



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

Monday, April 4, 2011 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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**Members Present:** Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Paul Hart Ruthenbeck, Joan Janusz, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Kris Vohs

**Members Absent:** Mark Mohlke, Susan Sanderson

**Guests:** Bette Benson (Mayor's Youth Council), Tom Kempke (Northfield Hospital), Greg Kneser (St. Olaf College), Jackie McBeain (potential member), Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor (AmeriCorps Promise Fellow)

Members were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were done. Paul was welcomed as a new "official" member of the Mayor's Task Force!

*Motion by Patty to approve the minutes from the March 2011 meeting. Seconded by Curt. Motion unanimously approved.*

Guest Presenter: Greg Kneser, St. Olaf College

Greg Kneser is the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students at St. Olaf College. He spoke with the group about his perceptions of drinking at the college and in the wider community.

- On Halloween 2009, at least five students were hospitalized for alcohol-related instances. In response, Greg wrote a letter to students and parents in hopes of starting a candid conversation about alcohol consumption among students. The St. Olaf student government took this issue on and hosted a number of campus discussions in spring 2010. Greg sent staff to a conference in New Orleans focused on best practices in reducing alcohol abuse on college campuses.
- Greg shared that many of the students who have had alcohol-related instances are not inexperienced drinkers nor are they under the age of 21. They are consuming harder liquor and in larger quantities.
- St. Olaf hosted a town hall meeting last spring around these issues. The aim was to have a discussion about the "St. Olaf footprint" in the community as a result of alcohol consumption.
- One of the outgrowths of this has been the adoption of the program BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students), which provides resources for college administrators on how to deal with someone who has an alcohol-defined event. It was created by Dr. Alan Marlatt (Director, Addictive Behaviors Research Center and Professor of Psychology at the University of Washington). Eric Bergh (psychologist at St. Olaf) is overseeing the BASICS program at St. Olaf. Response thus far has been very positive.
- Greg noted that research indicates that the earlier onset of alcohol use, the higher the binge drinking rates at the college level. Consequently, he said the prevention work in high school (and earlier!) is critical.
- St. Olaf has implemented a Cooperating Landlord Agreement with all of the landlords that rent to St. Olaf students. This has helped to improve communication between the college and the landlords and has resulted in a reduction of neighborhood issues since implementation.
- Greg noted that St. Olaf students are paying attention to the social host ordinance adoption by the Northfield City Council. He has sent information to those living off campus. He plans to send an all-school email prior to the implementation date of the ordinance.

- The St. Olaf student senate has taken the lead in increasing alcohol-free programming on campus from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. in hopes of providing additional alternatives to alcohol consumption.
- There was an instance of disorderly conduct at a recent Carleton versus St. Olaf club hockey game. The deans of students at both colleges are working on investigating and planning disciplinary action.

#### Kris Matson – Research on heroin and opiate use

Kris shared a report on her qualitative study of individuals who have been addicted to heroin/other opiates. For her research, she interviewed young adults who matched the general profile of those who have died of overdose deaths in Northfield in recent years.

Themes covered in the analysis included: the start of their use; the feelings that came from using; family and peer roles; school effects; learning disorders; using while driving; and the role of Buprenorphine in treatment.

Kris welcomed feedback from the group on the study. She will present at a pediatric conference in Denver this spring.

#### Mayor's Task Force financials

The Task Force reviewed the March 2011 expenses. To date, the Mayor's Task Force has spent \$3,367.09 of its \$15,750 budgeted for 2011.

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

- Committees have been working on their revised work plans. The goal is to talk about these at the May meeting. Thus, each committee agreed to have their plan completed by the May meeting of the Mayor's Task Force.
- The Mayor's Task Force will submit a letter to the editor again this year, encouraging attendance at the parent-organized official after prom party at Jesse James Lanes. Kathy and Susan will oversee this submission.
- Kathy shared that the mock crash is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, at the Northfield High School. The planning committee is working to finalize the speaker and to assure that it is videotaped (so that it can be aired on local public access television).
- The Northfield City Council's second reading of the social host ordinance is on April 5. If approved, the ordinance would go into effect 30 days after it appears in the newspaper.
- Kathy shared an updated court monitoring calendar. There have been two new adult provider cases. In addition, the Mayor's Task Force will read a community impact statement at the upcoming sentencing of the murder charge around one of the heroin deaths.
- The TLC Committee is working on parent PSAs around teens and responsible technology use.
- Judi shared that a Twin Cities news station has contacted her about doing a story on heroin use in Northfield, recent deaths, and efforts underway to address it.
- Curt shared that Tom Graupmann has identified two additional people who are interested in going to the "Pure Performance: Life of an Athlete" training in Lake Placid this summer (Dan Riesgraf and Leah Sand). Both are coaches and health teachers and, thus, reach a large cross-section of students. Curt will get additional information from Tom on the costs and the Mayor's Task Force's potential role in supporting this.

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