

GHS Youth Forum Meeting Notes

October 13, 2017

Participants: Dian McCarthy (Crispin's House Coalition for Youth), John Webb (GHS), Peter Flynn (Town of New Boston), Peter Grigorakakis (CHCY/VolunTEENS), Pam SantaFe (Makin' it Happen), Adam Jacobs (Town of Goffstown), Matt Atkinson (YMCA Allard Center), Brian Balke (SAU 19), Eric Blow (JPPO), Jill Girolimon (SAU 19), Alex M., Savannah M., Eryn P., Julianna T., Aron S., Adam Z., Andrew M., Mitchell S., Abby P., Shane H., and Kevin B.

Opening Introductions: After a brief welcome, participants paired up with the person they knew the least to discuss the following: "What is your favorite Halloween costume? What is your favorite sight/sound/smell about fall?" Answers were then shared collectively and included a pregnant woman, Lilo, the Three Little Pigs, a werewolf, a ducky and a bag of jelly beans. Favorite things about Fall were the smell of apple crisp, apple cider, the crinkle of leaves and the feeling of the warm heat kicking on.

Group Updates:

- **Adam Jacobs** shared an update on the Main Street project and stated that there will be job openings with DPW next summer including flagging and mowing. He also shared that there are some internship opportunities within Town Hall in administration, the planning department and the Economic Development Council. The UNHCE is offering an "Economic Development 101" training to the EDC (Wednesday, Nov 15th at 6:30 pm at the Goffstown Town Hall, room 106) that students are welcomed to sit in on and there was some discussion regarding a student seat on the EDC. FBLA members present thought they could easily have several members interested.
- **Makin' it Happen** recently had an event where the students participating in the CADCA training gave presentations to an audience of peers, parents, Manchester school officials, and the press, regarding their experience and work thus far. The CADCA work has been a great opportunity that has included participation in the Atlanta conference, training from WMUR on how to conduct interviews and speak in front of cameras, participation in the Governor's Youth Council and training on how to speak to peers and those younger around substance misuse issues.

Pam was pleased to share that the winning design for the sticker campaign planned for Drug Take Back Day in collaboration with the Mass College of Pharmacy and DEA was submitted by the Goffstown team made up of members of **Ripple** and **Peer Outreach**. Drug Take Back Day is coming up on October 28 and WMUR has offered training to students to act as Junior Reporters at locations on that day. Makin' it Happen also has a permanent drop box in storage so GPD can become a permanent drop location when their space allows.

Also coming up is a free training for students on November 10 on how to make a public service announcement, and Remove the Mast of Opioid Addiction with the Monarchs is coming up on November 18.

- **Student Council** has been working hard on planning Homecoming Week (October 16-20). There will be lots of fun to be had including dress up days, the Homecoming Dance on Saturday (\$10 at the door – no ticket sales in advance), the assembly from 1-2:30 on Friday and a Penny Slam to benefit Puerto Rico Hurricane relief.
- **The Governor's Youth Council** is the first of its kind in the country. They are currently working on an application process with an anticipated date of November 24th.
- **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** is looking forward to the Fall Leadership Workshop scheduled for October 19. Julianna's project as a State Officer is substance misuse prevention and she is looking forward to sharing her materials with participants at the conference.
- **Modaco** is a dance program at GHS. They are working on the Nutcracker coming up on December 1 and 2 and their Spring Gala will be held on June 8 and 9.
- **Empower** is planning a Self Defense Class and their Women's Panel. One of their challenges is that some people perceive them to be a group focused on girls being better than boys when their mission is actually "Empowerment through Equality".
- **GOAL** has been planning the Powder Puff Tourney. Participants will all be getting Homecoming points.
- **Girls Varsity Volleyball** is wrapping up their season with 3-12 record and the Freshmen Girls are undefeated.
- **GPS** is participating in the Concord Breast Cancer walk on Sunday starting at 1.
- **National Honor Society** has been very busy getting their tutor program up and running for the year and providing coverage to have at least 1 member in the student resource center at all times during the day to help students. They plan to adopt a spot to clean up as well.
- **Ripple Effect** has been very busy trying to get the appropriate permissions to put their Bullying video on GTV and on the Crispin's House website. They were also happy to help out with the DEA sticker and were very happy to hear that it was selected. The group plans to focus on Peer Pressure this year as well as drug misuse prevention.
- **Crispin's House** shared that the MVMS Youth Forum has grown to 30 members this year. The MVMS students are also focusing on Peer Pressure and would love to have a visit from Ripple Effect for a joint venture.

Their Diversion Program has been very busy and over the last year, Dian is glad to have been able to bring several new resources to the program. Additionally, they continue to participate in the statewide SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) pilot and are screening every youth coming through the Diversion program for Substance Misuse and Mental Health issues and referring accordingly.

- **VolunTEENS** has been busy rounding up volunteers for the Pumpkin Regatta. Crispin's House and VolunTEENS are running the Apple Slingshot activity at the Regatta which promises to be a lot of fun. They have a lot of students planning to attend but there's always room for more if anyone is interested.
- **Jill Girolimon** is the Family/School Liaison for the district working with families in need. Her work with delinquency and the courts has been slower lately, but her work with foster families in the district has increased sharply due to the heroin crisis and she has been very busy with foster child intake.
- **GSA** is looking forward to their field trip down to MIT for an LGBTQ college fair. Several colleges will be there to share what it is about their campuses and institutions that make them good, safe choices for LGBTQ students.

Jill reminded the group that part of her work is with homeless students and to be sure to call her if they know of someone who is kicked out of their home due to their sexual orientation. LGBTQ youth have among the highest rates of homelessness in the country.

- **YMCA Allard Center** shared information about their current membership drive and all the upcoming events at their Teen Center. The next High School Teen night is on October 20 from 7 to 9.
- **Eric Blow** is a JPPO and has been busier over the last few months than he has in the last few years. Of note is a sharp increase in gang-related activity such as riots, assaults, guns, etc., occurring in Manchester and other metropolitan areas including Concord and the Seacoast. Fortunately, we aren't seeing that kind of activity here in Goffstown and New Boston but Eric is still busy with delinquencies. Compounding the challenges are a lack of funding and support for youth services (ie: mental health, resources, beds) and recent changes in State statutes.
- **Peer Outreach** is still working on the plans for the Red Ribbon Week vigil. More to come as plans are made.

Thank you all for coming.

Next Meeting Friday, November 17, 10am-noon.