

Andover Opiate Task Force

History:

In early January, after the death of 17 year old Kelly Johnson. The Police Chief reached out to the School Superintendant and asked to meet with her regarding the Opiate/Heroin issue in the community. They agreed that they both would have some of their senior staff to discuss the issue and see what they could do to assist the community. The first meeting was scheduled for January 27th. However due to the weather that meeting and the next scheduled meeting scheduled for February 2nd were cancelled. The first meeting was held March 12th at the Andover Police Department.

Prior to the first meeting, the Andover Police Department joined the Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition Drug Abuse Task Force. This is collaboration of five communities who will share the resources from a MOAPC Grant (**Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative**). The Department was the first Department in Essex CO to carry NARCAN back in June 2014. The Department had also held a civilian opiate overdose education class. The class instructed on what to look for during an overdose and how to administer NARCAN. There was minimal participation for the class.

Meetings

March 12, 2015 the first meeting was attended by:

Town:		School:	
Chief Keefe	PD	Dr. McGrath	Superintendent
Executive Officer Heseltine	PD	Steve Murray	HS Principal
LT Guy	PD	Rita Casper	Director of Nursing
SGT Scott	PD	Brian McNally	Dept Head/Health and Phy/Educ
Bill Fahey	AYS	Joe Yarid	Social Work District Coordinator
Glen Wilson	AYS		
Tom Carbone	DPH		
Chief Mansfield	FD		

The first meeting was talking about the issue and how to best serve the community. APD and AYS had held a drug awareness night in November 2013 that was well received. The group could build on that and hold more education, symposiums and discussions during the month of October to educate and increase awareness. The group also talked about other underlying issues that are causing drug use and abuse. The group scheduled the next meeting for April 16th, with the goal to gather information and topics for October.

April 16th:

Delilah Rivera from Lawrence/Methuen CC came to the meeting and spoke on the direction and upcoming events regarding the MOAPC grant. She stated that it appears that the grant would be used for education and awareness targeting middle school aged children. They were in the middle of collecting data then would hold some focus group meetings to see exactly where the resources would be used. The group talked scheduling and topics for October. The school was going to hold classes during school in October with some guest lecturers for students and parents. The Town talked about holding meetings and discussion at night targeting parents, grandparents and the Police Department would teach drug recognition and a drug 101 class. The next meeting was scheduled for May 14th.

May 14th:

In May the group tried to narrow the scope and so they could focus efforts on what could be done. The School stated that they were going to continue to look into classes and guest speakers. The Town started to push out more PSA's via Social Media and would work with Elder Services and AYS to hold Lectures and talks on Opiate addiction and prevention and awareness. We then needed to look at the schedule and see what dates worked. The meeting ended earlier than usual due to a school meeting. Next meeting was set for June 11, 2015.

June 11:

The School Department had two new members come to the meeting. Both were Health Teachers one from the high school and one from Doherty middle school. *That meeting seemed to turn more towards the school curriculum than Opiate Abuse. It seemed to bring more issues into the meeting than what the group was originally formed to do.* The next meeting was scheduled for July 9th.

July 9th:

Worked on scheduling for October with Topics. Next meeting scheduled for July 30th.

July 30th:

Had to cancel and reschedule to August 20th.