

Policy & Practice Change Workgroup
Jan 24, 2018

Present: Ilana Gerjuoy (PFY), Mark Williams (Greenfield Police), Laurie Loisel (NWDA), Kat Allen (PFY), Kara McLaughlin (GMCSP), Michael Lewis (Providence Ministries), Tess Jurgenson (OTF) Gina McNeely (Montague BOH), Mary Doherty (Recover Project), Lev Ben-Ezra (CAYP), Lucinda Brown (Reinventing Justice), Serena Smith (CAYP/Youth Rep), Tyanna Daniel Lionheart (CAYP), Ken Chartrand (FC Sheriff's office), Deb Neubauer (OTF), Melinda Calianos (FH Tobacco Free), Jeanette Voas (PFY, recording)

2017 Workgroup Accomplishments

Compliance Checks

- Conducted Alcohol Compliance Checks in 10 Franklin County and North Quabbin towns in partnership with local police departments in August, with only one violation
- Assisted the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) with youth recruitment for their Alcohol Compliance Checks.
- Updated workgroup members, local town officials, and police after compliance checks about the outcomes.
- Compliance checks will now happen in Greenfield! After a discussion at the workgroup, DA David Sullivan was able to follow-up with the ABCC, which led to a confirmation that they will conduct checks in Greenfield once again.

Alcohol Beverage Server and Seller Trainings

- Coordinated and hosted Alcohol Server/Seller Trainings in January, with over 35 participants trained from across the county.

Marijuana Policy

- Sent a letter with recommendations to the Cannabis Advisory Board (CAB) in April, urging the CAB to consider youth health and public health overall. Co-signed by CTC, Opioid Task Force, Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, and Greenfield Safe Schools, Safe Streets Coalition.
- Sent a letter with recommendations to the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) in October, urging the CCC to consider youth health and public health overall. Co-signed by CTC and Gill-Montague Community School Partnership. (Other coalitions didn't have time to sign on due to a very tight time schedule but were given access to the letter in case they wanted to send in a similar one.)
- Kat Allen presented at Franklin County Selectboards Association about marijuana policy and impacts on municipalities in September with Rep. Steve Kulik and CCC Commissioner Jennifer Flannigan
- FRCOG hosted info-session with Margaret Hurley (Attorney General's Office) & Kat Allen: *Legal Marijuana: Municipal Options and Responsibilities*, in September.
- Workgroup members met with municipal leaders in Montague to provide info re: marijuana legalization and options and followed up with additional support.

Alcohol Policy

- Signed onto alcohol policy recommendation letter to Alcohol Task Force along with multiple prevention coalitions in the spring.
- Sent a letter to municipal leaders with options for evidence-based alcohol policy and ways that we can be a resource in July.

General Prevention Policy

- RECOVER Project staff drafted info about becoming a more recovery-friendly community in the spring and the group brainstormed ideas for connecting prevention & recovery efforts – will pick up again with new staff at Recover Project.
- Kat Allen testified at the Promote Prevent Commission hearing in Waltham in December and highlighted local accomplishments and policy recommendations on behalf of CTC.

Other Related Updates and Accomplishments

- More Tobacco 21 laws in effect in our towns
- Lucinda: NQ group is putting together a peer-run Recovery Center for peers and allies; soft opening planned Feb-Mar. We should consider working with them in future.
- Tess: OTF is hosting events to promote recovery-friendly community. 3rd in the series is Feb 10: [Loving Your Recovery event](http://opioidtaskforce.org/event/loving-your-recovery/) with new North Quabbin Recovery Center. <http://opioidtaskforce.org/event/loving-your-recovery/>
- Tess: Some towns are interested in adopting language about being recovery-friendly.
- Laurie: The group has been helpful in creating suggestions for how communities can address changes in marijuana laws.
- Deb: 2 OTF groups are coming together to survey to medical and behavioral health providers about trauma-informed practices, and will be putting together trauma-informed trainings for lunch hour at work sites. Hope to pilot in March.
- Kat: we will have a small group of interns working on best practices for town alcohol policy (cooperatively with Hampshire County)
- Cheryl Sbarra & DJ, who wrote model town laws on tobacco, are now drafting best practices for school policy on tobacco and e-cigarettes
- Feb 12 Amherst Vaping mini-conference, mostly for school administrators, but all are welcome; Ilana will distribute info
- Melinda: New report about e-cig and vaping from National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine, which reviewed 800 studies, concluded that while vaping appears to be less harmful than smoking (though long term effects of vaping are not known), and while e-cigarettes may help adult smokers wean themselves from cigarettes, “there is substantial evidence” that vaping by youth increases their risk of smoking. And there are many more interesting findings! Check it out here: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=24952>
- Rena: knows young people who started with vaping and moved on to smoking and other drugs
- Phillip Morris has a new product iQOS. It heats but does not burn tobacco, and Phillip Morris is seeking FDA approval to have it marketed in the US as a reduced-risk device. (It has already attained some popularity overseas.)
- Kara: looking ahead we need to bring prevention science to our town boards.

Goals for the year

Reviewed goals from the CTC 2016 Community Action Plan and collaboratively decided which goals to keep in their current place (core strategies or as goals to support), which to make more central, and which to update due to changing conditions (e.g. marijuana legalization, changes in funding, etc). The discussion included the following, with final details to be ironed out:

- Signage for local parks for smoking, vaping, ADD MJ

- Support server training for marijuana sales (bud tenders)
- Move to the center (core strategies): municipal policies to prevent youth use of alcohol, marijuana & other substances; training for planning boards, boards of health and other municipal leaders on prevention science; advocate and support training for marijuana servers and sellers (similar to alcohol server trainings).
- Support (not conduct) compliance checks for alcohol, tobacco & marijuana and advocate for resources for compliance checks
- Add to overall goals (figure out where they go):
 - Establish norm for marijuana: adults can use it responsibly; we don't want young people using
 - Education re: potential health impacts of edibles being more common in community – e.g. child poisoning
 - Support implicit bias trainings
 - Support for parents at RECOVER Project (collaborate with Parent Ed Workgroup)
 - Signage for local parks re: marijuana (add to signage re: vaping)

Strategy for CCC hearing

- Some issues:
 - We need to figure out how to voice general public health and prevention concerns without seeming obstructionist.
 - Money is an issue for towns. Can we make clear that we're not trying to undercut business, we just don't want it in young people's faces (just as we've historically kept a distance for other establishments like adult stores, etc). Thinking about the impact on young people of changing norms, which we know is an issue with alcohol and tobacco.
 - Concern about childhood poisonings, testing for pesticides and herbicides
 - Social justice concerns – already disadvantaged groups will be more at risk for negative consequences, e.g., people in public housing aren't permitted to use under fed law and could lost their housing, but they may not know this!
 - local control may help constrain the role of big business
 - big tobacco does not care about smokers; big marijuana will not care about mj users – regulation can help to protect the public health of responsible adult users
 - adolescent brain development
- Who do we hope can come?
 - Recovery Project
 - Learn to Cope
 - Parents with children harmed by marijuana
 - people who have had addictions involving marijuana
 - youth
 - Dr Potee
 - Someone who's an advocate for legalization who is also a strong advocate for protections for youth
- Misc:
 - Remember that we will be heard not only by the CCC, but by people in the audience. Some of messaging can be directed to them. We shouldn't skip saying something important just because we assume that the CCC is already informed.

Next meeting: February 28, 9:30-11am

