

Gray & New Gloucester Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Presented with support from the 21 Reasons Coalition

Wednesday, March 30th, 8:30AM-10:15AM—New Gloucester Meeting House

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome & introductions

a. In attendance:

Victoria Burns, Superintendent, MSAD #15

Anne Gass, President, Gray Community Endowment

Kate Genovese, School Counselor, GNG High School

Becca Matusovich, Cumberland County Public Health Liaison, ME CDC

Kathleen Potter, School Board Member, MSAD #15

Joan Tremberth, Adult Education Director, MSAD #15

Carol Swicker, Project Manager, 21 Reasons, Medical Care Development

Sarah Kinsler, Project Assistant, 21 Reasons, Medical Care Development

II. Report on Retreat

a. Carol reviewed minutes from the GNG Coalition Retreat (3/15).

b. Carol briefly discussed the concept of Community Readiness with the group:

- Community Readiness is an innovative method for assessing the level of readiness of a community to develop and implement prevention and other intervention efforts. It is assessed on a scale, which defines 9 stages of community readiness ranging from “no awareness” of the problem to “high level of community ownership” in the response to the issue;
- **At our Retreat, GNG was identified as a 3 (of 9) on the Community Readiness scale.** Level 3: Vague Awareness: Beginning of recognition that issue is a local problem, but no motivation to do anything about it. Ideas about why the problem occurs and who is affected tend to be stereotyped and/or vague. No identifiable leadership exists or leadership lacks energy or motivation for dealing with the problem.

c. We discussed the distribution plan for the Community Opinion Survey. The online version is ready and the links active, and the print version is also completed. Copies of the paper survey, along with collection boxes, were distributed at various spots throughout Gray and New Gloucester after the meeting. The survey will run until April 25th.

- Kathleen suggested a possible tabling event: model train show at GNG High School, this weekend. She will be in touch with event organizers.

<p>ACTION ITEM: Each Steering Committee member is requested to distribute at least 10 copies of paper survey as well as cards with the online survey URL to fellow GNG residents.</p>
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- d. We reviewed the draft Mission Statement, written by Carol and Becca based on our discussions at the Retreat, and made changes based on group feedback. Thanks to all attendees for great work on making our mission statement accurate, exciting and accessible!

“The mission of the Gray-New Gloucester Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is to mobilize families, youth, and all sectors of the community to prevent substance use among youth. We seek to promote and model shared norms, policies and practices that foster positive youth development and a healthy community environment.”

III. Community Assessment Timeline (See handout: Workplan)

- a. Carol reviewed the workplan we submitted when we applied for the Mentor grant. The major task for our next few months will be completing our Community Needs & Resources Assessment. We have four data sources for this:
- 1x1s: we have done approx. 40. Our original goal was 100, but attendees agreed that we have completed most of the 1x1s that we need to, and have connected with most key community members.
 - MIYHS data from local schools: Becca will look at most recent data, from 2008 MYDAUS.
 - Community Opinion Survey: released this week.
 - Coalition Member Survey: many Coalition members have taken this.

ACTION ITEM: If you have not already taken the Coalition member survey, please do and return to Sarah.

- b. We should have all of our data by the end of April, and begin writing the report in May. Feedback on the Assessment from the Coalition is very important; we need to accurately show community dynamics in a way that is tactful and appropriate, and will not alienate community members from our cause.

IV. Coalition Leadership and Missing Sectors

- a. We have a few sectors missing from our Coalition, and would like to be targeted recruitment:
- Youth (under 18): We might like to fill this sector with a student from Alt. Ed, or perhaps someone from Opportunity Farm. Kate is communicating with one GNG HS student who may have interest.
 - Religious/Faith Community: Sharon Vandermay knows various Coalition members, may be interested.
 - Civic/Volunteer: Anne Gass fills this sport (on board of the Gray Community Endowment).
 - Health Care Professional: Kate Wurgler (suggested by Anne); Lizzie Randall (suggested by Kathleen) – both RNs.
 - State/Local Substance Abuse Agency: Becky Ireland may fill this role. Deputy Schnupp was a DARE officer, may have contacts for this.
 - Other agency dealing with Substance Abuse: Christopher Aaron Counseling and Pineland are options.

- b. We would also like to recruit a representative from GNG Middle School, but meeting during the work day is a challenge for some; meeting in the afternoons or evening is challenging for others. Carol will ask the group again for feedback on possible meeting times, and we will consider alternating meeting times each month.

V. 1x1s (See 1x1 list, attached)

- a. We reviewed the list of 1x1s and checked on progress; we are nearly done.

Action Item: Steering Committee members are asked to complete their assigned 1x1 meetings by the end of April or to notify Carol if this is not possible.

VI. Activities

- a. We discussed the activities we chose to focus on at the Retreat: a presentation to the Town Councils, a presentation to the faith community, and a potluck with parents.
 - After discussing ways to approach these activities, the group decided that it would be best to wait until the Assessment is finalized before presenting to groups; we will begin preparing materials this spring and plan to present at the start of the next school year.

VII. Match Budget

- a. Sarah reminded the group of the importance of reporting any in-kind donation so that we can track it in our Match Budget.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Distribute at least 10 paper copies of the survey.**
2. **Distribute cards with survey web address.**
3. **If you have not already completed the Coalition Member survey, please do so!**
4. **Complete assigned 1x1 meetings or notify Carol if you cannot.**

Next meeting date: Wednesday, April 27th, 8:30-10:15.
Location TBA, Gray

Carol Swicker, Project Manager, 21 Reasons Mentor project, cswicker@mcd.org 773-7737.

Sarah Kinsler, Project Assistant, 21 Reasons, skinsler@mcd.org 773-7737.

The G-NG Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is partnering with the 21 Reasons Coalition as part of a 2-year Drug-Free Communities Mentoring Project, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, US Dept of Health & Human Services. 21 Reasons is a project of Medical Care Development. FMI: www.21reasons.org

