



## Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Monday, March 7, 2011 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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**Members Present:** Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Joan Janusz, Kris Matson, Mark Mohlke, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

**Members Absent:** Patty Gallivan, Judi Malecha

**Guests:** Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor (AmeriCorps Promise Fellow)

Members were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were done.

*Motion by Joan to approve the minutes from the January 2011 meeting and the February 2011 retreat. Seconded by Curt. Motion unanimously approved.*

### Mayor's Task Force financials

The Task Force reviewed the January and February 2011 expenses. To date, the Mayor's Task Force has spent \$1,870.68 of its \$15,750 budgeted for 2011. *Motion by Mark to accept the financial report. Seconded by Kathy. Motion unanimously approved.*

### Recap and discussion of January presentation by Devyani Chandran – St. Olaf College

- The group revisited the presentation by Devyani Chandran, social work professor at St. Olaf College, on research that she co-led in the summer 2010 on the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition.
- It was noted that some of the Mayor's Task Force's newer initiatives (focused on parent education and engaging a broader cross-section of the community) align with recommendations that came out of the report that Professor Chandran provided.
- Some group members wondered about the report's description of the ZAP program and ZAP's success. There appeared to be some disagreement among people that Professor Chandran interviewed about ZAP's impact.
- Zach reminded the Mayor's Task Force that Professor Chandran requested that group members email her with any feedback they have on the report. She hopes to finalize the report this summer and promised to present final copies to the Mayor's Task Force.

### 2010 Mayor's Task Force Year-End Evaluations

- The group reviewed the compiled results from the year-end evaluations. See handout.
- Zach thanked everyone for taking the time to complete the annual evaluation.
- Overall, the group felt very favorable about the results and the direction the Mayor's Task Force continues to move in.

- A number of the suggestions for additional activities to undertake in 2011 line up with the key activities that the Task Force identified at their February 2011 retreat.

### Mayor's Task Force Retreat follow-up

The group thanked Kathy and Patty for their leadership on the 2011 retreat. All agreed it was a productive and enjoyable evening.

The group reviewed the key efforts planned for 2011 and the Task Force members interested in working on those. Some of the efforts were categorized as "projects" (likely to require involvement throughout the year) and others were categorized as "tasks" (likely to be time-limited or to involve checking in periodically throughout the year).

## **Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use 2011 Initiatives**

### Projects

- 1) Talk, Listen, Connect – *Mark, Patty, Curt, & Susan*
- 2) Communications with the Community – *Joan & Kathy*
  - Involve a middle school student from MOST campaign in KYMN interview
- 3) Court Monitoring – *Kathy, Joan, & Patty*
- 4) Pure Performance/Fall Activities – *Curt & Mark*
  - Support a consistent message and consequences with all athletic/activities coaches & leaders
- 5) MOST Campaign – *Susan & Jordan*
- 6) MTF Website – *Curt*
- 7) Take It to The Box – *Joan*
- 8) Engagement & Monitoring – **NEW!** – *Curt, Susan, & Patty*
  - Revisit/Re-engage community partners: police, colleges, business owners, etc.
  - Enforcement – working with schools and law enforcement
  - Data gathering – police reports, hospital/ER admissions, athletic suspensions
  - Reporting to community – in meaningful ways – the results of surveys (Minnesota Student Survey, HCI Survey); work with other organizations (schools), rather than taking the lead
  - Suggestions of speakers for the Mayor's Task Force meetings
  - Youth input at Mayor's Task Force meetings

### Tasks

- A. Watch school budgets (re: Omada contract); pass a resolution supporting counselor – *Curt*
- B. Supporting West Hills Lodge Halfway House – *Joan, Susan & Patty*
- C. Ask a Rice County judge to come and talk to the Mayor's Task Force about underage drinking and what the judges see in the courtroom – *Kathy*
- D. Find out about what is being covered in the school curriculum – *Kris M.*

The group agreed to put together action plans for each of the projects prior to the next meeting. Zach will send out blank copies of the action plan template.

#### Updates on Task Force initiatives & upcoming activities

- The social host ordinance will have its first reading by the Northfield City Council on March 15.
- Mark and Curt have been working on a potential road map/plan for the consistent implementation of Pure Performance across sports and activities. They have had some good conversations with Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School Activities Director) about this and expect to have more information in the coming months.
- Task Force members requested to be added to the mailing list for all TLC parent education mailings. Zach will work to assure that this takes place.
- The group discussed potential speakers for upcoming meetings. Kris Matson would like to present on the research she has done about heroin and opiate use. It was suggested to invite Greg Kneser (St. Olaf College Dean of Students) to talk about the work that the college has done to prevent underage and excessive drinking. After the social host ordinance passes, it was recommended to invite a Rice County judge to come and talk. Marnie Thompson (Northfield High School Assistant Principal) and Elizabeth Bade (Northfield Public Schools Wellness Coordinator) were suggested as potential speakers to talk about the 2010 Minnesota Student Survey results for Northfield. Zach will work to set these visits up.
- Kathy shared that there have been four new court monitoring cases. Three are alcohol-related. Two cases are scheduled to go to trial.
- Joan shared a handout of potential topics for the Mayor's Task Force's monthly newspaper column. One suggestion was to invite Ellen Unruh to write a column in July about tobacco use. Kathy agreed to write the December column on holiday safety. If any other members have ideas for columns or are willing to write columns, please let Joan know. Everyone thanked Joan for her incredible leadership on the Task Force's communications efforts.
- Several Task Force members attended a webinar on underage drinking. While all agreed the delivery was not particularly effective, the information shared was interesting. If other members would like to see the PowerPoint slides, please let Joan know.
- Kathy shared that the Northfield mock crash has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00. The Mayor's Task Force will assist with a postcard to parents about the event. The event organizers hope to have a crashed car on display in Ames Park the week before. Because the crash likely has its greatest impact on parents, Kathy will look into getting the crash videotaped to air on NTV.

#### Membership update

- Paul Hart Ruthenbeck's application to join the Mayor's Task Force should go before the City Council in March. Kris V. offered to look into this to assure that this is done.
- Judi shared that she hopes to attend Mayor's Task Force meetings in the coming months. All were very grateful for her involvement in the group.

**Meeting adjourned.** *Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*