

## MINUTES

East Greenwich Opioid Task Force  
September 5, 2018  
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Committee Members in Attendance: Christine King, Jonathan Malone, Jennifer Stern, Kelly Matson, Carolyn Mark, Peter Henrikson, Bob Houghtaling, Gayle Corrigan, Bob Siminski, Brenda McHenry, Austin Verde.

Staff in Attendance: Catherine Bradley

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Houghtaling at 2:38pm.

### **1. Welcome and introduction of new members.**

Mr. Houghtaling welcomed everyone to the meeting and members went around the table and introduced themselves. Ms. Bradley noted Police Officer Larsson has replaced Officer Branch who retired. He is absent today as he is on his honeymoon.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of June 6, 2018.**

A motion was made by Ms. King and seconded by Ms. Mark to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0 with those present.

-9 in favor (Christine King, Jonathan Malone, Jennifer Stern, Kelly Matson, Carolyn Mark, Peter Henrikson, Bob Houghtaling, Gayle Corrigan, & Bob Siminski)

-0 opposed

-2 not present for vote (Brenda McHenry, Austin Verde)

### **3. Updates**

#### **A. Youth to Youth Eastern State Conference.**

Mr. Houghtaling gave an introduction on Youth to Youth. He noted that he was contacted by Ty Cell from the Ohio International Youth to Youth about how East Greenwich approaches its program and how East Greenwich involves the students in the Eastern States Conference. Mr. Houghtaling referred to the handout on his Drug Program which he refers to as P.A.C.S. (Prevention, Assessment, and Community Services) and how he uses the model of Integrated Social Capacity. Mr. Cell has asked Mr. Houghtaling to come to Ohio and make a presentation.

Ms. King noted that she feels Mr. Houghtaling is doing a lot of what Burrillville does. She noted that Bob has flexibility to work with many groups for prevention as well as treatment.

Mr. Siminski also agreed.

Mr. Houghtaling asked the students present to give an overview of their experiences at Youth to Youth this summer. Kali Kidd, an East Greenwich High School student, was present and explained that she moved to Town a year and a half ago. The Youth to Youth experience made her feel welcome. She explained they worked in "family groups". She learned she can be an individual and help others. She noted the program was not just drug awareness, there were many

other topics. She said it helps to know you are not going through problems alone. She thanked Youth to Youth for turning her life around.

Austin Verde spoke about how he was introduced to Youth to Youth from the Teen Center. He started out as a participant at Youth to Youth and is now on the Youth Staff. He learned about and met people from all over.

Brenda McHenry spoke about how she was introduced to Youth to Youth from her brother. Four years ago she went to her first Youth to Youth Conference. She spread the word to her friends to encourage them to go. She encouraged middle school students to attend as well.

Ms. Kidd said Youth to Youth taught her how to help herself and how to help others.

Mr. Verde said Youth to Youth helped him grow up and be more of a leader to help others.

Ms. McHenry said Youth to Youth helped her mature also. She noted that there is a message behind all the speakers and activities which help them understand the issues better.

Mr. Houghtaling noted that he will be taking a trip with the students to the Mixed Media Theatre to expand on the programs.

Ms. McHenry noted that Youth to Youth is thinking of offering a diversity day this year.

Ms. Kidd is in support of a diversity day. She came from the West Warwick School system which is must more diverse than East Greenwich.

Mr. Siminski suggested that the program include transgender students who have similar issues.

### **B. Community Forum- September 18, 2018**

Bob Siminski and Ms. Bradley provided flyers on the upcoming forum planned for September 18, 2018 at the Swift Gym from 6-9pm. Mr. Siminski gave a brief update: the Rotary is a co-sponsor and is helping to facilitate the program that night, the Chamber of Commerce will help advertise the event and CVS has declined to be involved. Members took flyers to help disseminate the information to the community.

Mr. Houghtaling gave an overview of the night. He noted that there will be tables for people to visit which have information pertaining to opioids, etc. He said there will be a panel of speakers and then breakout groups to get the community's input. He noted that Task Forces from other communities are coming.

Ms. King noted that on September 26, 2018 there will be a Spirituality and Faith workshop pertaining to suicide at the First Baptist Church from 6:30-8pm.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **A. Action Plan**

Ms. Bradley passed out the Action Plan for the Task Force which notes things already accomplished and future goals for the Task Force.

##### **-Prevention/Treatment Literature**

Ms. Bradley passed out some sample flyers which the Police and Fire could disseminate. One flyer on opioid help resources can be ordered from the State. The Town would need to design their own post card to announce the Safe Stations.

Mr. Siminski asked if religious leaders and groups could be trained and offer Safe Stations. Rev. Malone was not sure if religious groups could be Safe Stations due to liability but they could refer people and offer help with connections.

##### **-Narcan Kits Funding Potential**

Mr. Siminski noted that Laurie MacDougal has asked Rotary to help with funding of the purchase of her REST Narcan bags for distribution in the community. He said this could happen in the spring. Mr. Houghtaling said we need to think of locations to distribute them. He recalled the Housing Authority requesting them. Ms. Mark noted the school nurse has some. Ms. King noted that PONY offers volunteer training and free kits. She suggested reaching out to them while they still have funding. Ms. Matson suggested putting Narcan kits wherever there is a defibrillator.

##### **-Police & Fire Opioid Prevention/Treatment Program**

Ms. Bradley passed out the Community Support offered by the Police & Fire Departments as it pertains to opioids.

Ms. King asked what the protocol is when someone comes to the fire station for opioid help. Deputy Chief Henrikson said there is no formal protocol for the fire personnel but he would look into doing that. He did note anyone in need is helped. Ms. Corrigan reached out to her contacts in Providence to get their protocols.

#### **5. Open Discussion**

Mr. Siminski noted he is interested in serving on the Juvenile Hearing board. He asked if it was active. Mr. Houghtaling said the board normally sees 30-50 youth a year. He said they are seeing fewer as of late. Mr. Siminski noted that the Juvenile Hearing board is able to nip issues in the bud with their program, and with counseling and support services without getting the youth into the system. He also noted they offer parental support. Ms. Corrigan noted that there have been no cases referred to the Juvenile Hearing board in the last 8 months. Mr. Houghtaling noted that people are still using and getting services but may not be getting arrested.

Ms. Kidd said she has an idea of doing a truck or treat as a way to get more youth involved with the Teen Center. Ms. Bradley said if they want to do something at the Town's annual Halloween Parade and Party she should contact her.

Ms. McHenry is interested in having the Prom Simulation similar to Burrillville's, but is cognizant of the scale of their program. Ms. Mark thought Burrillville said they made a video of their event. Mr. Siminski will reach out to them. Deputy Chief Henrikson will reach out to them as well to see what they offered. Ms. Mattson noted she may have students to help run a mock program.

Ms. Kidd asked if there was a way for West Warwick students to get involved. Mr. Houghtaling suggested it would be better for them to work with Youth to Youth. Ms. King suggested they attend the forum. Mr. Verde suggested they invite them to the mini-conference.

Ms. Kidd noted that jewelery is an issue at the High School. Ms. Mark noted that the School is aware and has been sharing literature in an effort to educate the parents. Ms. Matson has been including this education in her 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade program.

#### **6. Set Next Meeting**

Mr. Houghtaling said the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month meeting is not good for everyone. He suggested the meetings be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. It was decided that the next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 2:30pm. Mr. Houghtaling said Judge Stern will make a presentation and the Police & Fire protocols will be presented.

#### **7. Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn at 3:53pm was made by Mr. Houghtaling and seconded by Ms. Mark. The motion passed 11-0.

Submitted by Catherine Bradley on November 14, 2018-Approved-7-0

-Approved: B. Houghtaling, B. Siminski, G. Corrigan, C. Mark, J. Stern, A. Verde, K. Matson

-Opposed: none

-Abstained: M. Larsson

August 17, 2018

Dear Ty,

We have often spoke of how prevention and treatment have Venn Diagram moments. Because of my job, it became imperative that I find ways to ameliorate the drug concerns presented to East Greenwich. One of my immediate challenges was addressing teenage substance abuse. After creating a myriad of forums, educational strategies, and alternate activities, it was evident that more was needed. Because substance abuse doesn't occur in a vacuum I had to create a philosophical base that connected prevention and treatment efforts to the world. Leadership, diversity, spirituality, mental health, socio-economics, community service, etc. all become part of a mosaic that beckons community members towards health. I knew what needed to be done—but how this was to happen became a work in progress. Enter –Youth to Youth.

In the early days, prevention was comprised of scare stories, lots of rules, education/information and leadership clubs comprised of mostly the 'good kids'. I had to do something different out of necessity (half of my interactions with young people includes those deemed at-risk).

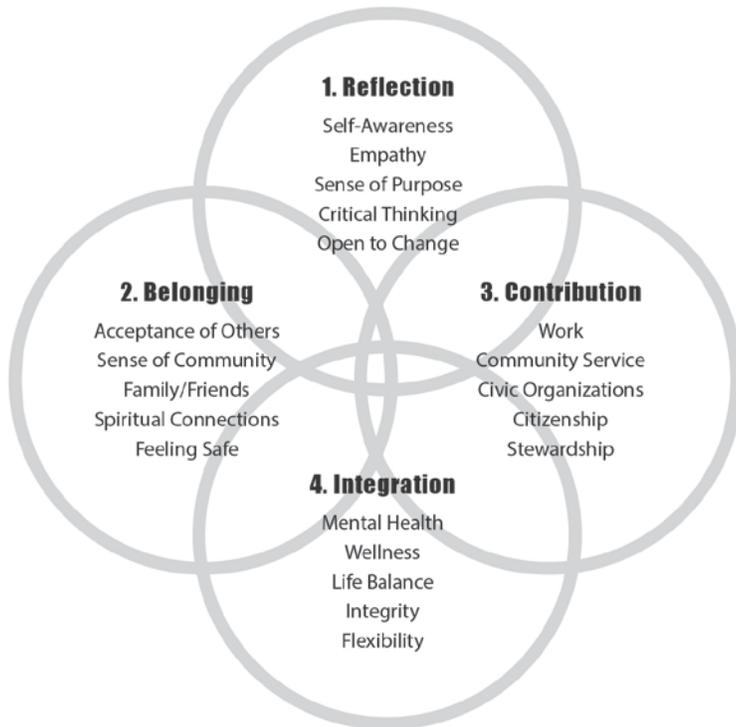
Youth to Youth helped me to bridge the gap between treatment and prevention. It also became a viable part of some kids recovery and aftercare. Changing peer groups, connection to caring adults, finding a community, and developing purpose all were made manifest because of Youth to Youth. When I first started taking 'Bob's kids' to the conference it was awkward. There was a learning curve involved (for everyone). Now, many groups, around Youth to Youth Nation, send their version of 'Bob's kids'. As we have seen, many of these young people become great community members and leaders. Youth to Youth has played a key role in this process.

I am writing in an attempt to describe how non-traditional, at-risk kids come to benefit from prevention. While getting them to Youth to Youth might be a topic unto itself, I will use this time to describe how prevention and treatment can work together.

For the sake of clarity, I have created a model that serves to articulate changes that can occur when students, who are experimenting with substances and/or experience behavior/social concerns, enter into programs like Youth to Youth.

The pie chart depicting a strategy we will call **Integrated Social Capacity** is a simple way of explaining the process that at-risk kids might go through when involved (over time) with quality prevention (and augmented by counseling and other supports). So here goes.

## Integrated Social Capacity



*This Model is most effective for pre-cognition, early intervention and aftercare. It is not a replacement for treatment.*

Obviously I will need more time to explain **ISC** in deeper detail. For the sake of brevity, I would like to say that significant behavioral change (fueled by a philosophical adjustment) comes about through this process.

It is exciting to see how prevention and treatment are now seeking ways to complement each other. There has never been a line of demarcation for me. Youth to Youth has come to reinforce this perception.

Can we speak more about this? You do a great job of formalizing and articulating concepts. Let me know what you think. Thanks for all your help and friendship.

Sincerely,

Bob

East Greenwich Drug Program  
Ahead of the Pack  
P.A.C.S.

**PREVENTION**

- Community Forums
- After School Clubs
- Character Education
- Parenting Education
- Articles in News Sources
- Youth to Youth
- Police Drug Drop Box

**ASSESSMENT**

- Counseling
- Crisis Intervention
- Liaison to Juvenile Hearing Board
- Referrals
- Consultations

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- Teen Center
- Citizens Who Care
- Liaison to Rotary
- Opioid Task Force
- Senior Center Programs
- Community Resource Manager
- Housing Authority Programs
- Recreation Programs

The East Greenwich Drug Program offers a comprehensive array of services. Referred to as P.A.C.S., the initiative has programs ranging from pre-school to senior citizens for all abilities under the direction of Robert Houghtaling, M. ED the program networks effectively with the local police, fire department, public schools, civic organizations, parent groups and the clergy. In addition, services offered by national and statewide organization are also consulted.

**INTEGRATED SOCIAL CAPACITY**

This model is most effective for pre-cognition, early intervention and aftercare. It is not a replacement for treatment.



**A Public Health Crisis  
-The Answer Is-  
Community Connection**

**September 18, 2018**

**6:00-9:00pm**

**Swift Community Center**

**121 Peirce St**

**K**ee your calendar open for September 18, 2018 as the Town of East Greenwich, the East Greenwich Opioid Task Force, Youth to Youth, the East Greenwich Rotary Club, and REST sponsor an important event that addresses Substance Abuse. The program will feature information, discussion and a chance to be part of the solution.

**Information Tables**

**Expert Panelists**

**Focus Groups**



**Sponsored by**  
**East Greenwich Opioid Task Force**  
**East Greenwich Community Services & Parks Department**  
**East Greenwich Rotary**  
**Youth to Youth**  
**REST (Resources, Education, Support, Together)**

For more information contact Bob Houghtaling at 401-230-2246 or [rhoughtaling@eastgreenwichri.com](mailto:rhoughtaling@eastgreenwichri.com)

**PUBLIC HEALTH OPOID CRISIS AND COMMUNITY**

CO Sponsored by the EAST Greenwich ROTARY Club and  
East Greenwich Drug Council

Date: September 18, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Swift Community Center

The forum is open to the public. Come and meet clinicians, and help shape an action plan for our community. The Forum will be divided into three distinct sections.

Welcome: John Walcott, President East Greenwich Rotary

Section I: An opportunity to interact with Substance Abuse/Mental Health

Providers who are front line of the crisis.

Section II: A Panel Discussion moderated by Bob Houghtaling that will allow state and Community leaders to discuss the opioid Crisis. *The panel will include Hon. Brian Stern, Rebecca Boss, BHDDH, Samantha Phipps Moore, Christine King, Interfaith Counseling Center, Laurie Macdougall,*

Section III: Small Focus group discussions to assist the task in developing an action plan for East Greenwich



**Opioid Task Force  
ACTION PLAN**

Current/Recent

1. Town Substance Abuse Counselor and his comprehensive programs
2. Police Drug Drop Box
3. Drama Therapy Presentation
4. Faith Based Education Forum
5. Formation of the Opioid Task Force with key stakeholders
6. Youth to Youth Conference
7. URI Pharmacy in school to speaks about opioids

Immediate/Short Range

1. Formalize the Drug Program
2. Institute Narcan Kits and/or Naloxone Boxes into the Community (Housing Authority, Community Center, Town Hall, School Building, Library, etc.)
3. Tri-Segment Forum
4. Support Youth to Youth Conference
5. Formalize the Police & Fire Department Opioid Prevention/Treatment Program

Long Range

1. Improved prescription labeling program in East Greenwich
2. Employee and community Naloxone administration training and distribution.
3. Seek additional funding for Narcan Kits (Police, Fire, School, Community Resources, etc.)
4. Ongoing training for Opioid Task Force to stay current
5. Bi-yearly East Greenwich Drug and Substance Use Report
6. Create prevention/treatment literature for Police, Fire, School, Community, etc. distribution
7. Increase visibility of current programs (Bob's programs, Police Drug Drop Box, etc.)
8. Involve East Greenwich Health Care Providers with training/awareness/forums

**Opioid Task Force  
Action Plan  
Community Support**

**Police Department Support**

1. The Police Station is a designated "Safe Station" for those needing assistance.
2. The East Greenwich Police Department offers a prescription drug drop box where residents and the general public can drop off un-used, expired, or unwanted prescription drugs.
3. The East Greenwich Police Department will make it a policy to allow individuals to surrender controlled substance to the Police Department, no questions asked and without recourse for prosecution, by making an appointment for a scheduled delivery following specific safety protocol.
4. The Juvenile Officer works collaboratively with the Substance Abuse Counselor on youths needing substance abuse counseling.
5. The SROs work collaboratively with the Substance Abuse Counselor on students needing substance abuse and mental health counseling.
6. The Police officers work collaboratively with the Substance Abuse Counselor on adults needing substance abuse or mental health counseling.
7. All officers carry and are trained in the administration of Narcan.
8. All officers distribute prevention and treatment literature to individuals arrested for controlled substances or to those suspected of substance abuse.
9. The Police Chief or his/her designee has a seat on the Opioid Task Force.

**Fire Department Support**

1. All East Greenwich Fire Stations are designated "Safe Stations" for those needing assistance.
2. The Fire personnel offer the Substance Abuse Counselor's services to individuals in need.
2. All fire personnel carry and are trained in the administration of Narcan.
3. All fire personnel distribute prevention and treatment literature to individuals they come in contact with for controlled substances or suspected substance abuse.
4. The Fire Chief or his/her designee has seat on the Opioid Task Force.