



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Monday, May 2, 2011 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Paul Hart Ruthenbeck, Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Joan Janusz, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Mark Mohlke, Susan Sanderson

Guests: Bette Benson (Mayor's Youth Council), Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor (AmeriCorps Promise Fellow)

Members were welcomed to the meeting. Patty agreed to serve as the chair for the evening's meeting.

Motion by Kris to approve the minutes from the April 2011 meeting. Seconded by Kathy. Motion unanimously approved.

Mayor's Task Force financials

The Task Force reviewed the April 2011 expenses. To date, the Mayor's Task Force has spent \$4,176.24 of its \$15,750 budgeted for 2011. *Motion by Patty to accept the financial report. Seconded by Kris. Motion unanimously approved.*

Follow-up discussion to last month's presentations by Greg Kneser & Kris Matson

Task Force members noted that they found both presentations very interesting and appreciated both presenters sharing the information.

- Dean Kneser's upfront and honest approach was praised. It was clear that St. Olaf had undertaken a number of action steps to address concerns about alcohol consumption by the college's students.
- There was some surprise that the *Northfield News* ran an article on Kris' presentation. It will be interesting to hear the community reaction that Kris has received since then.

Mayor's Task Force Work Plans – Review & discussion: Part 1

The group reviewed the updated work plans for the following three initiatives: MOST campaign; Talk, Listen, Connect; and court monitoring. All agreed that these provided helpful frameworks for moving forward with each group's work over the coming months.

Following discussion, an addition was made to the court monitoring work plan. An action step around sharing the five-year program data with key stakeholders and potentially the larger community was added. The entire court monitoring committee will take the lead on this effort.

The work plans for the remaining initiatives will be discussed at the May meeting.

Updates on Task Force initiatives & upcoming activities

- The Talk, Listen, Connect group has been working on cyberbullying PSAs, as well as mailings to coincide with prom and graduation. In addition, they plan to send a parent postcard about the importance of monitoring prescription drugs in one's home (and a reminder about the Take It to The Box program).
- Jordan shared that the last MOST poster for the 2010-11 school year is now being displayed in the Northfield Middle School. It highlights that most Northfield Middle School students do not drink alcohol. School staff will complete a year-end survey on their reactions to/suggestions about the campaign.

- Kathy reported that the mock crash is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at the Northfield High School. Postcards will be sent to all parents of juniors and seniors to invite them to the crash (and to encourage them to discuss the crash with their child). The event will be videotaped and hopefully aired on NTV (plus uploaded onto local websites).
- Curt shared recent conversations that he and Zach had with Tom Graupmann regarding Pure Performance. Following spring break, there were reports of students drinking while on family vacations to Mexico. The RALIE group has had a series of discussions about this.
- John Underwood from the American Athletic Institute did a training for athletic directors from across the state at the annual athletic directors' conference. John will be coming back to Lakeville in August for a two-day training. It is hoped that a contingent from Northfield can attend.
- Kathy shared that the court monitoring committee has been in court two times recently. Judge Neuville was very outspoken during the recent sentencings about the importance of the community addressing substance use issues. The group suggested inviting Judge Neuville to an upcoming Mayor's Task Force meeting; Kathy and Zach will coordinate this invitation.
- Kathy also updated that there are two new adult provider cases and one new drug sale case. The court monitoring group will be watching those.
- The Task Force has been invited to "Tea at the Key," an event to learn more about the Northfield Union of Youth. The group suggested having the event on Saturday, June 25 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Susan had previously agreed to coordinate this.

Meeting adjourned. *Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*