

## **Belmont Coalition - Meeting Minutes Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Lisa Gibalerio, Jane Fox, Fire Chief Frizzell, SRO Melissa O'Connor, Wes Chin, Health Director, Brie Gray, Health Intern, Rev. Joe Zarro and Laura Kurman

### **I. Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant**

Laura Kurman (Senior Program Director at Wayside) provided an overview of the DFC Grant, which she and Lisa are currently writing. The grant is due at the end of the month.

The grant's goals are twofold: to support and build the Belmont Coalition and also to reduce substance youth among teens. While the Coalition is coming together well and has an excellent cross section of interdepartmental involvement as well as committed parents, clergy, and more recently youth and business representation, Belmont does have a deficit of data relating to youth substance use. She explained that the grant award of \$125,000 (per year for 5 years) would be spent primarily on staffing, but also on mandated trainings (which involve travel expenses), an evaluator, and some on community education (speakers, compliance checks, etc.).

Laura reviewed the various sections of the grant and noted that it will create a strategic plan for Belmont.

### **II. Coalition Punch List:**

#### **1 - Decide a Group Name**

It was a nail-biter, coming down to either the Belmont Wellness Partnership or the Belmont Wellness Coalition. After a bit of discussion, the group agreed on **Belmont Wellness Coalition**.

#### **2 - Mission**

After a bit of word-adjusting, we agreed to the following mission:

*The Belmont Wellness Coalition is comprised of individuals who care deeply about the residents of Belmont, particularly its youth. The Coalition's mission is to use education and empowerment to reduce substance use and to promote healthy choices and positive decision-making.*

If the mission still needs adjusting, please just shoot me an email and I will tweak it!

Thanks.

### **3 - Elect a Chair**

Thank you, Wendy Conroy, for agreeing to be our Chair! Wendy will work with Lisa - much as she has been - on creating meeting agendas, setting overall Coalition goals, etc.

### **III. Update Concerning Mini YRBS survey**

Wendy and Lisa are meeting with the health teachers at Chenery Middle School next week to discuss the health curriculum as well as the implementation of a mini survey to assess where the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are in terms of substance use, perceptions of harm, etc.

### **IV. Set Next Meeting**

The group decided that the Belmont Wellness Coalition will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, alternating a day time with an evening time.

**Therefore, our next meeting is Tuesday, April 10 at 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**We will meet at the Fire Station HQ on 299 Trapelo Road, in the conference room. There is a small parking lot and also on-street parking.**

Potential agenda topics include:

- creating a Belmont Wellness Coalition Facebook page with links to helpful articles, resources, Coalition activities, etc.
- discussing a speaker series for next fall, e.g., Melissa mentioned it would be beneficial to have a speaker who could address *both* students and their parents
- Belmont Town Day – Jane suggested perhaps the BWC could have a table with some information/resources (FYI - Town Day is Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and it costs \$100 to have a table)