



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

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## **River Valley Rising Meeting**

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 8am-9am  
49 Congress Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Introduction:** Allie Burke, Melissa Harding, Deb Alden, Denise Cross, Barb Radmore, Kat Lemieux, Sabrina LoPizzo, Brenna Parent

- **New Program Coordinator Hired:** We are pleased to welcome Melissa Harding from Rumford, ME. She will be the RVR Program Coordinator! Her e-mail address: [melissa12rvhcc@gmail.com](mailto:melissa12rvhcc@gmail.com)
- **Marijuana Presentations January 17<sup>th</sup> @MVMS:** MJ is not the same MJ of the 70's. This is an evening presentation at 6pm at the MVMS. There will be food so please join us for conversation on what marijuana looks like today.
  - MJ Presentation on December 6<sup>th</sup>, not a big turn out, but people were interested in learning more about marijuana how more potent it is today compare to the 70's. Talked a lot about edibles, etc.
- **Stall Talk- December**
  - Stall talk a big hit at the schools
  - The Civil Rights Team at the MVHS would like to create the next Stall Talk for January. MVMS Afterschool Program is also interested in creating a Stall Talk too.
- **Continuation Application for Year 5**
  - Next month RVHCC will be applying for a new federal SAMSHA grant... Community-based Coalition Enhancement Grants to Address Local Drug Crises This is a 3 year grant for the amount of \$50,000/year.
  - Criteria's- We need to make sure that our average rate of abuse for opioids or methamphetamines is higher than the national average.
  - RSU#10 (MIYHS) High School Rx is on the rise. **2015: 5.1%, 2017: 7.8%**

SWOT Analysis to answer the following question for the grant:

**1. What are the current youth opioids, prescription medication and/or methamphetamines abuse problems in your community?**

**\*Parents not available to get children to/ from school or just are not there for them**

**\*Kids afraid to leave parents because of what may happen to them.**

**\*\*\*We need more qualitative data to build on our narrative for the grant.**

**Vision:** *A safe and healthy community*



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**Threats-** legalization of marijuana, making drugs normalized, social norms, easy to access, people moving to the area from out of town creates access to substances, parents not thinking its a problem.

**Weakness-** RVHCC (capacity) Not as strong as they once were in the community, absentee parents, limited mental health services, poverty, idea that it 'happen heer, shop in town.

**Opportunities-** lots of funding, after school programs, community groups,

**Strengths-** after school programs, ACES work, Oxford wellness, church, school, staff that care, local coalitions, law enforcement, community members

#### **I. Community Update(s)**

- **Western Maine Addiction Task Force & Project Save ME Updates**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Western Foothills Kids Association**
- **Oxford County Wellness Collaborative**
- **UNE & Healthy Communities Coalition Preventive Services:** Prime for life” Jan 20th 8am-12 pm Franklin Memorial Hospital. Designed for people that who are making high risk choices. Change drinking and drug use behaviors by changing beliefs, attitudes, risk perceptions. Can sign up or be referred from schools, parents, LE, etc.
- **Oxford County Resiliency Project:** The OCRP resiliency survey data is in.
  - **90%** of middle school students in Oxford County stated that they have at least one adult in my life that believes in me.
  - **62%** of middle school students in Oxford County like school.
  - **52%** of middle school students in Oxford County are involved in one or more afterschool activity or hobby.

Future Meeting Dates: Location to be determined

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Thank you for continued support and commitment to RVR!

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