



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Sharon Henry, Joan Janusz, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Mary Nelson

Guests: Mark Mohlke, Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor

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

Program Sharing Conference

Several Task Force members attended this conference, which was sponsored by the Minnesota Prevention Resource Center. All agreed that it was an excellent conference that allowed for great sharing of information about work across the state to reduce youth drug and alcohol use. Of particular interest was work in Minnetonka around parent education and engagement. Several Task Force members saw parallels between that effort and the work in Northfield over the years by the Parent Communication Network (PCN). Based on discussions at the conference, these Task Force members would like to see opportunities to strengthen and find a permanent home for the PCN. The Adult Responsibility Committee agreed to discuss this at its next meeting.

City Council Discussion

Kris shared that the funding for the Task Force was discussed at the most recent City Council meeting. One council member asked for more details on how the funding for the Task Force is being used. Zach will contact Mayor Mary Rossing and City Administrator Joel Walinski, offering to provide any additional information the Council would like. He will also offer to have Task Force members attend another City Council meeting, if that is requested.

Financial Review

Zach shared a report provided by Kathleen McBride (the City of Northfield's Finance Director) on expenditures of the Task Force to-date. There has been \$7,308.23 spent. Zach reported there is an additional \$516.10 that has been spent but not yet reimbursed. Committees shared their likely expenditures through the end of 2009. The Task Force expects to expend the remaining budgeted funds in the final months of the calendar year, as several of the group's projects have significant upcoming bills.

Kathy C. reminded the group of the significant in-kind contributions that are given to the Task Force. Last year, these totaled over \$32,000.

Kathy made a motion to provide \$400 in funding to assist with printing costs for the next Town Hall meeting on drug use, which will be held Sunday, November 8 at the Main Street Moravian Church. Sharon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Court Monitoring

The Task Force discussed the court monitoring program. Members expressed an interest in continuing with the program, as it appears to have had a notable impact. The group also decided that it is interested in cases from throughout Rice County, as opposed to just Northfield-specific. Finally, the Task Force noted that it is interested in monitoring all cases where someone is charged with supplying drugs to others and/or providing alcohol to minors.

The Adult Responsibility Committee will discuss if there are any additional questions that need to be resolved about the Task Force's involvement in the court monitoring program. Zach shared that Kathy Sandberg is willing to continue to be the staff support for this program. She is willing to meet with the Adult Responsibility Committee to further discuss this, if requested.

Guest Speakers & Additional Task Force members

Task Force members expressed interest in inviting Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School Activities Director) to come again to an upcoming Task Force meeting to do an update on Pure Performance – how athletes are responding, how the Task Force can be supportive, next steps, etc. Curt agreed to ask Tom Graupmann about whether he would be free to attend the November meeting

Ellen Unruh, who is working on several projects through Rice County Public Health, is interested in attending a future Task Force meeting. She would like to share information about tobacco reduction efforts currently underway and planned for the future. Zach will connect with her about coming to a future meeting.

Mark indicated that he is interested in applying to serve on the Task Force. The group is very excited about this prospect!

A suggestion was made that having a school board representative on the Task Force would be a great connection. Curt agreed to contact Kari Nelson (chair of the school board) to see if she would be interested.

Updates on other Task Force initiatives

- Curt shared that he attended the Lakeville Chemical Health Advisory Council, at the invitation of Patty McDonald.
- The Support for Young Adult (18 – approx. 23) group held an initial meeting. As a next step, they plan to make follow-up contacts with Pat Parlin (Director of the Northfield Area Learning Center), Amy Merritt (Executive Director of the Northfield Union of Youth/The Key), and Amy Gohdes-Luhman (Pastor at Main Street Moravian Church, who attended the committee meeting). They also plan to do focus groups with young adults in the community to find out what resources/opportunities/etc. would be helpful. Jordan agreed to facilitate these groups. One of the issues that has already emerged has been around anxiety and coping with anxiety.
- The “Take It to The Box” medication disposal program continues to go very well. The boxes are now open in both the Northfield and Faribault Police Departments. Community members are dropping off their no-longer-needed prescription and over-the-counter medications.

- The MOST Committee is launching the Positive Community Norms campaign at the Northfield Middle School. It has been very well-received thus far by the staff and administration at the school. The Task Force thanked Jordan for his work coordinating the logistics of the campaign.
- Zach shared that two community meetings were held about the planned halfway house in Northfield. At these meetings, community members had some suggestions for the house, which are being included in the program design. The meetings also served as a reminder that the need for ongoing community education about addiction and those in recovery is important.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt