



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, August 11, 2009 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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

Members Absent: Judi Malecha

Guests: Jim Haas and Angela Brewer (Rice County Community Corrections), Bette Benson, Deb Haan, Ken Malecha, Dawn Parrott, Zach Pruitt, Kathy Sandberg

Members were welcomed to the meeting and asked to introduce themselves. Motion by Kathy C. to approve the agenda for this meeting, as well as the minutes of the previous meeting with a correction on page 2 to reflect the title of the medication disposal program. Seconded by Patty. Motion approved.

Community Corrections Presentation:

The group was given a bit of background about the request for Community Corrections representatives to speak to the group. In the process of doing some court monitoring of alcohol provider and heroin cases, members had questions about the role of probation in the court process. Jim and Angela presented the following information about Rice County's Community Corrections.

- **Role of Probation-** Probation has three main duties to perform: 1) to be the courts' eyes and ears by doing investigations, victim impact, and the Pre-sentence Investigations for the court; 2) Supervision and enforcement of the consequences (sentence) handed down by the court; and 3) Casework and intervention. The casework component has more emphasis with juveniles than with adults. Juvenile probation officers (PO) spend time where youth in their caseload are (in homes, schools, with therapists, etc.). They are able to do UA's, do searches as needed, and advocate for services for youth on their caseload. POs tend to make a lot of referrals to other community agencies and providers. They also do a lot of networking with those agencies and providers.
- **Average Caseload-** The size of the caseload for each PO varies depending on factors such as risk level or legal label. Sizes range from 30 to 300+. The higher end numbers are generally adults with low risk and are shared by a few Officers; juvenile POs have around 35 to 45 on their caseload.
- **Petty Offenders-** The "petty offender" label (as determined by the legislature) limits actions the court can take. Offenders labeled as such can only be on probation for 6 months; out-of-home placements (including treatment) cannot be ordered; and they cannot be detained. The vast majority of petty offenders do not need much in the way of services; about 30% of the cases may not fit the label very well. In a "delinquency" designation, the court has much more latitude.
- **Juvenile case statistics-** Jim shared the following statistics:
2008 juvenile cases opened from all sources: **774**

Drug charges: 56 (7.2%)
Alcohol charges: 148 (19.2%)

2008 juvenile cases opened from Northfield Police Department: **286** (36.9%)
Drug charges: 27 (9.4%)
Alcohol charges: 32 (11.2%)

2008 juvenile cases opened from Faribault Police Department: **318** (41.1%)
Drug charges: 16 (5.0%)
Alcohol charges: 8 (2.5%)

***NOTE:** Many persons are on probation for other charges like theft, burglary, forgery, or assault, but are also users of illicit drugs or are abusers of alcohol; their chemical use usually contributed to the crime in some way. The adult probation officers recently estimated that 70% of the caseload could be regarded as having a substance abuse problem.*

There are roughly 300 juveniles on probation at any given time, including many petty offenders.

- Adult case information- There are typically 1,100 adults on probation at any given time. Of those, 300+ are low-risk cases; the remaining 600+ are handled by 5 P.O.'s.
- Monitoring- Monitoring of cases involves consideration of the type of case, as well as the level of risk to the individual and the community. Cases that are higher risk dictate a higher level of supervision. POs often work at community events as a way of monitoring and deterring problems. Sometimes they do home visits in the evening or night and are sometimes accompanied by a police officer. Juvenile POs see cases in their offices, but more often visit with them at home or at school. Juveniles who have substance use issues tend to be seen more often by the POs; those who are doing well are seen less often.
- Revocation- Before someone's probation is revoked, there is usually a build up with a series of violations. With adults, the consequence of violating their probation can be jail or prison time depending on the offense. In 2007, 64 cases had their probation revoked. Prior to revocation, they had done a total of 186 stints in jail, for a total of 4,300 jail days. Violations vary with regards to seriousness. Probation officers are also able to give administrative sanctions for probation violations. Adult felony probation revocations in Rice County are at 20%; statewide average is 14%. For juveniles, placement rates are slightly higher than the state average.
- Suggestions for how the Task Force can work with Corrections:
 - Community members can report crimes or possibly violations to Corrections. If someone observes a crime that is happening at that time, police should be called.
 - Corrections is seeing a rise in the number of youth abusing medicines – both over-the-counter and prescription medicines. Push stores to put cough/cold medicines in secure places to reduce the sale and theft of those medicines for the purpose of getting high.
 - Corrections is willing to publish online the names of adults on probation in Rice County, as well as their POs and the POs' contact information. Jim agreed to look into this.
 - Advocate for a limit on the quantity of medications prescribed for pain management, anxiety and other purposes.
 - Alcohol, tobacco and other drug education should be provided at younger ages in the elementary schools.

- Parents, especially parents of younger kids, should be educated about the dangers and reality of alcohol and other drug use. Community Corrections staff is willing and able to assist with presentations.
- Create sober activity options in the community.

Pure Performance:

John Underwood from the American Athletic Institute will present “Pure Performance” in Northfield this fall. Presentations are scheduled for several audiences on September 1st. A presentation in the morning will be for school staff and coaches; an afternoon presentation will target athletes; and evening presentation is designed for parents and community members. The presentation in the evening will be videotaped. The group was appreciative of the work and support Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School Activities Director) has done for this event.

2010 Mayor’s Task Force Budget:

A draft of the 2010 budget was presented and discussed. Suggestions were made to more clearly highlight the in-kind contributions that have been given to the Task Force in the past. A motion was made by Joan and seconded by Patty to approve the budget. Motion unanimously approved.

Updates on Task Force Initiatives:

- Prescription Drug Disposal - The “Take It to The Box” program will be operational beginning on September 22nd in both Northfield and Faribault. Community members can then take no longer needed prescription and over-the-counter medicines to boxes in the Northfield and Faribault Police Departments 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Extensive education campaigns are being conducted to let the community know about the program and the importance of safely using, storing, and disposing of medicines. Many thanks to Mary Nelson for her leadership of this effort!
- Program Sharing Conference – Several Task Force members are interested in attending this annual conference, which is the annual statewide conference on alcohol and other drug abuse prevention. Members are encouraged to contact Zach if they would like to attend and he will handle registration.
- Halfway Housing – West Hills Lodge has received the go-ahead by the Rice County Commissioners to pursue the halfway house project. The residence would be a West Hills Lodge program serving females and located in Northfield. The next steps involve setting up community meetings and meeting with the Northfield City Council. There will also be a meeting with the Northfield Police Chief. Any Task Force members interested in helping with this effort, please let Ken Malecha, Judi Malecha, or Zach know.
- Northfield Public Schools Chemical Health Data – Zach shared data about the chemical health services provided by Sarah Shippy (Omada Behavioral Health Services) in the Northfield Public Schools during the 2008-09 school year. Sarah spent one day per week at Northfield High School and three mornings per week at the Northfield Area Learning Center (she also visited the Northfield Middle School on an on-call basis). Sarah saw 128 students at Northfield High School last school year for a combined total of 190 contacts; 7 students were referred to chemical health treatment. Sarah saw 52 students at the Northfield Area Learning Center for a combined 435 contacts; 11 students were referred to treatment. Finally, Sarah saw 8 students at the Northfield Middle School for a combined total of 32 contacts; 2 students were referred to treatment.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Sandberg and Zach Pruitt