



Joseph C. Sullivan  
Mayor

## Office of the Mayor

One JFK Memorial Drive  
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

781-794-8100

### Braintree Community Partnership on Substance Use

#### Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2017

6:30-8:00 PM

**Persons Present:** Marianne Barrett, Michael Baumgartner, Robyn Houston-Bean, Susan Bryan, Ed Bousalah, John Carvello, Mike Cavanaugh, Laura Crowley, Jennifer Fay, Denver Gibbs, Marta Googins, John Griffin, Don Harrington, Alan Henderson, Shannon Hume, Julie Jacobs, Terry Donovan Jarrett, Mary Kelly, Jessica Koelsch, Robyn LaFrance, Brian Leary, Carolyn Loud, Kevin MacAleese, Julie Manning, Marci McDonough, John McGahan, Roger Medeiros, Laurie Melchionda, Jimmy McCray, Dave Morgan, Erin Murphy, Terri Murphy, Michael Owens, Jennifer Picard, Vicky Ruvido, Sandra Stamos, Peter Thompson, Therese Wilson, Kathi Wood, Anita Young.

**Meeting Commenced: 6:35PM**

## Minutes

<b>Welcome</b>
Jessica Koelsch opened the meeting at 6:40 pm and introductions were done.  Peter Thompson addressed the group with passionate remarks about the state of the opioid epidemic as it relates to Braintree, reporting that two more overdose deaths occurred in the past week. Peter said too many young people are dying and he urged everyone to work together to create positive change. Peter said he has been dedicated to this effort for seven years and he referred to the front page story of the Boston Globe predicting that the opioid crisis will be on the rise over the next decade.
<b>Mission Statement</b>
Jessica Koelsch presented the new mission statement and explained the reasoning behind the words chosen. The new mission statement is:  <i>Through education, referrals and advocacy, the Braintree Community Partnership on Substance Use works together to prevent and reduce substance use disorders, including fatal and non-fatal overdoses. Our collaboration will help the community at large lead healthy and supported lives.</i>
<b>Speaker: Elizabeth Reardon, MA State BSAS Helpline</b>
Elizabeth Reardon gave an overview of her role and the services offered by the BSAS help line. She is an outreach worker for <i>Health Resources in Action</i> , hired by the Commonwealth of MA, Department of

Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Help Line, which has been in existence for approximately 30 years. It can be confusing to navigate where to get help and the help line is available 24/7 by phone to provide assistance to addicts, family & friends, providers & clinicians working in treatment centers.

A typical phone call was described as offering:

1. Quick assessment/non identifying
2. What drug? What insurance?
3. Collecting basic information
4. Suggest a course of action
5. Offer 2 paths; non-medication and medication for example
6. Offer support to family/friends

#### **Discussion #1: MA State Helpline/Braintree Helpline**

Elizabeth explained that the help line serves the entire state and that the BSAS help line team also makes follow up phone calls and acts as a coach. There was some discussion and questions that followed. Literature was available to take home.

There was some interest by Councilor Michael Owens and others to establish a dedicated three digit phone number for Braintree. Other discussion was to promote the BSAS Help line on billboards and other information as much as possible. It was mentioned that including a message in water and electric utility bills would reach every Braintree household. A few parents expressed that they don't have children in school to get any messaging that might come from the school dept, and that they would be very reluctant to look for information from the police department. It was expressed that information needs to be in places that all people frequent in daily lives such as grocery stores, banks, hair salon.

John McGahn explained that pharmacy staff and first responders need to be able to provide treatment information because they are present when people are most vulnerable and either want the help or are in danger of an overdose.

Jessica Koelsch asked the group to take a vote on promoting the BSAS Help Line on a billboard. The motion was seconded by Kathi Wood, and unanimous.

Mike Owens asked about exploring Braintree's own 3 digit help line number.

#### **Announcements:**

Dave Morgan noted the Rx Safety/Safe Prescribing conference on September 14.

Anita Young mentioned the PMP speaker at the next meeting who will discuss that important tool.

Robyn Bean talked about Beanstock and said volunteers are still needed. It will be a good sober time with a lot of information and great music.

#### **Discussion #2: Opportunities for Collaboration (small group discussions)**

Lead stakeholders were asked to facilitate a brainstorm with members of their stakeholder group by answering the following three questions:

1. *What is your stakeholder group currently doing to address substance use disorders?*

2. *What does your stakeholder group hope to do to address substance use disorders?*
3. *What opportunities for collaboration with other stakeholder groups exist, based on your responses to #1 and #2?*

Responses were recorded on flipchart paper.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:00 pm

**Next Meeting:** July 26, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Town Hall

**Note-Taker:** Robyn LaFrance