



BILLERICA SUBSTANCE ABUSE 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

John Kleschinsky
Erik Szymanski
Bernie McCann
Angela Caira

Billerica Substance Abuse Committee

Minutes

December 11, 2024 5:00pm
Evelyn Haines Conference Room
Hybrid

NEED TO ADD MEETING LINK

In attendance: Chair, D Favreau, J Barry, J Gray (via Zoom), B McCann (via Zoom), B Simmons (via Zoom) and M Delucia & M Higgins(non-voting members)

Absent: A Caira, D Viola, D Torre, J Kleschinsky, E Szymanski

Meeting called to order at 5:16 pm by Chair Dina Favreau & opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. No quorum present so meeting will be an information session only.

Roll Call

5:16 Announcement...Narcan is now available via public boxes. There is currently a box at the Town Hall entrance and one will be added to the COA and Library this week.

5:17 Heather from the Sabrina Best Foundation is present to talk about the Wrap Party being held at the Elks on 12/15. The event is 5 to 9 PM, there will be 4 speakers. There is \$250 spent on each child and Mom's are encouraged to come & wrap gifts donated for their children. There will be Catering provided by What the Fork and DJ Anthony will be there too. J Barry asked if they needed help wrapping to which Heather replied that anyone can come & join.

5:19 Correction needed to Nov minutes. J Kleschinsky seconded the motion made regarding the donation to the Sabrina Best Foundation.

5:20 J Gray provided the Treasurer's numbers. D Favreau indicated that the Town funds for 2025 must be included. This brings the current figures to \$25,994.35 in the Town account and \$20,000 in the Grant account for a total of \$45,994.35

5:22 Updates

RECEIVED
2025 JAN -9 PM 2:17
TOWN CLERK
BILLERICA

B McCann indicated that the committee for the Speaker vetting is still waiting to set a date to meet.

B McCann waiting on the school principals for available dates to set School Speaker presentations by 2nd Act

D Favreau asked b McCann if he had a chance to review the Well Hub spreadsheet yet to which he answered yes & it looks good. B. McCann asked if Rob @ Well Hub is looking for us to add to that spreadsheet? D Favreau answered in the affirmative & that Rob is looking for Billerica specific links/info/resources (add tabs w/links to the spreadsheet). B McCann will gather links that they are currently using in the schools. D Favreau asked M Higgins & B Simmons if there is anything they would like to see added as well and they will let us know.

5:26 November Stats provided by B Simmons

13 Total Incidents	2 Non-Fatal
11 At Risk (alcohol)	0 Fatal

Full year stats for 2024 will be available at the next meeting. Thu 11/18/24 there have been 8 fatal and 19 non-fatal incidents.

M Higgins reported that there is a batch effecting a few areas with additives. Nothing has been sent out to the Town yet but they are keeping an eye on things.

M DeLucia asked if it is known when the rise in incidents occur is it around the holidays? M Higgins answered that it is all month & not just the holidays as you would expect. Unless the ambulance is called or called in to 911, we do not know about the incident. M DeLucia indicated that he has noticed increased attendance at the 12 Step meetings so he was just curious. M Higgins indicated that alcohol abuse is certainly higher over the holidays & he will look @ more specific stats over this years upcoming holidays. Police will start monitoring mental health which usually goes along with alcohol usage.

D Favreau added that our numbers are lower by 6 non-fatal & believes that the availability of Narcan has had a positive result. We are unfortunately remaining the same with our fatality numbers. Our at risk calls have increased by 12%. The SIMS report shows behavioral for this year is trending upward and M Higgins believes that they are doing well with the follow ups.

5:32 Prevention forum follow up with B McCann. Principals are trying to coordinate dates so that the presenters do not need to come out tow times.

5:38 No new business.

5:30 J Barry suggested that every9one head to the library to see the great basket that BSAP but together along with all the other raffles there. She is pleased to say that it looks like our basket has lots of tickets in there!

5:39 Meeting ended – Merry Christmas to All