



**Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use**

August 1, 2011 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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**Members Present:** Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Paul Hart Ruthenbeck, Joan Janusz, Mark Mohlke, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

**Members Absent:** Patty Gallivan, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Kris Vohs

**Guests:** Jackie McBeain, Rhonda Pownell (Northfield City Council), Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jessica Stadler (presenter); Jordan Taylor (AmeriCorps Promise Fellow)

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

*Motion by Susan to approve the minutes from the July 2011 meeting. Seconded by Curt. Motion unanimously approved.*

Presentation by Jessica Stadler

Jessica shared her personal story of prescription drug abuse. She stressed the importance of doctors monitoring prescribing practices and pharmacies requiring identification for claiming prescriptions.

Jessica also emphasized the importance of encouraging education at a younger age about drug and alcohol use, as well as additional positive outlets for teens in the community. She noted that it is important for communities to offer options for those in recovery, particularly ways to step down from addiction. Finally, Jessica noted the impact of stigma in the community and how this can make it even more difficult for those struggling with addiction or in recovery.

Mayor's Task Force financials

There had been no additional expenses since the last meeting. Consequently, no report was provided.

Curt presented information on the August Pure Performance training in Lakeville. Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School Activities Director) has been recruiting coaches, teachers, youth sports association heads, and community members to attend.

In its 2011 budget, the Mayor's Task Force allotted \$700 to support the Pure Performance efforts. *Joan made a motion to provide up to \$700 to help with the registration costs for the Northfield delegation to attend the Pure Performance training in Lakeville. Seconded by Paul. Motion unanimously approved.* Curt and Jackie expressed an interest in attending the training on behalf of the Mayor's Task Force.

Drug courts

Kathy shared that at the July meeting of the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition's Enforcement Team, Tori Stewart from the Rice County Attorney's Office indicated that she, Paul Beaumaster (Rice County Attorney), and another attorney attended Blue Earth County's drug court. This provided the chance to see the

court in action and to ask questions about the process. There seems to be interest in exploring the drug court concept in Rice County, although the potential costs cause some concern.

#### Letters proposed at the July Mayor's Task Force meeting

The group reviewed and discussed the letters that were requested for staff to draft following the July Task Force meeting. These included letters to the Northfield Police Department (thanking them for their leadership on and implementation of the social host ordinance), the Dakota County Sheriff's Office (inquiring about a recent incident involving their department, as well as their interest in social host ordinances), and the local schools (asking about their plans to use drug dogs during the 2011-12 school year).

Joan offered some additional written suggestions to the letters, which will be incorporated. *Kathy made a motion to send the letters. Seconded by Mark. Motion unanimously approved.*

#### City Council presentation

The Mayor's Task Force is scheduled to conduct its annual presentation to the City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. The "Report to the Community" will be finalized by then and can be shared with the City Council. If there are any members of the group who are interested in doing all or part of the presentation, please let Susan or Joan know.

#### Committee updates

- The Talk, Listen, Connect committee will meet on August 2 to plan activities for the start of the 2011-12 school year.
- Susan, Jordan, and Zach met with Northfield Middle School principal Jeff Pesta to hear his thoughts on the MOST campaign and his suggestions for the future. It was a very helpful discussion. Jeff indicated his strong continued support of the initiative.

#### Court monitoring

Kathy shared a brief update on the court monitoring program. There have been three new adult provider cases charged. This brings the total to 15 court monitoring cases in the first seven months of the calendar year. Paul asked to devote time at an upcoming Mayor's Task Force meeting to discussing the court monitoring program. The group agreed to add it to the agenda for the September 2011 meeting.

#### Drug paraphernalia

The group reviewed a request to the City Council to amend the conditions placed on the new Division Tobacco store.

Included in the request was the permission to sell glass pipes, which are frequently utilized for drug use. Rhonda suggested that the City Council may consider an ordinance limiting the sale of drug paraphernalia in the city. Moorhead, Minnesota, is considering such an ordinance.

*Motion by Kathy to offer the Mayor's Task Force's support in exploring the adoption of an ordinance limiting the sale of drug paraphernalia in Northfield. Seconded by Paul. Motion unanimously approved.*

**Meeting adjourned.** *Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*