

River Valley Rising Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2015

Location: Mexico Police Department – Conference Room

Time: 11am

Attendance: Denise Cross (Dept. of Corrections), Barb Radmore (Early Aspirations Group), Brenna Parent (MVMS), Patty Duguay (RVHCC), Stacy Carter (Rumford PD), Katie Sloma (SRAM-TCMHS), Jessie DeTris, Sandy Witas (RVHCC), Jerry Cohen (Rotary), Roy Hodsdon (Mexico PD), Kelsey Arsenault (RVR), Allie Burke (RVR).

Budget & Allie's Position Approved, Submitted Continuation Application for Year 2

A lot of things have been going on in the world of the Program Manager, our budget revision has finally been approved, and Allie is now (finally) federally approved for her position as our grant program manager! We've also submitted our continuation application for year 2, and things are moving along as they should be.

Reporting Tool – COMET

We have a big report due tomorrow (Feb. 10th) which Allie has been working on to get finished. We just received all of our 2013 MIYHS Data to enter into COMET.

Newsletter

Hopefully everyone has seen the *awesome* newsletter (creator bias). Please share on your websites and Facebook pages! If there's anything you'd like to add, any events your organization is hosting, please email me and I can add it to next month's newsletter! We want to feature someone from the coalition each month, March will be our chair and co-chair, Roy and Denise!

Logo, Facebook

Logo #5 won the votes from the survey, be looking out to see it pop up everywhere! With that being said, River Valley Rising now has a Facebook page! www.facebook.com/rivervalleyrising Please "like" our page and share it!

Elevator Speech

We went over the elevator speech that Allie worked on which is: "River Valley Rising is a coalition collaboratively working with the community to provide substance abuse prevention and education for youth and families in the River Valley area. It's RVR's common goal to reduce underage drinking and marijuana use in order to create a better, safer community for our youth to be able to focus on being healthy." We talked about how the elevator speech will definitely change depending on who you're talking to and we did a little activity to practice giving the speech. Members role played different roles in the community (parents, coaches, church officials, business owners, medical marijuana dispensers, licensed alcohol retailers), and practiced giving the speech to those different roles. One thing that came up a lot was mentioning how we're trying to change the culture within the community that underage drinking and drug use *isn't* okay. Another thing that's important to mention, depending on the person, is that we can provide resources on drinking and drug use to people, organizations, and businesses.

RSU 10 Meeting

Allie and Kelsey met with the RSU 10 A-Team (superintendent & assistant superintendent, most principals and guidance counselors) last week and had a great meeting. They played Kahoot to learn some of the data about the River Valley area. There was also a subcommittee formed to keep moving forward the relationship between RVR and the schools and to make things happen. Karen Williams will be coming to Rumford, Maine Monday, April 13th. We're hoping for a morning meeting with school staff (and other RVR members), and an evening presentation open to the public. When the time comes, we're hoping for everyone's help on getting the word out!

Other Talking Topics

We talked about getting representation from local rec centers because it's important that kids have alternatives to drugs and alcohol. Members of RVR are hearing that kids don't want to go home after school but what else is there? Transportation is a big issue.

New day/time for Meeting

Hopefully everyone got the doodle I sent out! We know that the meeting time we've been using doesn't work for some of our members. Please fill out the doodle with what days and times work for you. I know we can't accommodate everyone, but maybe there's another time that might work better for more people.

We also talked about maybe once we're bigger, we could possibly hold two meetings at different times to be more available. (We have a bright future ahead of us, just picture that River Valley sun rising!)

Next Meeting

Once the polls are in from the doodle I'll send an email out about our next meeting time and location!