



Working together to reduce youth substance use and abuse by aligning existing resources, facilitating education, and supporting families, schools and communities.

94 River St., Rumford ME 04276 • (207) 364-7408

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River Valley Rising Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

11am Mexico Police Department

Attendance: Patty Duguay, Katie Sloma, Barb Radmore, Allie Burke, Abby Burdin, Brenna Parent, Roy Hodsdon, Sue French

Check In-

- Cookie Experiment- We had everyone at the meeting take one cookie, and only eat half. During the meeting the rest of the cookie was there on a napkin in front of them. After 30 minutes went by we told them they would now just be feeling the effects of the marijuana if the cookie was THC infused. We also had done this experiment with middle schoolers to show how scary it would be because each cookie had the equivalent of 4 joints. And what kid only has a ¼ of a cookie? This experiment was to show how easily it is for people to overdose on edibles.

RVR Updates

- National Prevention Week
 - Everyone filled out “I Choose” paper. To show that they could choose to do something healthier than drugs.
- DOT MJ Sign
 - We have reached out to MDOT and the State of Maine (file compliant). Town Manager of Rumford & Mexico, John Madigan wrote letters to the sign owner & land owner to ask them to take the signs down. May have resulted in another sign going up? Looking into getting ordinances in place with the town since the town of Mexico does not have any local sign ordinances in place.
- Medical MJ Operation near GRCC
 - Chief Hodsdon is planning to approach the Town of Mexico zoning board selectman next Thursday because there are no ordinance in place to prevent a Medical Marijuana Dispensary to pop up in town on Main Street. The town of Rumford also does not have any local zoning ordinance in place. We are trying to be proactive and regulate where care growers can set up shop. It shouldn't be around drug free zones, schools, business, and parks.

Vision: *A safe and healthy community*



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- Letter to the editors
 - Prom letters were in 3 local newspapers. We can only do one every 30 days for the Sun Journal. Planning to do another one before graduation.
- Dirigo High School Play
 - Bathers will be on May 19 at 7pm. It's a play around performance enhancing drugs. There will not be a discussion after but we will have a table there.
- Intern
 - We have a new intern in our office, Andrea Benya. She is from Mexico and went to UMF. She will be with RVHCC for the summer and will be working with Barb with the kids' summer program to come up with a PSA.

Community Update

- Bethel Area Task Force
 - Focusing on planning and branding this summer. There is a 500 dollar grant to do a town meeting around alcohol. Looking to have a Forum in the fall.
- Western Maine Addiction Task Force & Project Save ME Updates
 - We are now finding central locations to have the meetings rather than one in Rumford and one in Norway. Jeff Lang is moving on and Matt Baker is filling in. RVR is attending the meetings to try and provide prevention resources to the program. They got business cards and looking to do a website in the near future. Next meeting is June 8th at 6pm. Location TDB.
- Law Enforcement
 - Chief Hodsdon is planning to have a training in June for the Drunk/Drug Driving with the local Driver's Ed class. They have been involved in driving school, by showing students what it looks like to drive drinking or high. The students also tried and failed a sobriety test while wearing the goggles. It's only a small amount of time but being able to teach the kids the driving laws it will hold the drivers accountable.
 - Chief Hodsdon will also be participating in the Responsible Beverage Service Training course. Just waiting for the next course.

Action Plan Updates

- Hold off until next meeting

Next Meeting

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- TBD was June 15th but now conflicts with a conference in Portland

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