



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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

Members Absent: Sharon Henry, Judi Malecha

Guests: Jon Denison, Hannah Langholtz, Mark Mohlke, Zach Pruitt (staff support)

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

Town Hall Meeting – Reflections and Next Steps

Several Task Force members attended the Town Hall meeting on Sunday, November 8. It was held at the Main Street Moravian Church and focused on stories of local residents in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction. All agreed that the church and its Pastor – Amy Gohdes-Luhman – deserved a great deal of credit for sponsoring this third community gathering. More than 100 people again attended.

- Several of the speakers in recovery commented that no one in the community had talked about these issues at the time they started using and when they struggled with addiction.
- For most of the panelists, middle school was a key time when their use began.
- Having access to Buprenorphine locally was cited as very significant to several of the panelists.
- Several panelists had not had successful experiences with local outpatient treatment.

Based on the information gained from the Town Hall, the Task Force brainstormed potential next steps that the Task Force could undertake:

- Support for parents (earlier and more intensive than currently exists) was cited as a big opportunity --- reiterating to parents that they are very important in this area.
- Joan offered to write this month's *Northfield News* column on parenting messages and Kris will write the December column, building on this theme.
- Focusing on transition times (5th/6th grade, 8th/9th grade, 12th grade/life after high school) was seen as important.
- Members who attended were encouraged to write thank you notes to the speakers; Zach will work with Pastor Amy to get addresses if Task Force members are interested in this.

Task Force Annual Retreat

The group selected Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. as the date for its annual retreat. Kathy, Mary, and Patty agreed to serve on the retreat planning committee. The objectives the group would like to see achieved during that day include:

- What has the Task Force done over the past year?
- Where do we want to go in 2010? What actions/activities do we want to undertake?

Financial Review

Zach shared a report provided by Kathleen McBride (City of Northfield's Finance Director) on expenditures of the Task Force to-date. There has been \$7,308.23 spent in 2009. Zach reported there is an additional \$1,200 that has been spent but not yet reimbursed. A number of bills are outstanding and will be paid by the end of the year.

Joan made a motion to cover half of the hosting costs for the AmeriCorps Promise Fellow for the 2009-10 school year. The Fellow is leading the MOST campaign at the middle school level and is saving the Task Force funding of having to hire a consultant. The Fellow also works with the Mayor's Youth Council on their projects. Kathy 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. 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.

Joan volunteered to assist with court monitoring and to read Victim Impact Statements when she was available.

Other Updates

- The City is hosting training for representatives of all boards and commissions on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Joan and Mary agreed to represent the Task Force at this training.
- The "Take It to The Box" medication disposal program is up and running! Community members are encouraged to bring no-longer-needed prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the disposal boxes, located in the front lobbies of the Northfield and Faribault Police Departments. Response has been very positive thus far and the first pick-up will take place on November 13.
- Susan and Patty shared that the MOST campaign is underway at the Northfield Middle School. There has been great support from the school administration and the campaign is being well-received by the youth.
- Kris shared that she and Dr. Charles Reznikoff presented on a panel at Hazelden recently on heroin and opiate abuse in Northfield. Two local individuals in recovery also served on the panel. One of the key points was the role that Buprenorphine has played in helping these individuals in their recovery process.

- Zach shared results from the 2009 Northfield Student Survey for Northfield Middle and High School in four core areas that must be reported on to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Curt shared information about David Sheff, author of the book Beautiful Boy. Curt will send out a link to a recent radio interview with the author.
- Curt agreed to connect with Tom Graupmann, Northfield High School Activities Director, to invite him to the next Task Force meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt

DRAFT