in the mission statement include, but are not limited to, Robin provided her background need an open line of communications with our government representatives, promote a path to wellness, locating housing and student and public education about the services being offered.

John reaffirmed the option of the stats he can provide the group.

Beth explained there has been much work done throughout the Cape in other towns. We should educate ourselves on what is already happening within these other communities. Possibly over the next couple meetings have speakers come in. Explained there is access to data from the county, she will bring this information to the table, so we are not starting from scratch.

Election of officers:

Marion nominated Beth Albert as Chair – seconded by Chris – motion passes 10-0-0

Beth nominated Walter Phinney as Vice Chair – Marion seconded – motion passed 10-0-0

Robin volunteered to be Secretary – no motion but a 10-0-0 consensus

Officers are as follows:

Chair: Beth Albert

Vice-Chair: Walter Phinney

Secretary: Robin Elised

Reviewed open passions – 1 from Veterans Affairs, 1 School Administrator, 1 School Student

Discussion regarding others who have reached out to offer assistance:

RSAC Regional Substance Abuse Council – the county is here to help by sharing the work done over the past 5 years and the data collected. Taking a public health planning approach, looking at the four pillars, Prevention, Intervention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery. Paul Gabriel has also offered assistance even though he is with the Plymouth Suicide Prevention, Beth explained we have a Barnstable Suicide Prevention Council that is available to us also.

Beth extended the ability for someone from SUDAC to have a seat on the RSAC. Discussed other area's of education before this group can make recommendations, that the first few meetings we should focus finding out who's doing and has done what before us.

Discussion on future meetings: Possibly invite other groups to speak to SUDAC. Consensus was this is a great first step. Kenny addressed the CCIT (Community Crisis Intervention Team), but that's a team comes in after it's already happened. Looking to see the prevention prior to this happening. Offered to have the School Resource Officer (Pat McCaffrey) talk about what's happening in the school. Council identified other organizations that offer the services that deal with prevention, intervention and harm reduction.

Discussion on seniors – not much happening here, per Kenny, he sees people in their 50's, John mentioned there have been a few people in their 70's and 80's but not many.

Vaping is the big concern now. This is an area we can promote that is targeting our youth. Kenny, at the school level this is the risky behavior they are dealing with, not the opioids. Bob explained what Barnstable has banned and the current litigation. He is advocating to implement some of the same restrictions but is cautiously waiting for the litigation.

Funding – The Town has set aside \$5,000 for startup funding.

Discussion about Ruth Potee, MD. Her power point presentation from the MMA was included in the meeting packet. She has presented on the Cape before. Possibly have her and other organizations speak at Wixon for the community. Beth explained she has spoken at Parent Summits they held in the past.

Next meeting is set for August 29th @ 5:30 pm - at this time the meeting are being set for the last Thursday of the month.

Kenny mentioned that he may not be at the next meeting

Adjourn: 7:15