



## About Us

The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force is a coalition of individuals and organizations coming together from all sectors of the community to address a common goal: a healthy environment for the drug and alcohol free development of our youth and families. We serve the communities of Franklin and Hill, NH.

**Our Vision:** Our vision for Franklin and Hill is a healthy, vibrant and substance abuse free community that supports the positive development of our youth to become strong, engaged and healthy adults.

**Our Mission:** To engage the communities of Franklin and Hill in working together to promote positive, alcohol and drug-free lifestyles for youth and families.

The Drug Task Force receives fiscal management and staff support through the City of Franklin, NH and began in 2009 as an initiative of Mayor Ken Merrifield.

In 2010, the Drug Task Force was awarded their first federal **Drug Free Communities (DFC)** Grant (their second award in 2015), which provides funding to help community coalitions focus on two main goals:

**GOAL 1:** To establish and strengthen collaboration to support efforts to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth through:

- Coalition-Building
- Community-wide Prevention Planning

**GOAL 2:** To reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults by addressing risk & protective factors in the Franklin-Hill community including:

- Parental Monitoring
- Enforcement
- Community Norms
- Access to Substances

A multi-sector approach has allowed us to meet goals by bringing together invested stakeholders.

**Community partners include:** LRGHealthcare, The City of Franklin, SAU 18, Franklin Police Department, Franklin Fire Department, Franklin Parks and Recreation, NH State Elks Association, Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, New Futures, Caring Community Network of the Twin Rivers (CCNTR), Choose Franklin, Healthy Homes Committee, Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Coalition, Franklin Opera House, Odell Park Centennial Project, Paul Smith School Parent Advisory Committee, Phoenix House Franklin Center, Merrimack County Juvenile Diversion, Merrimack County Sheriff's Office, FHS Chem Free Committee, and more!

### **Contact us for more information:**

Angela Lynch, Coalition Coordinator: (603) 934-7446 or [taskforceinfo@franklinnh.org](mailto:taskforceinfo@franklinnh.org)

*Updated 12/2015*

## **Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force Past & Current Community Strategies include:**

### **Enhancing Skills**

Training provided for Franklin Youth Initiative (FYI) members by the Dover Youth to Youth Coalition

Coalition members attend Life of an Athlete training for Community Champions - Life of an Athlete scheduled to begin implementation at Franklin HS during 2015/2016 school year. [www.loanh.org](http://www.loanh.org)

Hosting community "Lunch N' Learns" on relevant substance misuse prevention topics

### **Providing Support**

Co-sponsor of Franklin Area Walking Guide promoting healthy behavior and increasing awareness of substance free city park ordinances

Providing volunteers and resources to support Franklin High School's Chem-Free After Prom Event

Expansion of Franklin Youth Initiative (FYI) to also include Franklin Middle School

### **Reducing Access**

Installation of local Rx Drug Take Back Box at the Franklin Police Department - 455 POUNDS of medication collected (as of Feb. 2015)

Participating in local Drug Take Back Days promoting safe disposal

### **Changing Consequences**

Increased police patrols in the downtown areas and at parks and trails

Aided in fundraising for the purchase of a police K-9 for Franklin Police Department- a direct deterrent

### **Changing Physical Design**

Collaborated with City of Franklin to increase signage and visibility of drug and alcohol free park signage

FYI students implemented a "sticker shock" campaign partnering with local alcohol retailers to raise awareness for underage drinking laws and consequences

### **Modify or Change Policy**

Franklin was the first city in NH to adopt a local ordinance banning the sale of the drugs K2 and Spice and has served as a model for other NH communities; City Manager was a lead advocate for the state's current bill restricting the sale or possession of synthetics (SB106)

FYI students have actively participated in advocating at the state level against the decriminalization of marijuana, and were successful in helping kill a state decriminalization bill (HB 1526) in 2012

Local healthcare provider and coalition member working diligently at the state level to bring forth the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program enabling NH to better track Rx Drug Use and Abuse

*Updated 12/2015*