

From: Buzby, Maureen mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org
Sent: Feb 12, 2025 17:03:15.000000000 UTC
Subject: RE: North Reading
To: Silbaugh, Katharine silbaugh@bu.edu
Cc: Anthony Ishak aishakpharmd@yahoo.com; Mark Gottlieb mark@phai.org

Thank you for speaking up. Glad Ken was there too. I was on but incognito.
Yes, as I've noted in the past, Ron will be a major hurdle for all his communities - I think a combination of his not supporting NFG as well as the Andover HD who is the fiscal agent for Ron's collaborative.
Ron has a reputation for being friendly with his retailers - to the point that he told us in a meeting he was learning Arabic. I think he has a lot of empathy for them. I am friendly but not friends with my retailers. Period.
Ron tried to deflect last night by talking about improving compliance check results (a la Peabody BOH chair). That was not the subject of the meeting.
Don't think a direct assault will work. I think an end around. Ron yes's me to death when I talk about NFG. He had a good excuse for a while because MTCP did not support NFG. They are now (maybe reluctantly) onboard.
We need to find a champion or two in each of his communities who will make a call to the BOH and ask, "Why aren't we doing this???"
I'll be speaking with NE Public Health Nurses Friday. Hope to drum up some interest there.
I've thought about talking to someone within MTCP but upon much reflection don't think that is the best idea.

Ron's been doing this his way for 30 years. His communities are typically not early adopters - of anything.

-----Original Message-----

From: Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 10:48 AM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Cc: Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Mark Gottlieb <mark@phai.org>
Subject: North Reading

That went very well with that board last night. It felt like the main impediment to NFG was Ron, which is really unfortunate. Any thoughts about strategy to get around him? Mark is going to send hard copies of information. Is there more we can do here? Ron seemed to want evidence. There was a study that said age 25 would be very effective at stopping initiation—I've heard people refer to it, but don't know what it is. Maybe that would help? Thanks—Kate.

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