



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, September 8, 2009 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Sharon Henry, Mary Nelson, Kris Matson, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Joan Janusz, Judi Malecha

Guests: Bette Benson (Mayor's Youth Council), Zach Pruitt (staff support)

Members were welcomed to the meeting and asked to introduce themselves. Motion by Kris to approve the agenda for this meeting, as well as the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Kathy. Motion approved.

Review of Discussion at August meeting with Jim Haas and Angela Brewer, Rice County Community Corrections

The group felt that it was an excellent meeting with representatives from Rice County Community Corrections. Members appreciated the upfront and honest approach of the guests. They also reported gaining an appreciation of how there are multiple sides to issues and how institutions like Community Corrections have limitations in what they can/cannot do.

Pure Performance

All agreed that Pure Performance was a successful day. John Underwood from the American Athletic Institute led a series of presentations on September 1 for Northfield High School staff, coaches, and athletes. He also presented to over 200 parents and community members in the evening. Dr. Underwood discussed the impact of drug and alcohol use on athletic performance and adolescent development. In total, more than 1,000 people (youth and adults) received training from Dr. Underwood during his day in Northfield.

The leadership of Northfield High School Activities Director Tom Graupmann and the involvement of Northfield Police Chief Mark Taylor were seen as key to the day's success. The Task Force will send a letter of appreciation to Tom Graupmann for his leadership, cc-ing the superintendent of schools and school board. Curt offered to follow-up with Tom about next steps for the Pure Performance initiative.

Curt presented the idea of the Task Force sponsoring leadership awards for individuals in high school activities (athletic and non-athletic). These might not necessarily be the best players on the team or the most talented members of a cast/group, but they would be individuals who demonstrated leadership and modeled good decision-making. The Task Force liked this idea. Zach will connect with Tom Graupmann about this possibility.

2009 Financial Review

- The group discussed its 2009 expenditures to-date.
- It is likely that the Task Force will see at least a 10% reduction in its funding for 2010.
- Each committee agreed to look at their expected expenditures and to bring these figures to the October meeting.

Updates on Task Force Initiatives:

- Prescription Drug Disposal – The medication disposal box is in place at the Northfield Safety Center! Mary shared that a number of other communities from across the country have called and expressed interest in the Rice County program.
- The MOST project is moving along at the Northfield Middle School. Jordan Taylor (Promise Fellow with the Healthy Community Initiative) is playing a key coordination role with the project. Neuger Communication Group is again donating their time to help with the visioning of the campaign and the design of materials.
- Zach shared information on upcoming community meetings regarding the proposed halfway house in Northfield. Six women in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction would reside in the house. West Hills Lodge (which has operated a halfway house in Owatonna since 1976) would run the house.
- Susan shared that the committee to discuss opportunities and resources for young adults will meet on September 14 from 1:30-3:30 at the Main Street Moravian Church.
- Kathy and Sharon agreed to table for the Task Force at the Northfield High School Open House on September 21. The table will provide the Talking Points key rings, the Drugs 101 DVD, handouts from the Rice County Attorney's Office, and materials on Take It to The Box.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt