



## **River Valley Drug Free Youth Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** November 24, 2014

**Location:** Rumford Public Library

**Time:** 11am

**Attendance:** Brenna Parent (MVMS), Katie Sloma (TCMHS), Patty Duguay (RVHCC), Michael Webber (BJSHS), Kyle Tilsley (Maine State Police), Denise Cross (Department of Corrections), Roy Hodsdon (Mexico Police), Stacy Carter (Rumford PD), Barb Radmore (WFKA), Alyssa Hemingway (Mexico Police Explorers), Tim Fitzgerald (Mexico Police Explorers), Allie Burke (RVHCC), Kelsey Arsenaault (RVHCC)

### **DFC Updates**

The budget hasn't been finalized yet, there are still things that are being finalized and things that still need to happen. Allie and Kelsey head to DC in a few weeks (Dec. 7-10). Allie is still looking for people who are interested in going to Albany with her, those dates will be sent out to everyone. We are at the very beginning of this grant which is a slow moving train, the ultimate goal is a ten year grant, and right now we have five years. This will take time. Kelsey and Allie are starting to meet one on one with steering committee members to get more familiar with everything that's been happening and get a better idea about where the community is at.

### **Review 1X1 Packets**

1X1 Packets were passed around containing information on who the RV DFY Coalition is and what we do, as well as fact sheets, infographics, a copy of our brochure, etc. Do we need to add anything to these that would be helpful?

### **Logo, Facebook, Website**

We talked about whether or not we (the River Valley Drug Free Youth Coalition) needs to be separated or not from RVHCC (River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition). There was talk about the advantages and disadvantages of being separate, being able to find both coalitions, knowing the difference between both, links to the separate websites. It was decided that the River Valley is big enough that we can be separate but linked to each other. No one likes the name of our coalition (RV DFY). We talked about several new ideas like River Valley Unites, River Valley Inspire, River Valley Rises. River Valley is a very distinctive term for us, so it was felt that it should definitely be a part of our name. We want to change the logo as well, we're going to put it out to the public to work on, in the schools as well, for people to submit ideas. Links to our current website and Facebook will be sent out to look at, please 'like' us! We need to decide on a name because we need to create an identity for ourselves.

### **Nominations for Chairperson**

Roy Hodsdon was nominated for Chairperson and accepted the nomination.

### **Upcoming Holiday Season**

What events can we be a part of? Where can we make ourselves seen and known? Chief Carter, Chief Hodsdon, and Officer Tilsley talked about the holiday season and how the night before Thanksgiving is the worst. College students are coming home for the first time this fall and are going to the bars. Chief Carter is using extra grant money to put out patrols for more visibility. He's also putting out a press



release to inform the public about the extra patrols and try to have people plan rides home from the bars. Alyssa and Tim from the Explorers told us that the schools don't really talk about drinking during the holiday season. How can we connect with youth? It's difficult! Social media, posters work in certain locations at school, PSAs, stall talks in the bathrooms.

Allie and Kelsey want to get together with the health teachers to find out what's going on and what's being taught in the schools, and how much teaching do they get to do.

Drivers Education courses can be a way to include lessons on how marijuana impairs driving.

There was talk about next year buying an ad in the community calendar for the month of November to try and curb accidents associated to Thanksgiving drinking.

School plays, RAAPA, shows at 49 Franklin, were all ideas for places we can be seen.

### **Others**

Kelsey talked about the recent conference her and Patty attended in Hallowell, the Prevention Provider Day and the Prevention Convention, they learned some new information on marijuana, how to use social media, and made some new connections.

Upcoming in the action plan – Allie and Kelsey need to create a slideshow which will be sent out to the coalition to look at, which will be sent out to local media to advertise.

Chief Carter confirmed that the officers still have space in each school.

Barb talked about the Aspirations Task Force, their last meeting had 16 people, they're really looking at ways to raise aspirations in the youth of our community, anyone can attend these meetings, the next one is December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Med-Care.

### **Next Meeting**

We will adopt the bylaws, which will be sent to you.

Our next meeting is December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am, at the Rumford Public Library