

MINUTES

Town of East Greenwich
Opioid Task Force
April 4, 2018 at 2:30pm
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Committee Members in Attendance: Gayle Corrigan, Robert Houghtaling, Laurie MacDougal, Bob Siminski, Kelly Matson, Christine King, Carolyn Mark, Austin Verde, and Jennifer Stern.

Staff in Attendance: Catherine Bradley

Others Present: Sheri Shunney

The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm

1. Welcome & Overview of the Mission and Charge

Mr. Houghtaling welcomed the committee members and provided an overview of why the committee was formed. He distributed the committee's charge for members to review.

Ms. Corrigan welcomed the group and explained how the committee can be proactive locally and be a model for other communities.

2. Introduction of Members

Members went around the table and introduced themselves and their affiliation.

3. Upcoming Events

A. May 9th-Mental Health Presentation

Mr. Houghtaling noted that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental Health Awareness of Rhode Island has a calendar of statewide events.

On May 9, 2018 at 7pm, Mr. Houghtaling is part of a spirituality and mental health panel discussion, titled "Finding Hope in Trying Times" which takes place at the First Baptist Church in East Greenwich. The panel will include spiritual leaders, community leaders, statewide representatives and others touched by or involved in the opioid crisis.

Mr. Houghtaling made a motion to have the committee support and be a co-sponsor for this presentation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corrigan. The motion passed with a vote of 9-0.

Ms. Mark noted that the school is planning school-wide events for Mental Health Awareness month including a reading by the Mental Health subcommittee and the community of the "Brainstorm - Power & Purpose of the Teenage Brain."

B. Youth to Youth Conference

Mr. Houghtaling noted that the Youth to Youth Eastern State Conference will be at Bryan College the last week of July. Approximately 40-60 East Greenwich youths attend each year. He noted he needs help to register and speakers at the conference. Mr. Verde gave an overview of Youth to Youth based on his past experiences as a participant and its importance.

4. Suggestions on Speakers and Training

Mr. Houghtaling asked the group about having someone with expertise come and talk at each meeting for about a half hour. Members were agreeable to have guests come as well as having committee members share their knowledge and experiences.

Ms. MacDougal noted her involvement with the Crisis Tool Kit and its contents which is can be kept on hand and used in the event of an overdose and provides helpful support resources. She also gave an overview of the REST program she is involved in.

5. Next Step and Open Discussion

Ms. Corrigan would like the group to decide on an action plan with a goal of creating a report and making a presentation before the Town Council at its first Town Council meeting in January.

Mr. Siminski suggested bringing in the senior population as part of the action plan and discussion.

Ms. Mark suggested reaching out to Leadership RI on their findings on the work in Burrillville.

Ms. King noted that the Department of Health has a rolling grant of about \$4,000-\$5,000.

Ms. Corrigan suggest that the group get the Leadership RI report ahead of time and then possible form sub committees within the group-i.e. senior, youth parent, government, etc.

Individuals then provided ideas for potential programmatic outcomes-Town web portal, Safe Stations at the Fire Stations, Juvenile Hearing Board connection, Middle School connection and preventative programs, peer to peer modeling, local pharmacy and how they distribute medications (information sheet, new labeling, and bottle stickers).

Ms. Corrigan said that some of these could be immediate plans like the Safe Stations, Juvenile Hearing Board involvement and potential Town Council ordinance for pharmacies operating in East Greenwich with regards to labeling and better signage for drug disposal.

Ms. Corrigan would like to see the committee start off with a basic education of the opioid crisis at the next meeting on June 6, 2018.

After some discussion it was decided to have two (2) half hour presentations followed by an hour of meeting time. The Burrillville group will be asked to speak and another speaker will be set up by Mr. Houghtaling.

6. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Houghtaling to adjourn the meeting at 4:00pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corrigan. The motion passed with a vote of 9-0.

Submitted by Catherine Bradley June 6, 2018

Approved on: June 6, 2018

-11 in favor (K. Matson, B. McKinney, A. Verde, C. Mark, K. Henrikson, J. Stern, J. Malone, R. Houghtaling, C. King, B, Siminski, L. MacDougal)

- 0 opposed

- 2 abstained (M. Sullivan & J. Heath)