



# Georgetown Substance Abuse Advisory Panel

Town Hall  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
(978) 352-5755

**Douglas Dawes, Chairman**  
**Pamela Lundquist, Clerk**  
**Police Chief Donald Cudmore**  
**Fire Chief Fred Mitchell**  
**Superintendent Carol Jacobs**

*Georgetown Substance Abuse Advisory Panel*  
**(the SAAP)**  
*Meeting Minutes*  
**Thursday, September 28, 2017**  
*The Perley School*

**In attendance:** Selectman Doug Dawes, Fire Chief Fred Mitchell, School Committee Vice Chair/GeorgetownCARES Pam Lundquist, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Superintendent Carol Jacobs.

Also Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello (Council of Aging), Karen Tyler (Veterans Service Officer), and members of the Georgetown Faith Community as follows:

Rev. Brent Fugate, Senior Pastor, Byfield Parish Church <http://byfieldparish.org>

Pastors Steve & Dinice Newman, By Faith Fellowship Church (on Facebook)

Pastor Lorraine Edwards, First Congregational Church

<http://www.georgetowncongregational.org>

*Meeting called to order at 10:00 A.M.*

**Re: Previous meeting's minutes** were approved by the Committee.

## **Re: Introductions & Engaging New Community Leaders**

Doug invited community leaders from the faith community, the Council on Aging, and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Everyone introduced themselves and spoke briefly about how substance abuse issues effect the people they serve. Don Cudmore said that 50% of the issues his officers deal with are connected to substance use and abuse. Fred Mitchell said that his EMTs come across overdose situations and other substance abuse-related incidents in many homes, big beautiful ones as well as smaller structures, addiction does not discriminate. Colleen R-F said that Polypharmacy (the mismanagement of multiple prescriptions for one patient) is a big issue, often caused by cognitive decline. Also that some older people self-medicate because prescription drugs cost too much. Karen Tyler indicated that some veterans suffering from PTSD self-medicate with dangerous substances, which in turn leads to a high suicide/accidental overdose rate.

The pastors all know of people who could be abusing substances, but those who struggle are often reluctant to discuss such matters. They want to create a community that is positive and supportive, a draw to provide an alternative to using. Don Cudmore asked about protocols for handling people in crisis who come into the churches. All the pastors are definitely open to

speaking with people about their struggles, directing them for professional medical help and reaching out to police, fire & family when necessary. Brent said that the widow and orphan of the Bible are now the drug addict. All do face confidentiality issues, but they make it clear that if someone is in danger, help will be gotten.

Carol would like to see a Georgetown community coalition with members who know how to reach out to each other for help, and who can create protocols and agreements about what to do in crisis situations, similar to the way the schools do for other types of crises. One of the things we continue to talk about is a speakers series that will help us understand who is most at risk and what are best practices to help them. We want to know what community assets we have and don't have. How can we shore up assets that we don't have in place yet in order to help those who struggle with substance abuse. If we are all using resources but not coordinating, we are not using those resources in the best possible way. Colleen added that to be a healthy community, we need to include people of all ages & abilities.

**Re: SAAP Webpage** – Ideas generated for the website included a resource link for Georgetown Faith Communities, treatment resources, resources for veterans. Is there a “free and safe ride home” available in the area?

**Re: Engaging Community Leaders** – We discussed again inviting other town organizations to send representatives to our meeting(s) so that we can become a resource to them and learn about their needs. Carol has contacted the GEF, and will contact the PTA and GAA. Pam will contact the Board of Health (Deb Rogers), and the Housing Authority (Dianne Drinhan) and the SEPAC. Carol will contact the PTA and the GAA.

**Re: Future Action & Agenda Items** (before the end of the year): Consider further name change ideas, proposals/ideas for website development, potential new Chair, SAAP goals & strategies, committee membership growth/composition, speaker series plans.

**Re: Upcoming Meetings Scheduled** – Future meetings will include:  
Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:00pm, at Perley

*Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 am.*

Respectfully Submitted, *Pam Lundquist*

Helpful Tower Foundation Websites:

<http://www.thetowerfoundation.org>

<http://newburyportyouthservices.com>

<http://www.allstarsprevention.com/new/index2.html> All Stars Prevention LLC, Greensboro, NC.

Helpful Town Model Websites

<http://needhamma.gov/index.aspx?NID=2124>

<http://www.needhamma.gov/index.aspx?nid=2489>

<http://www.weymouth.ma.us/substance-abuse-prevention-team-o>

Other Town Model Websites

<http://medfordhealthmatters.org>

<http://www.town.billerica.ma.us/426/Substance-Abuse-Prevention-Committee>

<https://www.rockportma.gov/board-health/pages/substance-abuse-prevention-harm-reduction>

<https://www.milton-coalition.org>

[http://www.townofbraintreegov.org/mayor/initiatives\\_substanceabuseprevention.html](http://www.townofbraintreegov.org/mayor/initiatives_substanceabuseprevention.html)

<http://barnstable.ma.networkofcare.org/mh/services/subcategory.aspx?tax=RX-8250>

<http://www.bedfordma.gov/youth-family/pages/prevention-services>

<http://www.town.pepperell.ma.us/464/Substance-Abuse>

<https://www.southboroughtown.com/youth-and-family-services/pages/substance-abuse-prevention>