**Minutes**

**Marijuana and Other Drug Initiative Providers**

**January 9, 2015**

**Present:** Terri Cansabell, Cheriho Task Force, Danny Nesmith, Chariho Task Force, Rebecca Elwell, Tiverton Prevention Coalition , Heidi Driscoll, South County Prevention Coalition, Laura Hosley, Central Falls RISAS, John Mattson, Warren Coalition, Felicia Smith, Pawtucket Program Coordinator, Diane Dufresne, Pawtucket Prevention Coalition, Shannon Spurlock, Rhode Island Prevention Resource Center, Kathleen Sullivan, Bay Team – Barrington, Kristen Westmoreland, Bay Team- Barrington, Dorothy Skierkowski, CRST, University of Rhode Island, Dr. Paul Florin, CRST, University of Rhode Island, Lorraine Kaul, Foster- Glocester Task Force.

**BHDDH Staff:** Elizabeth Kretchman, Linda Barovier, Anna Meehan

**Meeting Agenda:** BHDDH update, community updates, evaluation, Prevention Resource Center updates.

**BHDDH Update:**

Elizabeth Kretchman asked that each community report one new initiative that matches the scope of work of MOD.

**Community Updates:**

**Foster:** Lorraine Kaul. New asset building called Robatics. Two teachers have agreed to work with 50 high school kids inter-grade substance abuse message. They are currently brainstorming on how the program will be maintained after the grant is gone. The “Foster Arobat”(not evidence based program) but using evidenced based marketing plan practices. Youth would like to make sure that the “robot” is sustainable and build it for adoption. Youth would do all the marketing and build the robot. Foster MOD will pay for building the “robot” and the community will adopt it. It is part of the awareness campaign, youth driven and not just a robot, but a prevention program.

**Pawtucket:** Felicia Smith. Central Falls and Pawtucket coalitions are planning Parent Conference in March. The conference will use lessons from Towards No Drug Abuse. Parents should be aware of what their children are learning. Youth is actually planning the program. It is a positive, strength based approach. The conference has the full support of the new school superintendent, who wants to involve lots of residents.

**Tiverton:** Rebecca Elwell. The community is trying to build a recognition of Above the Influence campaign. They are trying to figure out ways to bring it from high school to middle school. It has received permission to have the program as an extracurricular activity for middle school kids. The participants have done a collage – filling out a siluette with words of what society thinks of teenagers or young people. When high school kids did it, they did not share any positive words (what adults think). On top of the page high school students put words that describe who they really are and put “I am” which was totally coincidental to align with Purple campaign. The project will be displayed in school on the walls. Middle and High schools will put them up at the same time sometime in February.

Elizabeth Kretchman reminded MOD communities to share their events with RIPRC.

**South Kingstown:** Heidi Driscoll. Heidi Driscoll presented information and wording on electronic cigarettes to high school faculty; it gave opportunity for teachers and parents to see the product. The presentation audience has grown and taken its on identity. Since then, Heidi Driscoll has presented at PTO meetings and to middle school faculty. The teachers said that they have seen the products, but didn’t know what it was. The presentation intends to educate about flavored nicotine oil, pens and what they actually look like, wax and shadder. Presentation also includes statistics. It is a good education opportunity for faculty and parents. Heidi Driscoll will continue to present the workshop. David Neill, an investigator for US Attorney’s office and coalition member, is also presenting with Heidi Driscoll. On the school grounds, the school resource officers have been collecting the e. cigarettes and as of January 1, 2015 it is illegal for the product to be in possession. South Kingstown school policy has been changed to reflect that.

Elizabeth Kretchman mentioned that it is important that we use the same language when we discuss electronic cigarettes. Aerosol is one of those words that we are trying to use because it sounds more dangerous. As of January 1st, 2015 it is illegal to possess electronic cigarettes. All schools policies need to be changed to reflect that and include electronic cigarettes in the language. Department of Health has standard language to use when it comes to policy training and policy development. She also expressed that there is a need to educate folks internally within BHDDH.

**Warren:** John Mattson. Mt. Hope High school senior who is interested in film making was hired to help with developing “20 things you rather do then smoke weed” PSA. The video will be cut into 30-40 second segments. All PSA participants have smoked marijuana before and are coming from 8th and 9th grade. It is a selected-indicated kids; 30% of kids who came to the group were identified as high risk. The PSA will be shown to all of the advisory in high school and then distributed it further. The 9th grade participants are also asked to take on leadership roles and receive a heavy dose of prevention and per principals permission they can be pulled out at any time out of the classroom if needed. Dr. Paul Florin said that these students therefore get a heavy dosage of prevention programs. Coalition has purchased “Street Drug” booklet and is disseminating it to parents. The booklet is being mailed directly to homes. It is $5.00 for about 1500 booklets. These are high quality booklets. It is difficult to reach out to parents. Any information that kids receive in class is sent for parents to review. Elizabeth Kretchman stated that at least the community is doing some information dissemination. Also, maybe during the next MOD meeting we will have an opportunity to see the PSA or any time the community would like to share.

**Barrington:** Kathleen Sullivan, Kristen Westmoreland. The Bay –Team has shared with the rest of the MOD participants the marijuana information card “The Cost is too High” that it has put together. The booklet has been updated and mailed out to parents, but is targeting everyone. The pamphlets were mailed out strategically before legislature session. The community will also redo their media insert that they have done in partnership with Warren and East Providence and will update it to include more information on electronic cigarettes. The coalition has bought a “Vaping 101” (HRN media) 21 sec video on electronic cigarettes and will be showing it to 7th and 8th graders, health classes and high school faculty. Resources are shared with RIPRC on the public site. Kristen Westmoreland had heard about powder to caffeine product that in 1 teaspoon has about 25 cups of coffee. This had led to some deaths. It is one more thing communities need to be on the lookout for. Elizabeth Kretchman has mentioned that a lot of the products are illustrated as holistic and therefore some folks are more likely to purchase it.

She also has stressed the importance of the documents developed by Barrington and the need to share them state wide since Rhode Island has been noticed to be number one in marijuana use and number three in alcohol poisoning.

**Central Falls:** Laura Hosley. The curriculum has been accepted by the school and it will start in ESL classes. The next step is getting it into English classes, but it has been a struggle. Rosie Smith, CF Student Assistant, has recruited Javier Santano who is a wonderful teacher to also teach the curriculum. The time she spends in school has been increased from three days to four days a week. The next step is getting the curriculum into the English classes, but it has been a struggle. There is a capacity issue at the school, but substance abuse prevention has been making progress and the supporting Rosie is really important.

Elizabeth Kretchman recommended that Laura Hosley work together with the Pawtucket Coalition on the Central Falls & Pawtucket Parent Conference through Non-Violence Initiative. The next meeting is at 9am on the 14th of the month at the Pawtucket School Department.

**Chariho:** Terri Cansabell, Danny Nesmith. “Fit in” campaign. Terri Cansabell passed out “Fit in” calendars and t-shirts. The coalition has been working really hard to add Marijuana Wise into the Part 101 program. It is one hour long. The high school prevention councilor is on board and ready to start using it as a tool when he/she is meeting with students. If she/he determines that the student is at further risk of usage then she/he will give him Part 101 if not but is worried about the student then she/he will have them do Marijuana Wise. It will give an opportunity to educate the student either way. South Kingstown Community Action is interested incorporating the program into their work. Hopkinton has a juvenile hearing board and Chariho has presented the program to the board to see if they would be interested in implementing it for the youth who have a violation in the community and use it as their standard. Currently the board is using reflection essay as the standard. Juvenile committee is very interested in the program; Chariho is waiting to hear back. The coalition is working on Purple Project. 3rd millennium program is in full swing. 9th grade Class Action will take place sometime in March and April. Mentoring will take place last week of January; high school kids will mentor middle school kids. The coalition has received a “Thank you” note from a parent who was impressed with their wonderful work with $ 10.00 donation and it has also received a letter from Richmond resident who wants to make sure that his/her tax money is not used for these programs.

Elizabeth Kretchman appreciates all the different products that Chariho has been distributing; she has given them out to different folks in the department.

Barrington, Kristen Westmoreland asked what other communities are doing with 3rd millennium. Tiverton has been sharing the State Law that this program needs to be used. Elizabeth Kretchman suggested that communities talk to each other because it seems that communities have similar challenges.

**BHDDH:** Elizabeth Kretchman. Communities were asked to begin brainstorming statewide campaign. Elizabeth Kretchman suggested that maybe some of the information that’s being passed around by communities around the table be used towards the campaign. She stated that there will be no technical assistance from SAMHSA. Lorraine Kaul recommended “It Matters” because it has a serious message and good first impression. It illustrates both negative and positive consequences. Shannon Spurlock, RIPRC: since general public is hearing about the money that marijuana will bring to state and recommended that “Cost is too High” gets replicated. The public also needs to hear that there is a huge cost associated with marijuana legalization. We need to match the message with current climate in terms of educating the public. . “The cost is too high” pamphlet that was developed by the Bay Team is a good representation of that. Lorraine Kaul: everyone is talking about the money and maybe the message would be more powerful when cost is involved; it reaches a broader audience. Economic impact seems to be the common denominator. “The cost is too high” can be connected with a pocket book. Lisa Carcifero, Woonsocket Prevention Coalition – absent, has a strong media group led by Victor and maybe they can be involved with the process. RIPRC can provide technical assistance with the media campaign. JSI will be a beneficial resource. Rebecca Elwell, Tiverton Prevention Coalition, recommended that we need to think about higher level of media experience and do it at professional level since it is a State wide campaign. Warren, John Mattson, said that there is a lot of confusion of what the Rhode Island law is. The message has to be universal regardless if marijuana is legal or illegal. Marijuana is destroying the brain and we don’t need any more dumb people.

The statewide campaign is to address everyone not just folks with kids. Tiverton, Rebecca Elwell, said that it is all about their pockets; people don’t care about other people’s kids.

Elizabeth Kretchman mentioned that the development of the campaign has to come from the communities and be paid from their budgets and also since it is year 4/5 of the grant it is important that communities do something at the state level. February 15, 2015 Narrative and excel reports are due. The reports need to be sent to Elizabeth Kretchman, PRC, and Dr. Paul Florin’s team. The blank report documents will be posted on the riprc.org portal.

On January 1st, 2015 prevention certification was due. Corrective action plan currently needs to be submitted. Coalition coordinators need to be certified. The expired certifications were taken off the certification website, but it has been recommended at the last certification meeting to reinstate those names. Elizabeth Kretchman recommended that coordinators check their status on the website to make sure the information is correct.

Elizabeth Kretchman has e-mailed all the communities letting them know that there has been an issue with Student Survey vendor and we don’t have the data available from last year. BHDDH will be negotiating with a new vendor. Department of Education would like the communities to distribute RI Student Survey every other year alternating with YRBS. Dorothy Skierkowski, CRST, is helping to develop reports to display 2012/2013 data. Elizabeth Kretchman has asked individuals to look at the report and provide feedback. Glocester and Central Falls have provided feedback to reports, but would like to receive more feedback from the rest of the providers. It is difficult to retrieve 2012 data and also potentially website is down. We will have to develop a more formal process of obtaining the data; we recognize that drop box wasn’t the most useful way of dissemination. CRST has been graciously helping in developing these reports. Dorothy Skierkowski asked the community providers to share if there is anything that would be helpful to include. Dr. Paul Florin, CRST, stressed that the team is playing catch up with this project. It recognizes that it can output data further by gender, grades and so forth. Evaluation team will work with communities to provide different ways to present the data. It is important that we don’t get too excited and only look at two data points, but we need three. Evaluation team will add template with conjunction with SEOW. Also, it is important to realize that it is only three years of data and it is important not to make any conclusions. Dr. Paul Florin stressed that there are different way of developing community reports that has not been in CRST team’s scope of work. Some communities will not need the reports because they are a DFC community and are getting the report from John Mattson or Data Corp. The rest of the communities need the report and CRST team will work with those communities to develop them. This deliverable will take some time.

Elizabeth Kretchman asked again that communities provide feedback to her regarding the reports display; she asked that communities take some time and make sure that the headings make sense. Email Elizabeth Kretchman with the feedback. Rebecca Elwell, asked if the report will look similar to the one developed for the PFS communities. Elizabeth Kretchman said that she would imagine it would since it is the same survey. The reports would be similar to the new vendor on the smart track website where the reports can be pulled out of that website.

Elizabeth Kretchman also mentioned that there may be a onetime cost to a vendor that will need to be covered by the MOD providers for the survey. Laura Hosley asked if this cost would be taken up by individual communities. Elizabeth Kretchman said that it would be mostly likely from the carry over money. There are quite a few MOD providers that had carry over that has to be spent by September 2015 that concedes with what communities yearly budget is. Elizabeth Kretchman did not want to discuss further the amount that it would be until she discusses it further with the new vendor. She will provide this information as soon as she receives it. Laura Hosley was concerned since Central Falls has just added one more day a week to Rosie Smith’s schedule.

Communities are also concerned about the timing of the RI Student Survey and would like to distribute it in February/spring. Elizabeth Kretchman will provide this feedback to Department of Education. PFS communities are currently working on getting the survey into their schools; some MOD communities might have to go through the school committee since new questions have been added to the survey. Elizabeth Kretchman had sent those questions to the providers before the holidays.

Barrington, Kristen Westmoreland asked if MOD will continue after the year is over. Elizabeth Kretchman is currently looking into sustainability and what would that look like going forward. She would like to sustain this past five years, but it would be in different configuration of dollars beyond year five.

Dr. Paul Florin said that the best outcome for all the communities would be to receive DFC grant because all would be able to use RI student survey.

**Evaluation:** *CRST-URI*. The MOD meeting evaluation summary of September 26th meeting was shared with the providers. All scores were positive and have increased. This is probably because Elizabeth Kretchman has developed a clear meeting structure where one person talks at a time and one new event is reported by the community. The only concern is that only nine people have filled out the survey. The evaluation team asked for a full cooperation of 16 providers present. Dorothy Skierkowski, CRST, is planning a timeline of Phase II of social norms. The team is hoping to roll it out in April. Pawtucket, Central Falls and Woonsocket will be participating in Phase II. The team will follow up with previous communities and everyone will receive incentives. It would like to see with the new communities how these new methods of recruitment work in urban communities. It will have another year to do the rest. Dorothy Skierkowski will be setting up meetings with all the communities and answering any specific questions.

**RI Prevention Resource Center:** Shannon Spurlock. On the Portal, the providers will be able to search the site by key word, category, and contract site (RISAPA, MOD, PFS). The providers can utilize calendar to announce meetings. PRC also encourages providing minutes and it will share them on the portal. PRC will have an intern soon and will be more responsive. Communities will be notified when the website reaches optimization and members will be asked to provide feedback. Health Communication Webinars will be open to all the communities. There will be a lot of prevention development opportunities available. PRC has completed an electronic cigarette fact sheet. Tobacco Control will be highlighted in the next month’s e. news. It is also working on ENDs training that will be available to prevention and treatment providers. The training will most likely be face to face. Policy training survey monkey will be e-mailed to participants. PRC is working on organizing a webinar addressing questions surrounding policy and also an overview of the definitions for those who were unable to attend the actual training. The results from survey monkey will be the basis for the development of the Policy training. Needs assessment report will be available for folks to view. This needs assessment is the basis for planning and technical assistance going forward. Currently nomination for prevention providers is taking place on the IC& RC website. It would be nice to have Rhode Island prevention community represented. CPS study handbook development has been discussed and also looking into organizing certification training.

Elizabeth Kretchman reminded folks of the next SEOW meeting – January 12, 2015 at 10am; Governor’s Council meeting on January 13, 2015 at 1pm; the Prevention Advisory Committee meeting January 20 at 10am; Partnership for Success meeting February 10, 2015 at 10am.

She also stressed the importance of keeping the MOD and RISAPA data collection separate especially in PBPS. Next quarterly reports for November – January are due February 15th. PRC will have blank copies available on the portal with MOD tab. The narrative and excel sheet portion should be sent to Elizabeth Kretchman, CRST team, and Shannon Spurlock.

Next meeting is on Thursday, April 16, 2015 10-12pm Barry Hall Room 126. Change from original date due to school vacation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm