

Natick Opioid Task Force Presentation to the Natick Board of Selectmen

JUNE 10, 2019

Charge of the Natick Opioid Task Force (2016)

- ▶ Seek to build a sustainable, coordinated, multi-disciplinary system of support, education and treatment for those affected by this public health crisis;
- ▶ Ensure for the effective coordination and enhancement of local resources
- ▶ Make recommendations on programs and/or service expansion based upon current knowledge.
- ▶ Develop partnerships with key stakeholders in the community and meet with this group at least quarterly. Such partners may include but shall not be limited to a recovery coach/recovering addict, a specialist in senior citizen addiction issues, a representative from SPARK Kindness, a representative from Faith-based organizations, and others who offer informed perspectives in support of the Task Force's mission.

Progress to Date

- ▶ **Post-overdose follow-up protocols established within the NPD** to offer treatment navigation and support services to overdose victims.
- ▶ 40 hr./week Advocates **mental health clinician embedded within the NPD** to respond to calls involving mental health and/or substance use disorder.
- ▶ **Community Naloxone (Narcan) distribution program hosted by the Natick Health Department.** More than 200 community members trained to respond to an opioid overdose and 75 Narcan kits distributed to date.
- ▶ **2,500+ resource cards distributed** throughout the community, and **direct mailing about the opioid crisis sent to 16,000 Natick addresses.**
- ▶ **Expansion of NPS health education curriculum in grades 5-12** to enhance current opioid and other substance use prevention programs and **implementation of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) and depression screenings** in middle and high schools.

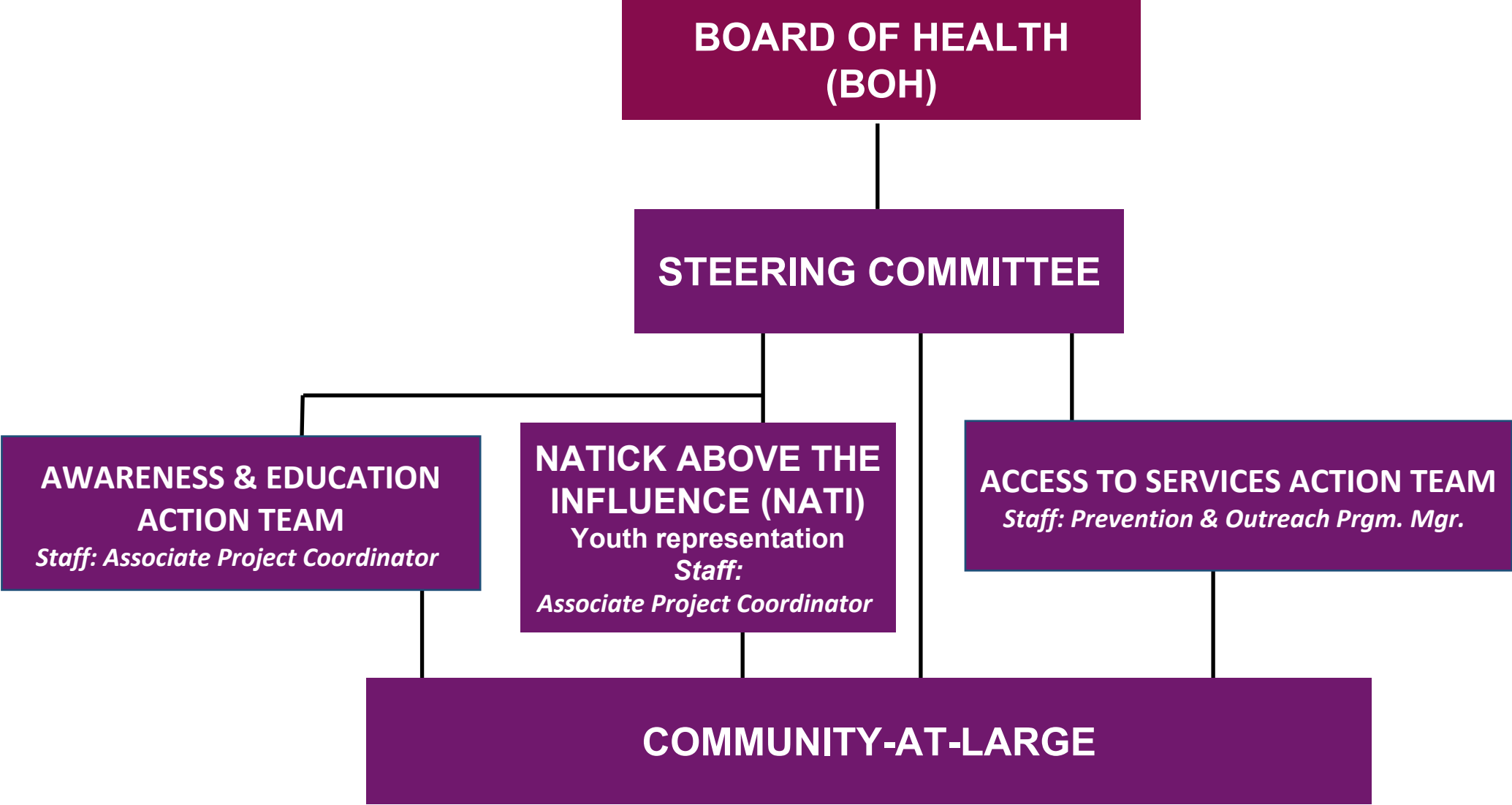
Progress to Date (Cont.)

- ▶ Developed **new supports for parents and families**.
 - ▶ The **Journey Bereavement Group** at the Community Senior Center
 - ▶ **Learn A Better Way family communication workshop series** at the Natick Service Council
- ▶ **Funding from SOAR Natick and Natick Rotary Club** offered to community members in early recovery to assist with small living and transportation costs.
- ▶ **More than a dozen community education events and resource tables** at community events attended by 1,000+ community members.
- ▶ **2,000 pounds of unused medications disposed of** through medication disposal kiosk and National TakeBack Days.
- ▶ **Over \$700,000 awarded to the Town of Natick** in grants and private donations for substance use prevention and addressing the opioid crisis. Includes the federal Drug Free Communities grant and a legislative earmark in the FY2019 state budget.

Joint Natick Together for Youth & Opioid Task Force Discussions

- ▶ Since January 2019, there have been 8 meetings involving leadership and members of Natick Together for Youth and the Natick Opioid Task Force
 - ▶ 2 with NTY Executive Board members and Opioid Task Force members—Members voted to recommend integration of the two groups and missions
 - ▶ 4 with newly formed Steering Committee
 - ▶ 2 with community members at large from NTY and Opioid Task Force work groups

Coalition Structure



*Part-time Administrative Project Coordinators
supports at all levels*

Steering Committee Members

- ▶ Christine Guthery, SPARK Kindness
- ▶ Chief James Hicks, Natick Police Department
- ▶ Chief Michael Lentini, Natick Fire Department
- ▶ Cheryle Lucenta, SOAR Natick
- ▶ Dr. Anna Nolin, Natick Public Schools
- ▶ Karen Rufo, Natick Public Schools & Newton Wellesley Hospital
- ▶ Sue Salamoff, Natick Board of Selectmen
- ▶ Jim White, Natick Health Department
- ▶ Ian Wong, Natick Board of Health

Pending additions:

- 2 at-large community members
- Clergy representative

Priorities Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue to build a sustainable, coordinated **organizational structure** to address substance use prevention, treatment and recovery needs in Natick.
- ▶ Engage and educate Natick community members in best practices of **youth substance use prevention**.
- ▶ Improve access to short and long term, culturally appropriate **substance use treatment and recovery support services** for the Natick community.
- ▶ **Ensure sustainability** and growth of financial and human resources necessary to support the mission of the Coalition and address the needs of the Natick community.
- ▶ Provide clear, **regularly updated communications** to Coalition members and the general public about Coalition initiatives and resources.
- ▶ **Engage youth and young adults** in Coalition decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation.



Natick 180

Your community resource
for addiction education,
prevention & recovery.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of several colored bars (teal, blue, green, dark blue, purple) arranged in a fan-like pattern. A solid magenta rectangle is located in the top right corner.

Natick 180 is changing how we talk about addiction.

Natick 180 brings together a wide range of people and resources to address the factors that contribute to addiction and to build up the community characteristics that protect against it. Natick 180 also strives to foster community conversations about substance use and mental health that are driven by empathy, respect, science and data.

Addiction happens in all communities, and any individual and any family can experience it. But addiction does not define a person. Nor does it reflect how loving a family is. Or how much a community cares.

While addiction can not be prevented in every circumstance, by assisting individuals and families with connected programs, services and treatment providers, Natick can respond more effectively to help community members who experience addiction.

Natick 180.

Your community resource for addiction education, prevention, and recovery.

Upcoming Events & Activities

- ▶ Onboarding of new Associate Project Coordinator (Summer 2019)
- ▶ Integration of new social media and website (Summer 2019)
- ▶ Launch of NPS vaping cessation program (Fall 2019)
- ▶ Natick Days (Fall 2019)
- ▶ Hidden in Plain Sight display at Natick Mall (Fall 2019)
- ▶ Community rally & run for addiction prevention and recovery (Fall 2019)
- ▶ Annual vigil to remember those who lost their lives to addiction (Winter 2019)