



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Monday, November 1, 2010 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Joan Janusz, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Patty Gallivan, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Mark Mohlke

Guests: Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor (AmeriCorps Promise Fellow)

Members were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were done.

Motion by Joan to approve the minutes from the October 2010 meeting. Seconded by Kathy. Motion unanimously approved.

December meeting date

The group unanimously approved changing the date of the December 2010 Mayor's Task Force meeting to Monday, December 13 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. It is hopeful that Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School Activities Director) and the three community members who attended the Pure Performance training can attend this meeting. Curt agreed to contact Tom to coordinate this.

Review of Mayor's Task Force financials

Zach presented the current 2010 expenditures. To date, the Mayor's Task Force has spent \$13,384.94 in 2010.

Update on 2011 budget

Kris shared that the City Council will vote on the 2011 budget in December. Currently, it looks like the Mayor's Task Force will receive \$15,750 again in 2011. Discussions of the 2012 budget will begin in March 2011.

Membership

A call for members will be put in the *Northfield News* as part of the Mayor's annual solicitation of potential board and commission members; Kris will talk with the mayor about this.

Moreover, it was recommended that a line could be added to upcoming postcards the group sends out, encouraging parents to consider joining the group (as well as in next year's parent resource directory).

All Mayor's Task Force members agreed to give thoughts of additional members that could potentially be recruited for the group.

The group did not feel that members needed to come from specific categories or represent specific constituencies. It is most important that they care about these issues and recognize that this is an action-oriented group.

Annual Retreat

The group decided to host an annual retreat on Saturday, January 15, 2011. Zach will send out a reminder to all members to save the date and to request volunteers to help with coordination. All agreed that it is important for it to be a fun event.

Webinar on Underage Drinking

Joan shared information on an upcoming webinar titled, "Underage Drinking: Implications for Communities." A room will be reserved at the Northfield Community Resource Center (with a laptop and a phone capable of conference calls) for anyone who is interested in participating.

"Talk, Listen Connect" Initiative

The middle school and high school parent directories are complete and were distributed at conferences; copies will be mailed to any family that did not attend conferences. The TLC display board and packets have been at many school and community events this fall. The October postcard focused on the importance of parents talking with parents of their children's friends (and highlighted the directories); the November postcard will focus on cyber-bullying.

MOST Campaign

Jordan shared that the MOST campaign is beginning its third message, which emphasizes that most Northfield students choose not to drink alcohol. There was a successful lunchtime event last week; a number of high school volunteers came to the middle school to lead it.

Ride-Alongs

Kathy shared that she had called the Northfield Police Department about possibly doing a ride-along. The sergeants were very accommodating and Kathy hopes to do one in the coming weeks.

Court Monitoring

Kathy shared an updated court monitoring schedule. Several members have felt frustrated with sentences and how much time individuals end up serving for convictions. Kathy offered to research what the outcomes have been of all the monitored sentences since 2007. This could make a potential news story and would provide good information to meet with the judges about.

Curriculum Review

Zach shared that the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition will again be issuing requests for proposals to local schools to support the review and/or implementation of evidence-based drug and alcohol curricula. Northfield High School and ARTech Charter School both recently purchased evidence-based curricula through this funding. Curt and Joan volunteered to represent the Mayor's

Task Force on the grants review committee this year; if anyone else is interested in also serving on this group, please let Zach know.

Guests for Mayor's Task Force meetings

The group would like to invite a number of speakers to talk with the group in the coming months:

- Tom Graupmann and the community members who attended the Pure Performance training – Curt will contact
- Greg Kneser, Dean of Students at St. Olaf – Zach will contact about coming in February
- Devyani Chandran, St. Olaf researcher who conducted an assessment of the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition – Zach will contact
- Elizabeth Bade/Roger Jenni on the 2010 Minnesota Student Survey results – Zach will contact

Meeting adjourned. *Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*

DRAFT