



Description:

JAG is a group of professionals and youth in the greater Milford area that meets the first Wednesday of every month at the Milford Police Station. Our mission unites JAG members: to make differences for the youth and families in our communities. New members who share this commitment to our communities are always welcome.

Vision statement

Juvenile Advocacy Group seeks to promote healthy development and strengthen protective factors for children and families in the Greater Milford Area (Milford, Bellingham, Hopedale, Mendon and Upton) through youth and adult collaboration

Mission Statement

The Juvenile Advocacy Group (JAG) provides an opportunity for youth, parents, community agencies, schools, state and local institutions, volunteers and our faith communities to network, coordinate services, identify and respond to emerging needs in the Greater Milford community.

Goal 1: Increase youth empowerment and engagement in the Greater Milford area.

Goal 2: Promote access to services and positive community activities in the Greater Milford area.

Goal 3: Strengthen protective factors by increasing youth/adult collaboration and communication in the Greater Milford area.

Goal 4: Reduce risk factors among youth in the Greater Milford area and promote healthy behaviors.

**To get involved or for more information please contact: Amy Leone, MS, MA,
LMHC at communityimpactinc@gmail.com**

The Milford Police Department, Community Impact Inc. and The Juvenile Advocacy Group (JAG) brings to this project a long-standing history and commitment to providing cutting-edge prevention and support services throughout the town of Milford, Bellingham, Hopedale, Mendon and Upton. The Juvenile Advocacy Group (JAG) originated in 2005, funded by the MetroWest Health Foundation and continues to run as a self-sustaining group of professionals and youth in the greater Milford area. JAG meets monthly and provides an opportunity for youth, parents, community agencies, schools, state and local institutions, volunteers and our faith communities to network, coordinate services, and identify and respond to emerging needs in the Greater Milford community.

Our regional approach now partners with the S.A.F.E. coalition, a group of community partners in the towns of Franklin and Medway who have come together to provide support, education and resources for those affected by the disease of addiction. The S.A.F.E coalition does this by empowering addicts and their families with knowledge of the opportunities, treatment resources and various strategies necessary to succeed through their individual journey of recovery. The S.A.F.E coalition also assists communities in understanding the nature of addiction and reduces the stigma associated with the disease of addiction. This regional partnership brings together our local communities on a monthly basis to provide support, education, and treatment options/resources for those affected by substance abuse disorders. As a result of expanding community resources, regionally together, we feel confident that our integrated approach can help meet some of the most pressing challenges presented among the substance abuse issues within the Greater Milford Area.

Our largest accomplishment of implementing a regional approach has developed certain capacities and strengths as a group in order to take on the tasks of implementing shared activities and interventions and resolving the problems that inevitably arise. One important asset of the JAG accomplishments has been our shared vision: Our shared vision has allowed our regional approach to participate in decision making that benefits JAG as a whole; and has guided much of the work that our regional partners perform as part of the coalition. On a yearly basis, do to new regional partnerships we revisit and gain a consensus on JAG's shared vision and begin incorporating the collaborative structures and processes required to achieve it.

JAG's regional coalition has had showed successful sustainable strategies of harnessing regional resources and implemented multidimensional solutions that match the level of complexity of substance abuse issues in our regional communities. coalitions have missions and goals for their work. JAG's regional coalitions shared vision has allowed us to distribute directions, resources and activities across multiple stakeholder groups. As a result of our ten year existence, and impact on the regional substance abuse issues it is evident that our JAG regional coalition has had a large impact in the multiple communities.

To achieve the maximum level of regional collaboration we have developed a collaborative leadership. Our management structures and roles are clearly defined and are operational. JAG regional partners contribute to tasks from startup through implementation and sustainability. Our JAG regional partners regularly report on and review the status of activities, staffing, capacity, and data collection, tracking, identifying problems and problem solving as appropriate. The

regional partnership's structure and functions are regularly revised based on our new membership. There is an internal communications strategy to ensure regional partners' continued involvement in and support of the JAG coalition. Our regional partner organizations provide adequate supervision, understand all responsibilities associated with the coalition and an organizational chart depicting lines of responsibility has been developed. We ensure that our JAG regional partners understand the roles and responsibilities of implementing evidence based practices and carrying out activities. JAG regional coalition meetings occur on a monthly basis, on the first Wednesday of the month at the Milford Police Department with as close to full attendance as possible. Subcommittees of the regional JAG coalition have been formed, with tasks to complete between meetings as needed. The regional JAG partners are actively involved in developing the logic model and collaborate to revise it as needed. We use the logic model to build support for the regional JAG partnership within their agency. The regional JAG partners collaborate to develop the coalition's implementation plan, communications plan, sustainability plan, and strategic plan.

Collaborative decision making is the norm for the regional JAG coalition, our regional partnership use a clearly articulated decision-making process that focuses on problem solving and consensus building. The functioning of the regional JAG partnership is monitored and discussed, and mid-course corrections are made as needed. Our regional partners share responsibility for achieving JAG's regional goals of the partnership and collaborate to support the activities being implemented by others. As a strength over the last ten years, regional JAG partners share responsibility for achieving our goals.

Over the last ten years, and as we continue to plan for our future sustainable community change, we continue to attract, enlist, and keep the right people at the table. Our JAG regional partnership has been most effective as we include key regional decision-makers and a range of regional community leaders with shared interests and goals. It is evident that the care we have put into building our JAG regional partnership has and will continue to pay off in productivity and smooth communication.

The JAG regional coalition will increase its capacity through the recruitment of new members by developing an outreach/membership plan, a leadership development plan, a solid organization chart and a cultural competence plan. Our JAG coalition leaders will continue to create structures that will foster unity within the multiple communities and facilitate the collaborative work of all sectors of our regional communities.

The sustainability of our regional JAG coalition has brought together multiple communities to develop and carry out a comprehensive plan to effectively address relevant substance abuse issues across the lifespan. While long term sustainability does need to include funding, our regional success has shown that maintaining sufficient fiscal resources has allowed the sustainment of our regional initiatives over time which has required a combination of non-financial resources from the initiative itself and the broader community. On an ongoing basis, we continue to look focus on retaining our regional members and find it necessary to evaluate our number of internal and external resources such as our leadership from management

and board members; access to technical expertise from within JAG; and the existence of strong administrative and financial management systems. It has been critical for JAG to retain critical external resources such as regional support from policymakers, the public, or other key stakeholders; and engagement of regional community-based organizations, parents, or other community members to increase our ability to meet our regional objectives.