**SPAN COALITION MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

**Attendees**: Megan Bonamolo, Pollard MS, Katy Colthart, Needham Youth & Family Services, Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board of Advisors, Anne Weinstein, Office of Rep. Garlick, Vincent Springer, NPD, Chief John Schlittler, NPD, Monica DeWinter, NPHD, Maureen Doherty, NPHD, Summer Koop, NPHD, Karen Mullen, NPHD, Catherine Delano, NPHD, Christopher Coleman, Town Manager’s Office, Timothy McDonald, NHHS, Keith Ford, NHS, Kathy Pinkham, NPS, Karen Shannon, NPHD, Barbara Singer, NPS, Guglielmo Geriggi “G”, NHS Student.

**Discussion**:

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Youth Connections**: Karen Mullen reported that SALSA (Students Advocating for Life without Substance Abuse) helped at the recent forum on substance use/misuse hosted by Rep. Denise Garlick, and held a meeting on 12/4/17 regarding the expansion of SALSA into 6th Health Classes at High Rock Middle School. The goal is start talking with students earlier than 8th grade with a focus on healthy relationships. Fifteen SALSA members attended meeting and will develop an outline for the 6th grade program to present to Kathy Pinkham within the next month, for anticipated rollout in Spring 2018.

**SPAN Framework/Meeting Structure**: Catherine Delano explained that there are just under three years remaining with the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant the Town of Needham has been managing (we are in year 8 of a ten-year grant cycle). In anticipation of the end of DFC funding, sustainability planning for SPAN is critical. The SPAN Steering Committee, comprised of SPAN stakeholders, is guiding the sustainability planning. One change affects the meeting structure of the coalition. SPAN meetings will now be held on a quarterly basis and designed to provide specific information/purpose on a yearly calendar. In between the quarterly meetings, the smaller Action Teams will meet frequently to work on the prevention initiatives the teams develop based on survey data. There are three action teams, one each for alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs. The SPAN meetings will be as follows:

**September**: presentation of survey data/current trends

**November**: using data provided in September, develop prevention plans for the year

**February:** educational presentation on a pertinent topic in substance prevention

**May:** feedback discussion on what SPAN can improve, celebrate accomplishments

Catherine will send an on-line survey to poll the coalition membership on the best time to meet going forward. Once determined, she will announce the time and date for the February 2018 meeting.

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**Metro West Adolescent Health Survey (MWAHS) 2016:** Kathy Pinkham distributed packets of the raw substance use data from MWAHS 2016 for both Needham HS and Pollard MS, explaining that the survey covers questions for a wide range of risky behaviors. She asked those in attendance to break into one of three Action Teams, review the data and, using an outline provided, brainstorm with group around specific problems that are evident through the data.

Kathy stated that the Action Teams can meet as frequently as they see fit in order to prioritize the problems the groups want to focus on and to plan initiatives for the next six months. Action Teams will set their next meeting and designate a note taker for sending discussion summaries to team members.

**Next SPAN Meeting**: February 2018, specific date TBA upon completion of member survey.