



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Monday, October 4, 2010 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Joan Janusz, Mark Mohlke, Susan Sanderson

Members Absent: Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Kris Vohs

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

Members were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were done.

Motion by Patty to approve the minutes from the August and September 2010 meetings. Seconded by Kathy. Motion unanimously approved.

Review of Mayor's Task Force financials

Zach presented the current 2010 expenditures. To date, the Mayor's Task Force has spent \$8,602.78 in 2010. The group will continue to revisit this each month.

Additional Mayor's Task Force expenses

Last year, the Mayor's Task Force contributed half of the hosting fee for the AmeriCorps Promise Fellow that works with the MOST Campaign and assists with the Mayor's Task Force and Mayor's Youth Council work. The Promise Fellow – Jordan Taylor – devotes at least half of his time to these efforts. Previously, the Mayor's Task Force contracted with an outside consultant to lead the MOST efforts.

Joan made a motion to approve covering half (\$3,600) of the hosting fee for the AmeriCorps Promise Fellow again this year. Seconded by Patty. Motion unanimously approved.

Mark outlined that the TLC Committee has been working on the Parent Resource Directories at the Northfield Middle and High Schools. These directories contain contact telephone numbers for all the families in the school, as well as parenting information and community resources. The bulk of the directories will be distributed at school conferences.

Mark made a motion to approve spending up to \$1,100 to cover the costs of printing enough directories for all families and to bulk mail them to families that do not pick them up at conferences. Seconded by Joan. Motion unanimously approved.

MOST campaign

Jordan explained that the first round of the MOST campaign is complete. The lunchtime activity was held last week and went very well. Eight students from the Northfield High School helped with the event; having them involved was very well-received by the middle school students and staff. The next round of the MOST campaign is now underway, with the lunchtime event scheduled for October 29. Jordan will assure that there are photos taken at the next event. It was also recommended that the *Northfield News* could do another story on the campaign.

Court monitoring

Kathy shared an update on a series of court events that the Mayor's Task Force is monitoring. The Mayor's Task Force attended three cases this month.

A number of the recent hearings have been frustrating for group members. However, it was reminded that one of the aims of the court monitoring effort is to increase the knowledge and familiarity of the Mayor's Task Force with the court process so that members are able to talk about changes to the systems. The group thanked the Mayor's Task Force members who have played a key leadership role in this important project, including Kathy, Patty, and Joan.

Talk, Listen, Connect (TLC) initiative

In addition to the work around the parent directories, the TLC Committee also continues to work on its postcard series. Mark shared that the next postcard will focus on parenting tips and encouraging parents to have conversations with their teens about drug and alcohol use.

School events

Mark shared a list of upcoming school events for parents. It was suggested that these would be good places for the Mayor's Task Force to display its information board and distribute TLC packets. Mayor's Task Force members volunteered to help set up the display at various events. See sign-up list.

Take It to The Box

The Take It to The Box Committee met to review the progress of the program over the first year. More than 2,200 pounds of medication have been collected. All recognized the phenomenal job that Mary Nelson did in launching the program.

A marketing plan was developed to help keep the program out in front of the community. Many thanks to Joan for her willingness to serve on this committee.

Recovery Month

Several Mayor's Task Force members attended the *Lost in Woonsocket* documentary showing in Faribault as part of Recovery Month.

Joan also shared that she has had a series of conversations with the director of West Hills Lodge about the opening of the halfway house in Northfield. West Hills hopes the house can open soon. They need assistance with some projects around the house; if any Mayor's Task Force members know of anyone who would be willing to help with such projects, please let Joan know.

Social host ordinance

Kathy shared that the Enforcement Team is working on moving forward with social host ordinances. The Rice County Attorney's Office drafted an ordinance that all of the municipalities' law enforcement heads and attorneys are reviewing. The hope is that the same ordinance will be adopted across the entire county, thereby making it easier to consistently enforce.

School curricula

Zach shared that both Northfield High School and ARTech Charter School have received implementation grants from the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition to purchase evidence-based alcohol and drug prevention curricula. Teams of teachers and students picked the curricula that were most appropriate for their schools. These have been purchased and will begin to be implemented during the second half of this school year.

Communications

Joan shared that the next Mayor's Task Force column for the *Northfield News* will focus on parent education and will highlight some of the Mayor's Task Force's parent education and support efforts. Mark offered to write the column.

Task Force membership

The group briefly discussed that the Mayor's Task Force could benefit from a few additional members, particularly in light of Mary being abroad for this year. It was suggested that a "call from the Mayor" could be a good way to solicit additional interest. Zach and the co-chairs will talk with Mayor Rossing about this possibility.

The topic of membership will also be revisited at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned. *Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*