



BILLERICA SUBSTANCE AWARENESS COMMITTEE

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Dina M Favreau, *Chair*

Darlene Torre
Joanne Barry
Dan Viola
John F Gray Jr

John Kleschinsky
Erik Szymanski
Bernie McCann
Angela Caira

RECEIVED
2025 FEB 25 11:01 AM
TOWN CLERK
BILLERICA

Billerica Substance Awareness Committee

Minutes

January 8, 2025

Hybrid

Can be Viewed: <https://www.batvinc.org/vodchannels.html>

Present: D Favreau, J Barry, D Viola, D Torre, B Simmons, A Caira (zoom), J Gray (zoom), B McCann (zoom), E Szymanski (zoom), J Kleschinsky (zoom @ 5:10) and M Higgins (non-voting member via zoom)

5:03 Meeting called to order by Chair, Dina Favreau

Roll Call

5:05 Motion to accept December minutes made by J Barry & seconded by J Gray. Voted yes 9-0

5:06 .Treasurers Report...J Gray. Current combined balance in both accounts is \$25,215.98 which includes 2024 expenses. Motion to accept Treasurers report made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Voted yes 10-0

5:07 Committee Reports. D Favreau asked if there are any updates on the sub committee meeting being scheduled or taking place? D Torre said that she will connect with B McCann this week to set something up.

5:08 Monthly Figures....B Simmons December figures are as follows;

8 Total	3 Non-Fatal OD
4 At Risk	1 Fatal *Narcan dispensed but did not work*

2024 Figures

128 Total	24 Non-Fatal	1 Behavioral
94 At Risk	9 Fatal	

Not sure which category the Behavioral should be placed in. This category is new to SIMS. Hopefully we can add an officer to service this area of need in the future. M Higgins indicated that our Town does not have a Behavioral Health Officer. Of the 7 Cities/Towns in the grant we are the only one with a Substance Abuse Officer. He is sitting with the Chief on how Behavioral Health can be incorporated. J Barry...thanks

to Higgins & Simmons for what they do for our community. M Higgins will look at past annual figures and supply a 5 year look back at next months meeting.

5:13 Well Hub App update...B McCann has a list of resources the schools use. Concerned about building the app for them. D Favreau explained that we are not building it for him, Rob just wanted a list of resources that Billerica uses so that it can be tailored to the Town. B McCann will send that list to Rob @ Well Hub directly.

5:14 School Speakers...2nd Act. B McCann has confirmed that the school Principals have requested the week of March 10th. He is trying to coordinate with the schools so that the group doesn't have to come out to Billerica multiple times. A Caira...what are the target grades? B McCann indicated that they are going to the 7th grades at the Locke & Marshall Middle Schools as well as the 8th grade at the High School. A Caira indicated that it is academic week for the 9th graders at Shawsheen Tech but that she would ask the Principal for approval. It could possibly be approved for the 10th grade since they are in shop week for the week of the 10th. B McCann will send dates to D Favreau once they have been determined. D Favreau asked B McCann if he needed any assistance from the Committee. B McCann indicated that he didn't think that we were doing the Student Project piece. D Favreau replied that it is something that we can coordinate we should as she feels it is an important. She never removed it from the agenda so for that reason she is not aware that it was not being done this year. B McCann suggested an open contest to get more participation. D Torre feels that the students will not participate unless it is a required part of the curriculum/class. Perhaps we can try to get interest via the sports teams? D Favreau asked if it was the time frame or resources that are the hold back? B McCann replied that the Marshall is done with their health program & Locke will start theirs this month. We would run into this issue whether the presentation was done earlier in the school year as well since the middle schools have their health class in separate semesters. D Favreau feels the project is importance as the message resonates a bit more with the student. A Caira suggested a PSA type of theme such as a Tic Tok message as that is what the teens are attached to. She does not feel that the Shawsheen Tech students would participate as interest in contests is fading. D Favreau...said that is a good idea and perhaps ST could go the tech route. E Szymanski, D Viola & B Simmons...all deferred to the boards experience in this matter as they are all newer to the board. However they feel (being parents of teens) that if the student doesn't want to do it they are not going to do so. Very hard to make them participate. J Kleschinsky...did think that the project piece was tabled as the presentation was not being done in a public forum. He feels that all schools should be included and it makes sense to have it as part of the health class. D Favreau...will look back at minutes to check but feels that there is a bigger impact when the students have involvement. A Caira...she only attended 1 poster contest in the past and they were great but she didn't feel that it had an impact on the night. Why does the project need to happen with the presentation? Can it be separate? M Higgins...the original reason for the project was an attempt to get parent involvement. But there was very little parent involvement due to after school commitments etc. D Torre...can parents zoom in to the presentation? Perhaps there would be more participation if they didn't need to go anywhere? She does not think that we will get what we are looking for with a contest. Need to think of another avenue to get increased participation. Need to find a way to entice or mandate participation at the Middle & Elementary levels. D Favreau...parents were provided a link to past presentations. Not sure it was a live feed but it was definitely a recording. Not sure if we can tell how many actually watched using the link. She agrees with Darlene that we need to think outside the school department as much of it falls upon Bernie. M Higgins...We need to ask is it our fault and are we trying enough? It is not our fault that we cannot get youth participation and we are doing all we can. He suggests doing mini-field days at the schools where there is a short message and then a cook-out. He feels that this could be done at the MMS and LMS schools very easily. D Favreau asked how can the Board support B McCann to get the students involved. B McCann indicated that he will speak with the Health teachers and give their feedback prior to the February meeting to the Chair. A Caira suggested reaching out to the English teachers as well or even the Science teachers to which B McCann said that it is a possibility.

5:43 New Business

D Favreau had the opportunity to visit the Recovery Cafe in Lowell recently with Peer Recovery Support Services. She is excited that this will be coming to Billerica to offer another level of assistance to our residents. It's potential location is in the Masonic Temple in the Center. D Torre asked about the timeline for this to get started and Favreau is not certain but definitely this year. D Viola asked if BSAP will have a hand in the cafe to which Favreau answered yes as we will need people with life experiences to help there. Town Manager C Main is very excited about this as different demographics need different levels of support. The cafe can be a place for Parents, Grief, Teens etc.. Lowell is sending C Main their model and the group will also tour the Cafe in Malden. There are two different models; Recovery Center & Recovery Cafe. We are looking at the Recovery Cafe model. D Torre feels that the Cafe will go over well with the youth since it is not in a church setting. E Szymanski asked where the funding for this will be coming from to which D Favreau confirmed that the funds will come from the opioid settlement funds. Lowell is funded via a non-profit. Our cafe would be the first of its kind where it is funded through municipal support. The cafe will be peer driven and we will do our best to offer what the members need/ask for/want. J Kleschinsky is thrilled that this is the path that we are taking and suggested the RISE grant for the future.

B McCann announced that the Billerica Health & Wellness Fair is returning and looking for sponsors. It will be held April 12 from 10 to 2 at the Billerica Elks. D Favreau will add to the February meeting agenda to discuss a donation from BSAP.

J Barry asked if on next months agenda it could also be added to put in an add in the school musical playbills. B McCann will ask C Dearbeck at BMHS about the specifics.

M Higgins indicated that we were -8 in the Town Hall Narcan boxes. He re-filled all the boxes and offices here at Town Hall and he will plan on doing that every Wednesday. There are 5 outside and 3 more inside boxes that we have to put up. They cannot be put on school property or on utility poles as they are not Town owned. BATV has requested a box inside their building. It was also suggested that a box be put at Vietnam Veterans Park. D Favreau is concerned about the boxes freezing outside in the Winter. It was also suggested that boxes be put in high traffic areas such as McDonalds & Speedway. B Simmons suggested a box go at the Peggy Hannon Rizza complex as there is a lot that goes on there. He also suggested Cumberland Farms and Towne Plaza as it is a popular hang out. Perhaps we can put a map on the Town website so that people can find the closest one when in crisis. D Favreau suggested asking D Jarvis from our Veterans Affairs office what the need is for the Veterans in the community. She also mentioned that the Library is excited about having a box and feels that it is an important spot to have one. D Torre asked if there is a way to notify businesses that we have these available? Maybe they would be willing to have a box on their property. M Higgins suggested hotels & J Gray suggested churches. D Favreau said that the hot spots are high traffic areas with public restrooms & does suggest that we partner with local businesses on this. J Barry asked about the food pantry to which D Favreau indicated that the Recovery Cafe will be there so they will have the Narcan already there. J Barry asked about perhaps having the food pantry provide some to those who need prior to the Cafe opening. Since it is a drive up service perhaps the Food Pantry can put on their website that Narcan is available if needed. M Higgins feels that we need to prioritize locations & go from there. We don't want to put too much out there and then not have the product to fill the boxes. We also want to make sure we get reimbursed by the businesses. D Favreau asked if there is a box going in the Counsel on Aging and indicated that a box at the VVP and PHR is a must.

6:08 Motion to adjourn made by D Torre and seconded by J Barry. Voted yes 9-0