



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, December 9, 2008 – 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Pat Allen, Kathy Cooper, Jon Denison, Patty Gallivan, Mary Nelson, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Ken Engstrom, Sharon Henry, Joan Janusz, Mayor Lee Lansing, Jim Pokorney

Guests: Officer Paul Haider – Northfield Police Department, Curt Benson, Ellen Haberoth, Zach Pruitt

Members were welcomed to the meeting and asked to introduce themselves. Motion by Patty to approve the November 2008 minutes, seconded by Kathy C. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation by and discussion with Paul Haider, Northfield Police Department and DARE Program

Officer Haider introduced himself. He has been in the Northfield area for two and half years. He was originally a teacher after graduating from St. Olaf College.

The 10-week DARE program was requested by the Northfield School District and was first tested with a 5th grade class at Sibley Elementary School. The program this year also graduated 108 5th grade students from Greenvale Park Elementary. The program and training is funded by the Northfield Police Department.

The DARE program is a decision-making program. It helps students with peer pressure, friendships, and how to avoid alcohol, marijuana and inhalants. The program will be added to the other elementary schools in September and another officer is being trained to help cover the classes. Officer Haider invited the group to sit in on a class if they would like.

Discussion:

- Any families that didn't want their child to attend? There was one family at Sibley Elementary.
- Are teachers present in the class? Teachers are part of the classroom and are very supportive.
- Are there any other programs available to older age children? There is a DARE middle school program. It extends to other issues such as bullying.
- Are there other DARE programs in the area? The Rice County Sheriff's Office visits St. Dominic's and other small towns in Rice County.
- Are prescription drugs part of the DARE program? No, they are not and should be included.
- Is there any way to know the success of the program? We are currently working with the school district to track the graduates of the DARE program when they're in high school and college.
- What can our group do to help you and the police department? Any kind of outreach would be helpful. Don't hide anything and bring it forward.

The group thanked Officer Haider for sharing information and commended him for his hard work.

Reactions to and next steps from Patti McDonald's visit in November

The Adult Responsibility Committee met (see handout) and are still working on the wrap-up. They will be contacting Tom Graupmann to discuss the potential projects. The Task Force felt that they should support the school if the district takes the initiative. The Adult Responsibility Committee will provide a report at the January meeting.

Date and outline for retreat

The retreat will be on January 31, 2009, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. The retreat will include a working lunch, still finalizing a location.

Suggestions for the agenda:

- The Positive Community Norms Campaign – to help the Task Force better understand the dimensions of the campaign
- Curriculum issue
- Review all activity areas - should we continue with committees and current projects?
- 2009 Budget

Adult Responsibility Committee

- See written report.

Social Norms Marketing Committee

- See schedule (handout) of what the committee has been doing this fall at the high school
- See the handout of the draft of the next step of the campaign – bringing the campaign to the parents. The information from the parent survey will be used in different ways. The survey showed strong support from parents for the three themes:
 1. Talking to your children about drug and alcohol use
 2. Avoiding drinking and driving (hopefully in partnership with Rice County Safe Communities)
 3. “Make the Call” in reference to calling other parents/guardians to check information when students are making their social plans.

Also, the response rate for the Northfield School District was very high compared to the other Minnesota communities.

The committee seeks feedback from the larger Mayor’s Task Force about the three main themes, as well as the vehicles for dissemination. At the retreat, the group would like to see the full report of the survey before we move forward.

Other Initiatives

Letter regarding support for Buprenorphine efforts: See draft of letter to the President and CEO of Northfield Hospital. The letter is copied to the Northfield Hospital Board, Northfield City Council, Dr. Charles Reznikoff and Dr. Kristine Matson. The Task Force unanimously supports and endorses the letter.

Website: Mary and Curt will meet to discuss.

School district efforts: Added to retreat agenda

Northfield News Column: Kathy C. will write the article for the December issue and will focus on drinking and driving.

KYMN parenting radio spots: Scott Richardson from the Northfield Hospital is wondering if the Task Force would like to collaborate on a series of 30-second parent education messages that air each morning on KYMN radio. The Task Force thinks it's a good idea to be involved. The recorded messages could include students speaking and messages could coordinate with parent messages from the parent survey. Each project group of the Task Force should start gathering ideas for the messages. The messages are cycled through and it would be a good idea to get to hear the current messages being played.

Letter of support to Northfield Hospital grant application: See draft of letter in handout. The funds will provide training to Hospital and EMS staff of dealing with opiate use and Buprenorphine issues. It also includes community education and school education components. The Task Force unanimously supports the letter.

Financial and Budget Report: See handout. Kathleen McBride reported that the Task Force cannot rollover funds for future years. The Task Force is on track with spending. The Task Force recognizes the financial and in-kind support from Northfield Healthy Community Initiative, the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition and the City of Northfield.

Other:

Shutting off the Tap to Teens report: At this conference (which several Task Force members attended), the video *Haze* was shown, which focuses on risky drinking behavior on college campuses. The video is powerful and would be beneficial for everyone on the Task Force to see at one time. Zach will look into ordering the video.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 – 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Northfield Community Resource Center Room HS222

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Haberoth