

Human Rights Commission  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
Newburyport Senior/Community Center  
Meeting Notes

Attendance: Peter Blaiwas, Ahmer Ibrahim, Rose Robinson, Katherine Gootkind, Owen Davis, Caroline Walsh, Tom Getz, Kat Preftes, Sheila Trieff

Guest: Tina Los

Call to Meeting 7:05 P.M.

Meeting notes from November 9<sup>th</sup> approved with changes

New Business:

#### Tina Los

Update from Tina Los of the Essex County Asset Builder Network, which serves greater Newburyport area.

- Beacon Coalition – 13 years old
- Connected communities to ensure there's no duplication and share successes and resources
- 1 on 1 program
- Community campaigns to target youth or adults, etc. – plan potential programs around needs
- 3 year privately funded grant by Tower Foundation
- Private grant – more flexibility in terms of creativity of programs and how to fund
- Historically prevention was not seen as a community effort
- **PYD** – youth have a voice that needs to be heard.
- All youth are at risk all the time so need to work with them to prevent instead of focusing on crisis management – using 40 assets-based model

#### Asset Builder Network

- Police Department and Schools on board
- Individuals and organizations can get involved

#### Attitudes and Behavior Survey

- Part I measures 40 developmental assets
- Part II focuses on risk behaviors and to assess potential for risk
- Sample questions might include:
  - “Have you used drugs in the past 30 days?”
  - “Have you been in a car with alcohol over the past 30 days?”
- Grades 6-12 surveyed in all local communities

O. Davis described the 40 Assets:

- Series of questions to define “safety”
- Anonymous survey

- Will debrief the students after the survey –maybe in a classroom, maybe through the Youth Leadership Council, maybe a group of students nominated by teachers
- Sometimes they debrief a sample of convenience – e.g., rec center students
- But try to hear from a wide, diverse group of students

#### T. Los –

- there is not prescribed way that you have to go about evaluating the data
- Data presented at a public forum right after youth evaluate it at the Youth Data Retreat and choose what data they deem relevant or significant (Owen is part of this)
- Selected Youth Committee present final data in a public forum (sometime in Feb or March)
- HRC could possibly offer a small grant or support the forum in some other way

#### How Survey Results can be used by the HRC

- HRC could look at specific questions that address issues related to the HRC’s Mission (e.g., conflict resolution, cultural competencies)
- We could put together an initiative/campaign/forum based on the responses/survey data
- To either build up assets or draw attention to and combat risky behaviors

#### Cultural Competencies Survey Section

- A bit bare
- Only 3 questions currently
- Sample Question: “How would your friends or family rate you on these 3 things?”
  - o Hanging out with people of different races

#### To see survey questions and past survey data go to: [supportya.com](http://supportya.com)

- Prevention Section of Newburyport Youth Services
- Regional Report looking at trends rather than comparing city by city

#### NHS Youth Council

- Campaign to raise awareness about “cutting” and high levels of depression in student
- Develop programs to support youths suffering from depression

#### Youth Data Retreat

- Will be at the end of January
- O. Davis will keep us updated
- Public presentation in early March

#### Questions from Commission

- Question posed about the sexual behavior section and gender based violence on the survey
- T. Los said that on alternate years questions about gender and sexual behavior are included
- 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students have option to opt out
- T. Los will send links
- One way HRC could use data is to develop programing on gender-related issues:

- targeting parent education or parent-centric programs,
- or positive family communication,
- or how to interact with a trusted adult
- or target families

#### Port Media Training

- K. Preftes will confirm Port Media Trainings on 1/11 at 6pm (initial training) and 1/24 (editing) at 6pm
- K. Preftes, A. Ibrahim, S. Trieff, R. Robinson, O. Davis and C. Walsh can definitely be there and K. Gootkind (probable)

#### Student Subcommittee Meeting

- Scheduled for 1/24 (after editing training) from 7-8pm

#### Friends for Peace/Kids as Peacemakers

K Preftes- Updated the Commission on FFP/KAP Nov Retreat – organization is going through a lot of soul searching.

- HRC discussed if FFP/KAP ceases to act as our fundraising arm what happens?
- How do we fundraise?
- Can we work with the Clergy Association?
- Will follow up with B. Horne who may have some experience with this and/or some ideas

#### Day of Service

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#### Peace Prize and Mini-Grants

- During spring reorg K. Shaw offered to take the lead on these programs
- S. Trieff had some ideas about how to revise the application forms
- K. Preftes will review forms and forward to S. Trieff and K. Shaw for their feedback
- K. Preftes will also reach out to Cathy Manning at Superintendent's office to check on potential peace prize dates

#### Day of Service

- P. Blaiwas briefed HRC on initial planning discussion with K. Preftes and B. Horne held on 12/7
- Looking to hold it in early September – 9/11 is one of the national days of service
- Reach out to Senior Center, Schools, and Houses of Worship
- What weekend activities or project needs are there at that time? Can we partner with existing programs?
- Keep it small – 4-6 venues/events
- Maybe help with memorial graveyard program
- Weekend of 9/15-16 might work because it falls between Jewish High holidays and proximate to 9/11
- Theme discussed was "Fighting Xenophobia"

- May use that these as a panel topic at 2018 Iftar and announce day of service to the community during Iftar

A. Ibrahim confirmed that Ramadan falls from May 15, 2018-June 14, 2018.

HRC Commissioners engaged in a lively discussion responding to several of the questions included in the "Know Your Neighbor" proposal.

O. Davis will forward K. Preftes a "Ted Talks" link entitled *Macho Paradox* by Massachusetts resident Jackson Katz. K. Preftes will circulate to the HRC.

Meeting adjourned 8:39 P.M.