

Health and Human Services Advisory Council

Minutes

June 6th, 2017

In attendance: Council Members: Deborah Youngblood, Aric Parnes, Bradley Barnes, Lisa Terrizzi, Indira Desai, Asa Fanelli, Michelle Freshman, Matt Stafford, Brenda Anders Pring. Also in attendance, new council applicants Kimberly Simmons and Michelle Drolsbaugh

Began the meeting asking if there specific issues council members wanted to learn more about or discuss. Lisa Terrizzi requested we discuss social media and students with particular focus on the 13 Reasons Why debate but also in general. Group discussed and we agreed to bring this back at a future meeting to determine whether HHS could help promote a parent based campaign around tighter guidelines and enforcement regarding social media and electronics use (particularly cell phones) during the school day.

A request for a discussion of the 13 Reasons Why Newton CARES event was also made. Deborah shared information on the development of that program, the way it was implemented and the follow up plan regarding supporting a campaign to Netflix to improve their inclusion of resources and guidance for vulnerable youth who may be watching the program.

A lengthy discussion followed on opioids and the work of Newton PATH followed. We discussed data around fatalities and overdoses and the resource and referral model currently being deployed in Newton as well as some potential enhancements moving forward. We specifically discussed the plans for SBIRT roll out in the schools next year, our initiative around getting resource info to residents via first responders at emergency calls, and a fall program in early planning stages tentatively designed to reach and support people struggling with loved ones who have substance use disorder.

The Newton Pride event was starting at 6:00 and the decision was made to end the meeting promptly to enable members to attend the event. The other agenda

items including Activate Newton, the 1294 Centre St project, Middle School out of school time program and the food grading tool kit were touched upon briefly by Deborah and explanations of how to get more information about each of these was shared.