



**Agenda**

Welcome and Ice Breaker: Attendees Heather Warner, Michael Bardsley, Kipp Armstrong, Anne Hickey (NPC intern [hickey.anee@gmail.com](mailto:hickey.anee@gmail.com)), Nancy Cheevers ( Director of Curriculum), Melinda Calianos (Tobacco Free Community partnership), Tylet jette (Intern with Cherry [tjette@umass.edu](mailto:tjette@umass.edu)), Cherry Sullivan, Josh Wallace, Jim Ayres, Peter Kocot, Laura Fallon, Ananda Lennox, Karen Jarvis Vance, Trish Armstrong

Parent Education Workshops/Events; Life of an Athlete training and MI for coaches: skipped this part of the agenda.

Discussion with Representative Peter Kocot on Marijuana and youth use rates in Northampton, MA

Peter: A little history. 15-25 was certified but did not gather enough signatures. 15-27 is the regulation and taxation of marijuana act and it has received enough votes to make it on to the 2016 November ballot. Currently there are two lawsuits against it. Voters were misled about the THC % in the phrasing of the act. Issue surrounds the products (food) being sold with varying levels of THC. Peter used the example of DAB which is made by the use of butane. People who are going to vote strongly support legalization (millennials and boomers).

John Provost: punishment for drug use is sometimes harmful to student growth and learning. If/when this passes, we need to protect the kids. Drug use opens the doors to negative life consequences.

Ruth Ever- How can we speak to the public about the dangers of edibles and other teen-marketed products?

Peter: Not many questions about legalization have made it to the representatives. NPC needs to raise questions about issues. Face to face with reps works best. Kocot asks- what do you want and what do you want it to look like? We need to lock in solid language that states "this % of money goes to tx and prevention" from public health. Gather up choir of public health, judicial people, health care finance and create a 1 hour presentation raising concerns and questions about legalization.

Ruth- So we need to decide among us what we want this initiative to look like. What regulations and restrictions do we want to see put into place?

Peter- formal sessions end July 31st. Anything controversial will happen before the 31st.

Group- we need to make legislation that says taxation \$ will go to treatment and prevention. Look into amending the tobacco 21 law to include marijuana. Vaping vs. cigarette- need to make vaping get treated the same as smoking. Take home-growing off the table. We need to keep quality and monitoring consistent. How will people pay for MJ? Cash. Banks won't take anything other than cash because MJ is still illegal federally. Schools cannot accept funding due to same reasons.

We need to look into a legislative forum at the state house. Pull together a presentation about our

questions and concerns. There are many misconceptions about mj, its potency and harms. Start an email campaign to get reps active on this. Peter states that they have heard nothing on this initiative.

Mass prevention alliance is seen as too extreme.

What wil we do about online accesibility and sales? There are many restrictions on police when it comes to DUI.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Next Steering Committee Meeting is Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:00pm at NHS' Board Room

**For More Information Contact: Ananda Lennox at [alennox@northampton-k12.us](mailto:alennox@northampton-k12.us) or 413-587-1365**

*The mission of the Northampton Prevention Coalition is: "to collaboratively initiate, coordinate, and sustain prevention and intervention efforts that reduce teen substance use in the City of Northampton."*