

BILLERICA SUBSTANCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION COMMITTEE



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Dina M Favreau, *Chair*

Darlene Torre, Vice Chair
John F Gray Jr, Treasurer
Dan Viola, Secretary
Joanne Barry
Bobby Simmons

RECEIVED
2025 JAN - 8 PM 2:17
TOWN CLERK
Billerica
John Kleschinsky
Erik Szymanski
Bernie McCann
Angela Caira

Billerica Substance Abuse Committee

Minutes

Sept 11, 2024 5:00pm

Evelyn Haines Conference Room

Hybrid

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/sC8tLrxdhpB-glNrjAZCtQ9j-SiG_2lw/playlists/10217/media/900646?autostart=false&showtabssearch=true&fullscreen=false&key=sC8tLrxdhpB-glNrjAZCtQ9j-SiG_2lw

In attendance: Chair, D Favreau, D Torre, E Szymanski, J Barry, B McCann, J Gray (via Zoom), D Viola (via Zoom), B Simmons, J Kleschinsky (via Zoom) and M Delucia & M Higgins (non-voting members) **Absent:** A. Caira

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm by Chair Dina Favreau.

Daniel Darris-O'Connor indicated to the Chair that his name was missed during roll call. Favreau indicated that he is no longer a voting member of this Committee and as a result, his name is not called. He is welcome to stay and participate but he cannot vote. Daniel feels that per the Town Clerk's office he is a member until 2026. He was very vocal about being a voting member and the Chair asked him nicely more than 4 times to settle down or please leave the meeting. He was called out of order and bringing up items that are not on the agenda. Darris-O'Connor refused to vacate his seat even after being asked to step out in the hall to have a discussion by members Officer Bobby Simmons and Bernie McCann. Daniel kept insisting on being recognized and exercising his right to vote. He asked the Chair to adjourn the meeting if he went out in the hall which she refused to do. McCann & Simmons still made several requests for Darris-O'Connor to have a conversation in the hallway and he refused. B. Simmons radioed to BPD and requested officer assistance. Two uniformed officers came to the meeting room and asked Daniel again to come in the hallway and have a conversation to which he still refused numerous times and insisted on participating in the meeting. BPD asked Favreau what she would like done to which she said she would like him to leave since he is disrupting the meeting and not allowing us to continue. D. Torre suggested a 2-minute recess to allow for a hallway conversation to occur. Motion made by Torre for 2-minute recess and seconded by J Barry. Daniel still refused to leave as a vote was not taken. Darris-O'Connor finally left with the threat of being charged with Trespassing and was detained by BPD. 2-minute timer was set.

Meeting resumed at 5:16 pm. B McCann & B Simmons still in hallway with Darris-O'Connor.

5:18pm memo received at 3:43pm on 9/10/24 from the Town Clerk was read by D. Favreau confirming the dissolution of the BYAC committee which removed Darris-O'Connor as a voting member of BSAP.

5:19 Announcements....24/25 meeting dates have been posted in the Town Clerk's office & provided to all members. 2nd Wed of every month @ 5:00pm

5:20pm Approval of Aug minutes...M. Delucia questioned why he was not listed on the attendance portion of the minutes. Giordano explained to him that attendance is listed for the voting members of the committee which was confirmed by J Barry. M Delucia feels insulted and that his omission is a "slap in the face". Giordano stated that confirmation of this process would be verified with the Town Manager's office tomorrow. Motion to approve the August minutes made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Vote taken 7-0 yes

5:23 update on historical documented minutes for this committee. Favreau has been working with the Town Clerk's office relating to appointments over the years. During this process it was learned that the last 3 Secretaries were not filing the completed minutes with the Clerk's office. Favreau compiled all meeting minutes from 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024 and submitted them to the Town Clerks office. Reminders were sent to the previous Secretaries to ensure that the minutes were filed with the Clerk's office, but it was not done. The Clerk's office has assured Favreau that she will reach out if the minutes are not received moving forward.

5:24 Treasurers Report.... J Gray's figures differ a bit from the figures provided from P Watson's office (Town Accountant). Current Balance is \$38,990.49 in acct ending in xxx40 and \$20,000 in the Grant account ending in xxx91 Total = \$63,990.49. Motion to accept balance in account 40 provided by P Watsons office of \$43,990.49 made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted yes 7-0

5:32 Yankee Doodle.... supplies have been ordered. Everything will be set up in the M Higgins' office for Yankee Doodle pick up. Favreau is not available but she will make sure that everything is there and ready so that set up can happen. Do we have enough volunteers to assist? D Viola is available and M Delucia can be available in the morning. Set up by 10:00 am is needed on 9/21. All ordered supplies have been received and will be organized for pick up. D Torre gave details for set up and location for set up & parking will be sent via email. D Favreau will go to table after the parade. Sand Art will be available with supplies being donated by D Torre. D Viola can be available all day and has a truck that can be loaded up. Favreau will provide all the info to Viola & Delucia once she receives it from the Yankee Doodle Committee. J Barry suggested that Viola & Delucia exchange phone #s so that they can coordinate set up.

5:39 Speaker Vetting Committee...unable to address as B McCann is still in the hallway with Darris-O'Connor. Favreau will reach out to McCann about getting this coordinated.

5:39 Monthly Overdose stats for August. 1 non-fatal and 9 At Risk Referrals. Numbers are trending down.

5:40 Naloxone update...State approved Narcan kits. Board of Health office via Krystle Bennett has ordered the kits. It is the hope that they are available for Yankee Doodle so that they can be handed out for those who need them. D Torre...do we have a method to notify people that these will be available. Torre also asked if we have bags available for people to put these in so that they have some privacy and are not walking around with the kit if they don't feel comfortable. Favreau waiting for K Bennett to provide ETA before a statement being released to the public and we have our BSAP bags available to anyone who visits our table. Favreau also confirmed that Narcan kits will be made available at Town Hall in the Clerk's office and the Tax Office. They will be on the counter like the CV19 tests. We are also looking into installing emergency boxes similar to the AED boxes in the building, library & BATV. D Torre...Lynn has boxes throughout the town so that people can get Narcan anonymously when needed. Could we see if people are willing to put these on their property? Favreau...not a bad idea, we can do some community outreach.

5:42 B. Simmons and B. McCann rejoin the meeting.

5:43 Well Hub App...contract has been provided to all so that terms & requirements as requested could be reviewed. Any objections to Favreau executing the Well Hub App contract? M Delucia asked if the contract needed to be reviewed by Town Counsel. Favreau indicated that she has to sign it and then bring it to P Watson's office for review of the terms. D Torre...how will we figure out if Billerica is looking at the items within the app and not others that may have been given the access code? Favreau knows that some analytics were requested but cannot answer her specific question. Motion to approve for Favreau to sign Well Hub App contract made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted yes 9-1

5:49 Supplies covered while discussing Yankee Doodle. T-Shirts and book bags were all given out at summer block party. New shirts have been ordered with our new logo.

5:51 Agenda books...J Barry both bills came in for Locke & Marshall. J Gray confirmed that both Marshall & Locke invoices were received and paid. BSAP designs prevention material messaging and resource contact material to go into the agenda books that are distributed to Middle School students. We are not paying for school supplies, we are sponsoring the books because we are providing a service to the community through this medium. We have sponsored the agenda books since 2022 so that substance prevention material can get out to the public

5:53 Fall prevention forum...Favreau reached out to 2nd Act for their play titled; I'll Never Do That. This is a play presented by a previously used resource called Improbable Players. This play is being highlighted at the State House tomorrow 9/11. This would be a great Fall forum idea. Do we want to have this during the school day or as an evening forum. D Torre...if we do this during the school day as an assembly there will be better attendance. Evening events are not well attended. Football coaches and a teacher have made attendance mandatory in the past but unless they are going to get extra credit the students don't come and neither do the parents. It doesn't seem to matter what we offer. B McCann...agrees that unless it is done in the school attendance is low. Chelmsford tried to do something through the library and still had a lower than expected turn out. Favreau feels that student assemblies are the way but is concerned that the 8th grade being at the HS it has been difficult to target them. Favreau to McCann could we work with the HS so that we are not missing any grades. The players gave Favreau some

available dates in Oct and their fee is \$2500 each performance. The more programming that is included the lower the cost. McCann...a lot of scheduling has been done for the Fall already, might they have availability later in the year? Favreau said yes, they are. J Barry...viewed the play provided and thought it was very good and thinks it would be a good idea to reach out to some of the schools that have had this presentation for feedback on how it worked out to them. M Delucia...feels it is too late for this year. Well attended event with Patriots player was done in the past. Now we don't want to hire anyone with a name. It takes months of preparation to have something that people will attend. Favreau...she tried to get someone back in June, but it was tabled by certain members wanting to create a Speaker Vetting Subcommittee, which then did not meet to provide feedback and direction to the full committee. Delucia...feels that we need to get rid of the mentality that we don't want to spend the money. We need to do something to entice people to attend. D Torre suggested to M Delucia that they work together to develop a list of speaker options for the future. J Barry.... If the presentation is in the schools then we do not need to advertise. It's not open to the public. Favreau...we would post flyers in the schools and to McCann, can it be posted on the BPS website, and we can also use the Well Hub App. He will also discuss with Angela about having the assembly at Shawsheen Tech HS as well. Favreau will get dates that the schools have available and then coordinate with the speakers.

6:06 Overdose Vigil 3rd Sunday of October. Should we keep the scheduled timeline and who is available to help? Start time of 6:00 and all format to remain the same. Motion made by D Torre for Overdose Vigil for 10/20/24 @ 6:00 and seconded by E Szymanski. M Higgins is available. E Szymanski will speak to the Fire Chief to get the bell again. Favreau will ask some Billerica families effected to speak. M Higgins suggested Heather Cooper and J Barry suggested Katherine Adams.

6:11 Budget Plan for 24/25.... Last year's meeting discussion minutes and recorded votes were sent to all current members as a point of reference. Accounts numbers have changed since the agenda was typed. Fall prevention budget number to be bumped up to \$7500 or higher of Shawsheen Tech is involved if we move forward with the play discussed earlier.

Motion to set 24/25 budget for the student prevention series at the middle and high schools at \$10,000 made by Torre and seconded by Barry. Voted 9-0 yes.

Motion to set 24/25 overdose vigil budget set at \$2500 made by Torre and seconded by Barry. Voted 9-0 yes.

Spring prevention forum set at \$2500. J Barry suggested increasing the budget to \$10,000 so that we can have a speaker at the event. Motion to increase the 24/25 Spring Prevention forum budget to \$10,000 made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Voted 9-0 yes

25/26 Agenda Books bumped up to \$7500 because this year's invoices were higher than years past. E Szymanski...is there a cost change if content is added. Favreau said that content should be updated. McCann...said that if pages are not increasing within the book it would not be a factor in the price increase but that if we need to increase the order because we have more students that would be a factor D Torre...asked if McCann can bring an agenda book to the next meeting so that everyone could see what they look like. J Barry...suggests that the number increase to \$8500 just to cover it and we would hate to not have enough money. Favreau

suggested \$8000. Motion for 25/26 agenda books to be set at \$8000 made by Torre and seconded by Barry. Vote taken 9-0 yes.

Motion for 2025 Yankee Doodle supplies be set at \$5000 made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted 9-0 yes

Website Re-design...we never got to execute on this last year, so funds are already allocated and to be carried over from the 23/24 budget. McCann...do we have someone in mind to create the new site? At one point we thought about using the same person who did the Sabrina Best site. D Torre...Interim Town Manager mentioned that the Town is looking at updating their website. Could we piggyback on that and share some costs? Favreau...the town site will be upwards of \$60,000 and because BSAP has our own independent site we are going to migrate that into the Town site. Motion for \$5500 website redesign made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Voted 9-0 yes

6:22 Unrestricted Grant account...this account # has also changed ending in xxx20. Balance is \$25,000 according to P Watson's office. High Risk After School Program started before Covid hit and were looking at different models to put in place. This is why the grant is still sitting. Favreau has spoken with D Grubbs of Billerica Recreation, he is 100% on board with partnering with us on this and has some resource ideas. We will hopefully have this up and running for next year. With the unrestricted grant we can fund sponsorship with our non-profits. She would open the discussion for a sponsorship to Justin's Voice which just had their annual fundraiser. D Torre...Where did the extra \$5000 come from in the account? Favreau...This was from the domestic violence emergency account that BPD did not end up using. B Simmons... with the behavioral health unit there was some assistance with hotels when needed. Favreau did not include it as she was not sure if or how BPD intended on using the funds. She thought that if BPD was not going to use the money it could be rolled into the after-school program.

Motion to approve \$1500 sponsorship to Justin's Voice. E Szymanski...what is Justin's Voice? J Barry...non-profit that helps parents get their children into recovery. They have a golf tournament every year. They provide sober housing placement. Unfortunately, we missed their annual fundraiser. Seconded by E Szymanski. Voted 8-0 with 1 member abstaining (Barry).

Sabrina Best Foundation.... assists women get treatment. Sabrina was a Billerica resident who died due to overdose and host an annual whiffle ball tournament which we have provided sponsorship for the past 2 years. Motion to approve \$2500 sponsorship to Sabrina Best Foundation made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Voted 9- yes.

Hopes Room Team Sharing Inc...Benevolent Care, grief support, peer support by parents who have experienced loss. They have trailer that looks like a room called Hope's Room and come to all events whenever they are asked. Motion for \$1000 sponsorship to Hopes Room Team Sharing made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Vote taken 9-0 yes.

Motion for \$15,000 set for High Risk After School Program made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted 9-0 yes

6:29 open for public comment

Carol Reardon...wanted to comment about having an IEP presenter. There is a huge connection between childhood trauma and IEP and substance use. She disagrees with some of the rhetoric that has been going around about the connection between education/IEP support and what eventually happens. Understanding the difference between anxiety, ADHD, PTSD and how these are approached are very different. The first point of contact is extremely important. If you understand where these kids are coming from, we can help them better.

Brenda Rischer...works at South Bay House of Correction as discharge planner. 90% have underlying mental health issues of bipolar & schizophrenia. The formative years do not look like these diagnoses. In her conversation with them she must also ask about drug & alcohol abuse. The average age of starting crack cocaine & heroin is 13 to 15. These kids while in school look like they have ADHD and turn to substances. Her son is a victim of marijuana use and he finally realized that he needs treatment. Not everyone responds to marijuana equally. For some, marijuana is 500% more likely to cause mental illness. Marijuana is not as innocent as it used to be. Many kids have no one at home and are on an IEP.

C Reardon...it's important to think outside the box when getting new speakers in.

6:42 Reorg of the board.

Motion to open nominations for Chair made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry Voted 9-0 yes. Nomination to appoint D Favreau as Chair made. No other nominations were made for other members for Chair. Motion to close nomination for Chair made by D Torre & seconded by J Barry. Voted 9-0 yes. Motion made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry to appoint D. Favreau as Chair. Voted 9-0 yes.

Motion to open nominations for Vice Chair made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Voted 9-0 yes. Nomination to appoint D Torre as Vice Chair made by J Barry. Motion to close nomination for Vice Chair made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry Voted 9-0 yes. Motion was made by J Barry and seconded by E Szymanski to appoint D. Torre as Vice Chair. Voted 9-0 yes.

Motion to open nominations for Treasurer made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted 9-0 yes. Nomination to appoint J. Gray as Treasurer made by D. Torre. No other nominations were made for other members for the Treasurer. Motion to close nomination for Treasurer made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted 9-0 yes Motion made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski to appoint J. Gray as treasurer. Voted 9-0 yes.

Motion to open nominations for Secretary made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. D Torre nominated J Barry who declined. D Favreau nominated D Viola who asked what was needed. Dan was told that since there is a recording secretary there is not much needed to which he accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made for other members as Secretary. Motion to close nomination for Secretary made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted 9-0 yes. Motion to appoint Dan Viola as Secretary made by D Torre and seconded by E Szymanski. Voted 9-0 yes.

6:48 J Barry asked for the board to have a moment of silence in honor of 9/11.

6:49 Motion to adjourn made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Voted 9-0 yes