

GHS Youth Forum Meeting Notes

September 22, 2017

Participants: Dian McCarthy (Crispin's House Coalition for Youth), John Webb (GHS), Krista Scarlett (GHS), Peter Flynn (Town of New Boston), Mary Forsythe-Taber (Makin' It Happen), Al Baines (CHCY), Frank McBride (GHS), John Scacchi (CHCY), Matt Atkinson (YMCA Allard Center), Jaqueline Pelletier (Goffstown Police Department), Jon DeLena (U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency) Adam Z., Mitchell S., Allison B., Brooklyn B., Jenna H., Eryn P., Eric C., Clay C., Victoria F., Madison H., Andrew M., Kevin B., and Aron S.

Opening Introductions: After introductions, Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Webb gave a warm welcome to everyone for Year 24 of GHS Youth Forum, and shared Youth Forum's history and purpose as a Crispin's House program bringing community leaders and students together in a mutual conversation helping us to understand and meet the needs of our youth as they emerge, and empower the youth voice.

Movie Viewing: Ripple Effect was pleased to share that their anti-bullying movie with the group. This movie was more than two years in the making and their effort was apparent. They did a great job. Following the movie, there was a brief discussion about next steps.

Group Updates:

- **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** shared that they are looking forward to regularly being at the Youth Forum table as a way to become more involved and learn about what other groups are doing. FBLA is a vibrant club at GHS that has grown to 63 members this year.
- **Crispin's House Coalition for Youth (CHCY)** shared that they have been very busy. They had their Annual Softball Tournament in early August which was a successful and fun day. MVMS Youth Forum has had their first meeting of the year and is looking forward to their upcoming trip to the Browne Center. The MVMS Yoga Club is also underway and has been so well received they are offering a second day to accommodate all who are interested. The '17-'18 Community Series kick-off event with speaker Lynn Lyons on *Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents* was a huge success with roughly 400 people attending. They also shared news of the Annual CROP Walk taking place on October 1 at noon.
- **The YMCA Allard Center** was happy to report that their Teen Center recently opened and has expanded their ability to offer programs as expected. Members of the Y are free to drop in and the fee for non-members is \$5. CHCY restated their offer to cover that fee for anyone for whom cost is a barrier to attending. The next Teen Nights are October 13 for Middle School and October 20 for High School.
- **Peer Outreach** has a full year ahead. They are planning to observe Red Ribbon Week with their traditional vigil, are developing activities for Bullying Prevention Month that will positively impact the school, are working on ideas for Mental Health Month in May and will also organize their annual semi-formal dance. In addition, they would like to plan other activities to fill out the year.

- **Ripple Effect** is looking to the future now that their movie is done and will determine a new topic to tackle. It's possible that they will choose to continue the Peer Pressure conversation from Youth Forum last year. There was brief discussion around the pervasiveness of peer pressure as something that happens among people of all ages in ways we don't always picture.
- The **DEA 360** initiative has an exciting fall planned that includes youth leadership pieces that are open to all groups.
 - **Drug Take Back Day** is coming up in October and the goal is to have it be bigger than ever. As part of a joint effort with hospitals and pharmacies, students are invited to submit a sticker design that encourages safe use, storage and disposal of prescription meds. The deadline is in 2 weeks so they can have the stickers ready for release in time. WMUR has also agreed to provide free training to students to participate on that day as Junior Reporters reporting from different locations.
 - **Learn to Create a PSA** training is being offered on November 10 in conjunction with DrugFreeNH. There are only 50 slots available for the Manchester area. John requested 20 for Goffstown.
 - **The CADCA Conference** in Atlanta went very well. Some participants a 2-day training on how to present to younger youth (ie: 5th and 6th graders) around medicine safety including reading labels, not taking without adult supervision, etc. Brooklyn, Aron and Mr. Webb reached out to Ms. Hastings who referred them to Mr. Garrity at MVMS.

With a few minutes left, John Scacchi asked John DeLena what he saw as the path to addiction for those he deals with in his work as a DEA Agent. In response, Agent DeLena expressed a strong conviction that marijuana is indeed a gateway drug with his experience showing that the path to opiate addiction starts with alcohol and marijuana use. Brief discussion followed as to how best convey prevention messaging to our youth.

Next Meeting: October 13