

## March 2009 Report

### Coalition members, Coordinator, and Administrator:

- Organized/attended Coalition's monthly meeting (March 13<sup>th</sup>): 26 attendees
- FY'09 grants
  - Continuous billing and invoice collection done
- Meeting with Senators Tisei, Senator McGee, Rep Clark, and Mayor Dolan to discuss FY'10 state support (March 23<sup>rd</sup>)
  - Brief presentation given
  - 15 Coalition members in attendance!!!
- Coalition's Sustainability Plan updated for Spring '09 implementation and April 3<sup>rd</sup>'s sustainability workshop
- Planning Committee's 2009 Coalition Assessment data follow-up:
  - Social activities
    - Incorporate 8a-8:30a social breakfast time bi-annually
    - Commence May 2009
  - Buddy System for new members
    - Institutionalizing→ Membership Agreement and Operating Principles
    - Janet to identify the "experienced" member to be paired with new member
  - Additional trainings in environmental strategies, media/marketing
    - Incorporated into Energizer at meetings
    - Continue to utilize Training Calendar for regional opportunities
    - Northeast Center to focus on Sustainability and Media/Marketing
- Coordinator attended Congresswoman Niki Tsongas' "Get a Grip on Grants" workshop (March 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Coordinator participated in Northeast Center for Healthy Communities Process Evaluation conference call (March 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Coordinator attended MIAA's Social Host/SADD/MADD conference (March 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Ongoing updating/stocking of resources in office and throughout community
  - Main Street Family Practice
  - Church of the Nazarene—10-15 each of 5 brochures
  - Pre-Prom Forum baggies—250+ bags
- Tips for Parents disseminated in community
  - Curriculum Night (March 5<sup>th</sup>)—50-100
  - Discussed at Citywide PTO (March 10<sup>th</sup>)
  - Pre-Prom Forum (March 12<sup>th</sup>)—added Tips for Parents to 250 bags
  - Junior Parent Night (March 25<sup>th</sup>)—50-100

## Melrose Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

- Tobacco Compliance Checks conducted in Melrose in collaboration with Health Dept and Girls Inc of Lynn (March 23<sup>rd</sup>)
  - 1 of 20 establishments sold to underage buyer
- Newspaper Submissions (Melrose Free Press = 20,700 homes/businesses weekly, Melrose Weekly News = 9,000 homes/businesses weekly)
  - We are making positive changes—(Nov house party follow-up submission)-March 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Drive Responsibly this St. Patrick's Day-March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Drug Education Workshop returning in April/Free Drug Education Workshop Returns-March 20<sup>th</sup> + 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Press Conference on March 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - Front Page-Mayor: Teen Alcohol Problem Serious
    - Chief Lyle tells the Imprint: Ride a Mile in my Cruiser
    - Teen Drinking Needs to Stop
    - Dying Young is No Rite of Passage
- IT developments
  - Technical difficulties continue with city webpage/e-newsletter
- Sports Organization Action Team
  - Hockey coaches "Pep Talk" talking points/brochures prepared and disseminated (week of March 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Police Action Team
  - Planning continued for EOPSS underage drinking enforcement grant
    - "Holidays" to have extra party/surveillance patrols were identified (St. Patty's, Memorial Day, Prom, End of School).
    - Also discussed extra patrols in Spring due to increase in underage drinking activity at public locations
  - 665-TIPS Tip Line
    - Implementation of log spreadsheet discussed
    - Promotions continue
- School Action Team
  - School Committee Policy Chair and Athletic Director working on reviewing/improving school district polices, specifically alcohol, tobacco, and other drug sections, as well as MIAA/MHS Athletic Policy addendums
  - Pre-Prom Forum in collaboration with SADD/Student Council (March 12<sup>th</sup>)
    - School contracts were reviewed
    - Handed out ~250 parent baggies, which included pertinent Tips for Parents and resource materials, including Social Host Liability brochures
  - YRBS administration in collaboration with School Health Advisory Committee
    - March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> to 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Student Assistance Team

## Melrose Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

- Up and running...referrals and meetings happening!
- Project Northland Class Action
  - Coordinator checked in with Health/Wellness teachers and director to ensure Spring implementation to all 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders
- Youth Action Team
  - Advisor and Coordinator met (March 6<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup>)
    - Finalizing timeline/budget/action plan of the Spring initiatives
      - Each YAT teen leader will focus on ~one initiative
        - Social Issues Focus Group (March 9<sup>th</sup>)
        - Melrose Draws the Line-Maddie
          - Met March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup> to review designs and material quotes
          - Kickoff date ~ April 21<sup>st</sup>.
        - Healthy Alternatives-Khart
          - MHS Community Alliance Group
            - Hypnotist Night-May 5<sup>th</sup>
            - 24 hour relay-1<sup>st</sup> wknd in June
          - Rec Dept
            - B-ball shoot-around through Rec Dept (March 21<sup>st</sup>)
            - March 27<sup>th</sup>'s b-ball tournament cancelled due to other youth conflicts
            - Scavenger Hunt-early May
          - YMCA Common Ground
            - Met with Nicole (March 2<sup>nd</sup>)
            - Wii Tournament, Movie Night identified as possibilities for 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays in April and May
      - Marijuana Prevention Campaign-Joe
        - "Are you part of the 75?"
        - Met March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss implementation of plan
      - Media Literacy-Charlie + middle school youth
        - Presented to 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> graders at Roosevelt (March 27<sup>th</sup>)
        - Scheduled with other elementary schools
        - Sent high school March Madness lesson from Campaign for Alcohol Free Sports to MHS health/wellness teachers and Sports Org Point Person (March 10<sup>th</sup>)
      - Environmental Scan-all
        - Materials ready to go

## Melrose Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

- Drunk Driving Prevention for upcoming Spring “holidays”-all
    - St. Patty’s Day campaign complete
    - Used [www.stopimpairedriving.org](http://www.stopimpairedriving.org) as template
    - Posters disseminated in community “Designate a sober driver this St. Patrick’s Day”
    - Posters disseminated in school also include “85% of MHS students have not driven after drinking”
- *Guiding Good Choices* Action Team
  - Four Spring workshops underway at Trinity Church
  - Administrator assisted GGC Coordinator with facilitator support
- Policy Action Team
  - State policy
    - Following certain ATOD pending legislature. Working to keep Coalition informed.
  - Local policy
    - Coordinator, Administrator, and Coalition parent participated in Press Conference with local newspaper editors, Mayor Dolan, and Police Chief (March 23<sup>rd</sup>)
    - Coordinator met with Police Chief Lyle and Mayor Dolan to discuss serious underage drinking issue (March 19<sup>th</sup>).
      - Consistent enforcement by the Police Dept and court support in issuing sanctions were identified as things that would make a difference to high school kids.
      - Investigating possibility of city ordinance which holds youth responsible via a civil citation in addition to the current criminal options.
        - The civil sanctions could include: a citation given to the youth, copied to parents of those under 18, and a fine *or* appropriate brief alcohol screening and intervention.
    - New Liquor License regulations approved Feb 25<sup>th</sup> with safeguards in!
      - Follow-up letter to Commission re: BYOB, temporary licensing (one-day event) regulations, storage of alcohol on premises (mailed March 20<sup>th</sup>)
      - Working with Commission, Reading Coalition, MADD, ABCC, Melrose Police and Health Depts to conduct alcohol compliance checks this Spring/Summer.