

Meeting of the Franklin-Elk Municipal Alliance on February 14, 2017

Attendance: Rich Stowman, Officer Steve Casamassima, Dave Deegan, Diane Dorney, Ken Jackson and Lillian Kerr.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04PM

Minutes from January meeting were read and approved.

Dave Deegan acted as chairperson and nominated Diane Dorney to serve as chairperson (M-S-C = motion-second-carry). He then nominated Steve Casamassima to serve as vice chairperson (M-S-C), Lillian Kerr was nominated to serve as Treasurer (M-S-C), Ken Jackson was nominated to serve as Secretary (M-S-C).

Diane appointed Dave Deegan to serve as Parliamentarian.

Old Business – 1,000 Dextera bags (medicine disposal bags) were obtained from Inspira by Diane Dorney. These bags were distributed to Police Departments in Elk Township, Franklin Township and Newfield. The Alliance will also have some bags available to them. With each bag is a six question survey. It asks how many pills are being destroyed and how the system is working. The objective is to remove unused Rx drugs from the streets.

It was suggested that police officers carry Dextera bags with them to assist people they stop on the road who are on their way to dispose of the Rx drugs.

Newfield has a locked drop box and one is coming to Franklin Township. It will be monitored 24/7 by surveillance cameras. A mobile unit will be available for community events.

Dave, Diane and Ken met with Dan Cliver, video production teacher at Delsea Regional High School to discuss students producing three videos. One video would be a 30 second PSA to be shown at the school, another would be a four minute interview with Diane Dorney and either Police Chief Zimmer or a representative from the police department. An additional video would be produced to introduce the Municipal Alliance to the community. These videos will be aired on channel 9 and the township website. The purpose of these videos is to demonstrate cooperation by the Alliance and the Community in drug and alcohol awareness.

Dan Cliver offered to contact the Art Department at Delsea to request the students create a logo that would represent the Municipal Alliance.

New Business – “Coffee with the Cops” is scheduled for March 13 at the Community Center from 9-11AM. They will present the Dextera bags to let senior citizens know the risk of keeping unused drugs around the house. (Facts to note – over 22 million opioids were prescribed each year. 70% are left unused by the patient and risked being available to someone else. 30% of addicted people started with Rx drugs found in the home.)

Recovery Coaches – Diane, Lillian and Jenn Still have been trained as Recovery Coaches through City of Angels but still need to do 25 hours of shadowing in addition to 500 hours of volunteer service. They also need to take a course on ethics.

Discussion focused on a way to fast track people into recovery. Some facilities require detox first.

Dave talked about the development of a pamphlet to serve as a resource to let families know what help is available.

Rich brought up the need to proactively address the problem of drug use rather than just reactive. Officer Steve brought up the need for a School Resource Officer (SRO) to help build bond between students and officers.

Dave suggested we set parameters for allocating the funds that are available to the Alliance. Linda Lawyer will be brought into this discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Jackson, Secretary