



Medical Care Development, Inc.
48 Free Street Suite 208, Portland ME 04101
Email: 21reasons@mcd.org
Phone: (207) 773-7737 • Fax (207) 899-4756
Website www.21reasons.org

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 26th, 8:00-9:30
Portland Arts and Technology High School

Present:

Sue Steele, Committee Chair, Safe and Drug Free School Coordinator, Portland Public Schools
Jim Bourque, Vice President, Nappi Distributors
Sgt. Andrew Hutchings, Portland Police Department
Leslie LaFrance, Education Program Manager, SARSSM
Marcie Oeschlie, Sexual Assault Educator, SARSSM
Ellen Popenoe, Portland Parent, Neuropsychologist
Sister Patricia Pora, Director, Hispanic Outreach, Diocese of Portland
Caroline Raymond, Director, Day One
Jo Morrissey, Project Manager, 21 Reasons
Carol Swicker, Project Manager, 21 Reasons
Sarah Kinsler, Project Assistant, 21 Reasons

Absent:

Stephanie Duggan, Coordinator of Diversion and Rehabilitation Programs, District Attorney's Office
Mary Greenvall, Program Director, Boys and Girls Club Southern ME
Tom Handel, Executive Director, Community Television Network
Bruce Koharian, Teacher, Deering HS
Dr. Bankole Kolawole, Project Director, Minority Health Program
Officer Ray Ruby, Committee Vice Chair, Portland Police Department
Christine Thibeault, Assistant District Attorney, Chief, Juvenile Division
Soni Waterman, Director, Youth Building Alternatives, Learning Works
Jeanne Whynot-Vickers, Director of Educational Excellence, Learning Works
Joanne West, Program Manager, Day One



I. Opening

- a) Jo Morrissey welcomed attendees & introductions were made. Committee Chair Sue Steele described our Steering Committee Ground Rules.

II. Operations

- a) **Policy Issue: Extending closing hours for restaurants and bars to 2am**
 - Background: Members of Portland's Nightlife Oversight Committee (NLOC) have raised the issue of pushing closing time back to 2am in Portland. Bar owners argue that later closing times will lead to natural attrition – people will go home on their own, gradually – rather

than a rush of patrons in the street at 1am. Some owners also argue that pushing back closing time would alleviate the need for cheap drink specials by giving owners more time to sell drinks and make a profit.

- Jo noted that there's very little research to back up these claims. Sarah will do some research and contact coalitions in other towns where closing time has recently changed to gather information.
- Sergeant Hutchings noted that tourists are often surprised at Portland's early closing time – most states and cities have a closing time of 2am or later. That said, staffing the Old Port on weekend nights is a huge issue for Portland PD, with a large amount of overtime required already during the busy season.

b) Policy Issue: State liquor regulations under fire

- We discussed the challenges to Title 28-A (state liquor distribution laws) which endanger Maine's three-tier liquor distribution system.

c) Fake IDs

- Nightlife Oversight Committee members have told us that the upcoming holiday season is a big one for fake IDs, as college students come home for break. They have asked for our help in publicizing enforcement efforts to teens and parents, as well as the consequences to those using fake ID or furnishing a fake.
- Sergeant Hutchings explained the PD's process for dealing with and following up on fakes. Bars are using a new texting system to prevent those carrying fake IDs (and their friends!) from entering all establishments in the Old Port. Bar security and officers immediately revoke suspected fakes. Parents are notified if possible; if a kid is taken into custody or arrested, a parent or other adult must pick them up. Sgt. Hutchings noted that some youth carry IDs (current or expired) of older siblings who are of legal age.
- We discussed possible strategies for addressing this issue, including potential target audiences and messages. Possible messages for parents include: long term consequences for young adults based on criminal record (credit, job prospects, etc). Possible messages for young adults include: looking un-cool in front of friends/ruining their night.

d) THE GAME & Parent Forum at PHS

- Jo and Sarah implemented THE GAME, our Adult Modeling Training for teachers, coaches, and youth-serving organizations, at LearningWorks in October. This raised the need to update and review THE GAME.
- An Ad Hoc Committee (Sue, Jeanne Whynot-Vickers, & Ray Ruby) will review for objectives, style, and appropriateness for audience.
- Jo is meeting with PHS Principal Deb Migneault to discuss THE GAME and an upcoming community/parent forum in response to incidents at PHS Spirit Week where students were highly intoxicated at school. THE GAME and the parent forum will likely take place next Wednesday, 11/9.
- We have a need for more trained facilitators for THE GAME, as this need arises.
- The forum is organized with the help of Sophie Payson, a PHS social worker; she'd like us to do something like Table Talks. We need to hear from families: What do they need? Also, what about parents who don't feel they need help or support? Whatever form the forum takes, we'd like to involve Tiffany Bean, the new Day One substance abuse counselor contracted to work with Portland, Deering, and Casco Bay high schools.
- Looking forward: It was suggested that we consider using trained Natural Helpers to speak to parents at the middle school level about the culture at the HS. These conversations would be facilitated by Natural Helpers (youth) and one adult supervisor. Information on

new/"hot" drugs (K2, Spice, bath salts) could be one way to pull in a new or different set of parents.

e) Parent Campaign

- Jo would like to create an Ad Hoc Committee for our next Parent Campaign. Jo announced we have funds that were earmarked for a 2012 Parent Phone Survey which can be put towards this since we completed the survey in 2011. (UPDATE: after reviewing our submitted budget, these funds were NOT set aside. We will need to build a campaign from our usual budget restrictions.)
- How can we use parents to start this organically? Planning and implementing a viral campaign is a year-long process!
- We also discussed ways in which we could work with other Drug Free Communities grantees in the region to do something together – starting by drawing our committee from all of these communities.

f) Workplan

- Looking at our focus for the next few months (The GAME, Table Talks, Parent Campaign), what's our capacity to take on more? What are our priorities?
- Sue: Connecting our Youth Activity Guide resource to the new Portland health curriculum. She will discuss with Chanda Turner at Portland School District. Also, potentially including interactive, online resources with the Guide. (Jo explained the YAG. Our goal with this resource is for youth to create messages illustrating youth's community norms and messaging they receive from their environment or to assist youth in social norm type campaigns.) We discussed the possibility of offering stipends or mini-grants to groups interested in using the Guide, and possible supporters of these activities at the high schools.
- Caroline: Working with judges. The Cumberland County Underage Drinking Enforcement Task Force (CCUDEF) may be a good avenue for this (21 Reasons convenes this group); also, a youth court grant was recently written, hopefully will serve youth in Portland, including those brought in for underage drinking-related issues.

g) Cultural Competency and Advocacy

- We discussed our definitions of cultural competency. It is not limited to understanding foreign cultures. Cultural competency includes understanding the everyday challenges of our neighbors and friends and being willing to accommodate and assist in any way possible so that our neighbors and friends can participate to their fullest potential.
-

NOTE: We'll be joined by new youth representatives from Portland High at our November meeting!

Homework: What do you want to learn from our student representatives and what do you want them to learn about the 21 Reasons program?

2011-2012 Dates/Times	
9/28	8:00-9:30
10/26	8:00-9:30
11/30	8:00-9:30
NO DEC	
1/25:	RETREAT 8:00-12:00
2/29	8:00-9:30
3/28	8:00-9:30
4/25	8:00-9:30
5/30	8:00-9:30
6/27	8:00-9:30