**Marijuana Prevention Task Force**

**Minutes for August 24, 2017**

Present: Norm McCumiskey, Michael Foster, Krystle Blencowe, Colleen Banik, Jerry Bennett, Laura Vetter, Matt Jones, Amanda Chafee and Sunnie Smith

1. Marijuana Project Update – Norman gave members an update on the two meetings the subcommittee had in July. Marijuana curriculum ideas to affect students include the following: having a DRE explain how mj effects driving skills, having a person from treatment (Kinship) explain how marijuana impacted their life, have a drug counselor talk about how mj is addicting, have someone (possibly National Guard) talk about having a drug conviction can impact their life, having someone from industry talk about employer drug testing. Mike suggested having someone from the medical field talk about mj’s impact on brain development. This subcommittee plans to meet again in September.
2. Book Markers and Magnets – Norman discussed having these two items printed with prescription medicine information for Steuben County. It was suggested we have both items created and printed in time for National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. Amanda suggested we try to have students create the book markers and magnets. If these can’t be developed by October, then we create a flyer to be disseminated.
3. Marijuana Position Paper – Norman reviewed that our argument against the legalization of recreational marijuana in New York State was a resolution that was voted on and passed by our county legislatures.
4. Key Informant Interviews – Norman explained that our coalition will be conducting Key Informant Interviews with adults in our communities. The questions presented are very similar to those asked to students last year. Once the questions are finalized we will be asking for volunteers to help conduct the interviews.
5. 2017-2018 Marijuana Action Plan – Members reviewed and discussed the strategies in our Action Plan. It was suggested we reach out to our county Health Educators to ask their students for suggestions for strategies for reducing marijuana use by youth. Other highlights included expanding our DITEP program to offer a modified version of the two-day program to other groups such as DSS and Probation, those in the Alfred University and Corning Community College counseling programs. Krystle suggested we do a one hour presentation at the Inspire Conference (Spring of 2018) about DITEP. Suggestions for reaching out to groups such as the Kiwanis, insurance companies (Nationwide Prom Promise), and dance groups for donations to the Youth Action forum.
6. Adult Perception Survey – Norman reported that we have almost reach our goal of having 250 adults participate in this year’s survey.
7. Coalition Survey – to be discussed at our coalition meeting next month.
8. NYS Medical Marijuana Update – Jerry gave an update on the new provisions to state’s Med. Mar. Law. Some new provisions include doubling the number of grow sites from 5 to 10, allowing NP and PA’s to now write patient recommendations for med. Mj, reduce the number of hours to become certified as a medical professional to write recommendations from 4 hours to two hours, and now include chronic pain to the ten other ailments for which patients can now get a recommendation for med. mj.