



**Meeting called by:** Executive Committee

**Type of meeting:** Quarterly Meeting

**Facilitator:** Gisela Rots

**Note taker:** Mary Amato

**Attendees:** Violet, Sam, Taylor, Angel (TADAA members); Lovelee Heller, Mike Frutkoff, Marsha Lazar, Frank Connelly, Gisela Rots, Sarah Kretman, Stacy Carruth, John Frasier, Lt. Leonard DiPietro, Christina Giacobbe, Daniel Trujillo, Ryan Travia, Mike George, Fred Berman, Stephanie Ackert, Jamie Pianka, Jay Staizynski, Mary Amato, Janie Kritzman, Chandra Banks

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## **Minutes**

**Agenda item:** Welcome and Announcements

**Discussion:** New

- The Regional Center for Healthy Communities will be hosting a training on opioids and other drugs on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-1:00. Visit [www.healthier-communities.org](http://www.healthier-communities.org) for more information or to register.

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**Agenda item:** CPC Sub-Committee Updates

**Presenter:** Mary, Frank, Gisela

**Discussion:** Informational

- The Opioid Overdose Prevention Project is in the process of developing curricula to use in their workshops. Their main target groups for these workshops are friends and family of people who are at risk for overdose and providers who work with people who are at risk. Another goal of the project is to create a tool that will track overdose trends in Cambridge.
- The Environmental Strategies Committee has been conducting scans of alcohol advertisements around Cambridge. Also they have been working with TADAA on the sticker shock campaign.
- The 3 City Collaborative, a partnership between Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville that addressed prescription drug abuse, with funding from the Office of the Attorney General, has completed its project. The 3 cities are in the process of exploring ways they can continue to work together. The PSA that was created by teens working on this project over the summer has been nominated for an award by Somerville Community Access TV.

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**Agenda item:** Teen Health Survey Data Presentation

**Presenter:** Gisela

**Discussion:** Update

- The 2007-2008 alcohol and other drug stats were presented, as was a summary of the results.
- Questions raised during presentation:
  - When the survey asks about "other drugs," can we see the answers for each specific substance?
  - Do trends change over the course of the school year?

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**Agenda item:** TADAA Presentation

**Presenter:** TADAA Youth Leaders

**Discussion:** Informational

- TADAA Youth gave an update of their current projects, including sticker shock and a social marketing project.
- For the social marketing project, they are getting other leaders at the school involved, and are also looking for donations toward an iPod Touch to raffle off as a prize to those who participate.
- Questions raised during presentation:
  - How has the sticker shock project been received among licensees?
  - TADAA youth report that it has been generally well received- no one has refused to participate.

**Agenda item:** Update from Cambridge Police Dept.

**Presenter:** Leonard DiPietro and Christina Giacobbe

**Discussion:** Update

Marijuana Law Update:

- There have been a lot of questions about how new marijuana law will be implemented.
- The issue in Cambridge is that some ordinances will have to be passed and go into effect in order to support the legislation that was passed.
- The police have to make sure they stay within the law when enforcing these ordinances.
- The police dept. has created a draft of the protocol that they will use, and they will begin in-service training of officers beginning in March.
- A priority is creating a consistent message.
- Some parts of the protocol may mirror the smoking (cigarettes) ordinances - but needs a little more direction.
- The police will still be following the same guidelines around probable cause, searches, etc; but there are outstanding questions: How much is an ounce? How do you measure that in the field?
- As always, arrest doesn't have to happen right away - if marijuana is confiscated and turns out to be more than an ounce, they can issue a warrant. Also, if anyone is arrested for possession and it turns out to be less than an ounce, they will be released immediately.
- One issue some people have with this new law is that if people who are on probation are cited for having less than an ounce, there is no notice sent to their probation officer.
- The difference in this law between adults and juveniles is that police will notify parents, and the youth is required to attend a substance use education course within a year, or the fine goes from \$100 to \$1000.
- DYS is in charge of the education courses, but so far there is no information about these courses or what they will look like. If a youth is cited for possession of less than an ounce but there is no course available, then there is no penalty for not taking it.
- The penalties for this law do not get stronger for repeat offenders, and there is language in the law that says a person cannot be punished in other ways for getting caught. However, the rules in student handbooks and documents like that may mean that a student can be suspended, etc if they are caught at school. Same principle applies to an employee who works at a drug-free work place. Not sure how that would all work.
- DYS might decide to approve other agencies to offer required course for youth - could include the diversion program. Not sure.
- The city keeps the revenue from tickets issued. The police are working on a reporting system for these offences.
- In conclusion, there are still a lot of questions and uncertainties surrounding this law and the way it will change or be enforced.

Diversion Program Update

- The diversion program was started on December of 2007 - has expanded to include 11 staff total as of January 2009.
- Designed with the principle that there is a difference between "bad kids" and "good kids who make bad choices."
- Participants can be up to age 22 (as long as they attend Cambridge Schools) and have committed a crime-

mostly minor- though participation in the program is decided on a case by case basis.

- A plan is created based on their needs- can include therapy, drug testing, community service plans, etc.
- There is a partnership with the Cambridge Health Alliance- there is a large occurrence of mental health issues.
- Also partnering with DHSP teen centers and afterschool programs.
- There is also a diversion program available through the Middlesex D.A.'s office.
- There will be hard numbers included in an upcoming annual report.
- Any involvement in the diversion program means that it will not be used against the person in court.
- A home visit is always required- try to involve the family if possible.
- Youth not ending up with a record and receiving needed services are key to this program.
- Program is one way to formalize communication between youth service agencies, though some casual interactions happen, too.
- Other questions/issues:
  - The committee would like more specifics around youth lock up.
  - The diversion program is always looking for more community service opportunities for youth.

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### Next Meetings

<b>CPC</b>	(3:15-5:15 344 Broadway)
<b>Quarterly</b>	March 19, 2009
<b>Meetings:</b>	June 18, 2009
	October 15, 2009