



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, May 3, 2010 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Mark Mohlke, Susan Sanderson
Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Joan Janusz, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Mary Nelson

Guests: Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

Motion by Curt to approve the minutes from the April 2010 meeting. Seconded by Kathy. Motion approved.

Review of Mayor's Task Force financials

The group reviewed the 2010 expenditures. Through March 2010, the group had spent \$1,024.22 and incurred an additional \$148.14. It was noted that a number of expenditures will increase during the summer months.

Group members raised questions about liquor licenses, the costs of licenses, and how the money collected from those licenses is used. There were questions about whether the revenue stays with the City or is turned over to the State of Minnesota. Zach will email City staff to find these answers.

Presentation to the City Council

Susan and Joan presented on behalf of the Mayor's Task Force to the City Council on Tuesday, April 6. Susan reported that the presentation went well. The City Council did not offer a lot of feedback at the meeting, but was complimentary of the work the group is doing.

Response to City Council Goals and Action Steps

At the request of the City Council, each Northfield board and commission was asked to review and provide feedback on the City Council's 2010 goals. The Mayor's Task Force reviewed these goals. The Mayor's Task Force did not feel that there were any changes that they would suggest or additional input they would offer. Zach will share this with the Mayor and City Administrator.

Town Hall Meeting at St. Olaf College

Several Task Force members attended this event. They reported that it was very well-attended with good representation from St. Olaf and a number of community members attending. The main question that emerged was what action steps would come next as a result of the meeting. One of the ideas that emerged from the event was to explore adopting a social host ordinance in Northfield. The Mayor's Task Force decided to explore this topic further at its next meeting.

Report on Rice County Zero Alcohol Provider initiative from the Minnesota Institute of Public Health

The Mayor's Task Force received copies of this assessment report, conducted on the Rice County Zero Alcohol Provider (ZAP) project by the Minnesota Institute of Public Health. Several members questioned why there have not been more ZAP incidents in Northfield since the program started. They also wondered about the extent to which the community knows about ZAP because there have been few incidents and little additional marketing since the program began. The suggestion of moving to an e-warrant system has been mentioned in recent conversations with the Northfield Police and the group felt that this would be a helpful next step.

The report highlighted the importance of working with the local judges to assure they understand the impact that underage alcohol use can have on adolescent development and on involvement in the criminal justice system. Kathy and Susan expressed a willingness to coordinate conversations with the new Rice County judges once they are seated.

Presentation by Ellen Unruh, Rice County Public Health & Four Corners Partnership – “The New Youth-Friendly Tobacco Products”

Ellen shared information with the group about the work she is doing with Rice County Public Health related to reducing tobacco harm. Ellen spoke about the harm of smoking and of secondhand smoke, the current legislation, and new efforts here in Rice County (and across a four-county region in southeastern Minnesota through the Four-Corners Partnership).

Ellen shared information about new products that deliver nicotine in other ways, including products similar to breath mints and breath strips.

Ellen requested volunteers to assist with doing environmental scans of local retailers that sell tobacco and/or alcohol products.

Ellen will continue to update the Mayor's Task Force on her work. Anyone interested in learning more about the tobacco reduction efforts or participating in the work, please contact Ellen (ellen.unruh@gmail.com).

Updates on Task Force initiatives

- The Talk, Listen, Connect (TLC) Committee is currently circulating its display board and packets of information and resources for parents at various school events. The response thus far has been very positive.
- The Take It to The Box regional training was very well-received, with over 60 people from across the state attending to learn about this local program to reduce the amount of prescription and over-the-counter medications in community members' homes. All agreed that Mary did an outstanding job coordinating the event!
- The TLC Committee is working on a series of parent education postcards that will be sent out to parents of middle and high school students. Jordan has assisted with the design of these cards. The first postcard focuses on the importance of parents talking with their children about drug and alcohol use.
- The MOST campaign continues to progress at the Northfield Middle School. The committee plans to do year-end evaluation check-ins with school staff and administration.
- The Mayor's Task Force again co-sponsored letters to junior and senior parents about making sure that prom is a safe and chemical-free event, as well as the consequences of providing

alcohol to minors. The letter was sent in collaboration with the Rice County Safe Communities Coalition, Rice County MADD, and the Rice County Attorney's Office.

- A letter will also be sent to parents of graduating seniors, congratulating them on their child's accomplishment and reminding them of the importance of assuring that graduation celebrations do not involve young people drinking alcohol.

Other Items

Dr. Charles Reznikoff (Addiction Medicine Specialist from Northfield Hospital) will attend the June Mayor's Task Force meeting. He will talk about his work at the Northfield Hospital's Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic and his perspectives on youth substance use in Northfield.

Meeting adjourned. *Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*

DRAFT