



**February 13, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Pam Dell'Aquila, Sandy Fletcher (Civic organization), Yaritza Guzman (Other organization involved in substance abuse prevention), Rich Rizzo, Michele Batara, Veronica Kovar (Other organization involved in substance abuse prevention), Mark Kovar (Law enforcement, Other organization involved in substance abuse prevention), Tim Ricketts (Schools), Jim Vehrs (Local government), Susie Vehrs, Sarah Nalley (Parent), Tari Atherton, Angela Solares, Billy Barrow (Youth), Myrila Avitt (Youth), Evan Westart (Other organization involved in substance abuse prevention), Kay Kostal, Nick Ficarello (Law enforcement), Kevin Lemke (Parent), Janie Votta (Civic organization), Pete Dell'Aquila (Other organization involved in substance abuse prevention), Marney Simon (Media)

Call To Order: Tim called meeting to order at 4:36 pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and called for introductions.

Approval of Minutes: Tim called for a motion to approve January meeting minutes. Sandy motioned. Jim V 2nd. Motion carries.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Tim called for a motion to approve February Treasurer's report. Veronica motioned, Rich 2nd. Motion carries.

Guest Presentation: Michele Batara, Executive Director of Crisis Line of Will and Grundy Counties, shared information about the organization, its services and how to navigate their website. Crisis Line has been in existence for 40 years providing suicide prevention and intervention, and has several local suicide hotline numbers throughout the county for residents to call. Their trained volunteers also answer calls for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in our area in order to get those in crisis to the nearest resource. Michele noted that only a small percentage of calls lead to them contacting Emergency Services. They field calls from family members for guidance on what to look for, how to offer support, etc. They make referrals to Will & Grundy County's social services and others that support the citizens of Will & Grundy counties. Often their telephone counseling involves conversing with people who are experiencing loneliness. Their Sunshine program involves their volunteers making wellness check calls on the elderly, giving medication reminders, and checking in with Latch-key kids, and others to keep them from feeling isolated. All services are free, and their website offers a resource database.

Action Team & Partner Updates:

RAD - Tim noted that his goal for RAD is to get 20 students involved. The RAD students have continued to help with the Youth Communication Campaign, and helped with National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week activities at the HS. Tim introduced Myrila and Billy, who attended a weekend CGTI Leadership event with students from the Wilmington coalition's youth group. The students reported that they attended several classes, including stress management techniques, drug prevention (which taught about the effects of short and long term drug use on the brain), and bullying. (The biggest take away from this class was to always look for the positives in people!) During the classes, they participated in skits and role plays.

C.H.A.N.G.E. Program - The Mayor reported that Adam Kinsinger will be in Braidwood on Feb 22. Jim is trying to get state and federal money to address the heroin issue and the lack of treatment facilities in our area, which would benefit those seeking help through the CHANGE Program. Nick reported the program has placed 10 clients so far. The success rate (those going into & through treatment after detox) so far is about 40%. One person was placed in three different locations in three months. Nick mentioned that Officer Brian Lewis has been helping our BAHCC volunteers with transporting clients. He stated that the BAHCC volunteer CHANGE agents will be considered as police volunteers. He was notified that the BAHCC will be the beneficiary of the funds raised by Exelon's Fishing for a Cure tournament.

SMART Recovery - Denise has had lots of calls about the program. Just a couple of people have attended the recent meetings.

PRADA - The MH 1st Aid class sponsored by PRADA is set. Flyers are available and our members are encouraged to attend.

Project Coordinator Updates:

* CADCA education articles were distributed to members: The Dangerous New Trend in Tobacco Use: Dripping, Reward-Based Therapy Can Be Helpful for Alcohol Abuse, Why Do Opioid Overdose Deaths Seem to Happen in Groups?, and New NIDA Study Supports "Friends Don't Let Friends..." Theme

* The parent communication campaign billboards will be up soon in the same locations as last spring.

* TGFD is being taught to 5th graders at RCIS by Christine Nelson, RC CUSD 255 Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning. The Herald News will be shadowing her in prep for a series on heroin in WC.

Action Team Breakout Session - Pete broke up members into groups to test their knowledge on Prevention lingo. The team of Tim, Veronica and Kay matched the most terms with their definitions and were awarded Subway gift cards.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Tim at 6:05 pm