



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

Monday, June 7, 2010 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Northfield Community Resource Center

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**Members Present:** Curt Benson, Patty Gallivan, Joan Janusz, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

**Members Absent:** Kathy Cooper, Mark Mohlke, Mary Nelson

**Guests:** Melissa Durman, Charlie Reznikoff, Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

*Motion by Patty to approve the minutes from the May 2010 meeting. Seconded by Curt. Motion approved.*

### Dr. Charles Reznikoff – Northfield Hospital Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic

Dr. Reznikoff began work at Northfield Hospital in August 2008. He spends every other Monday at the hospital. He explained that those addicted to heroin/opiates have a very low spontaneous quit rate and, thus, the use of Suboxone/Buprenorphine can be a safer alternative (replacing an illegal substance with a stabilizing legal opioid). Under Drug Enforcement Agency guidelines, he must see his patients who are on Suboxone/Buprenorphine at least once per month to monitor their care.

In the past six months, he has had 40 active patients. Summary characteristics from this group include:

- 25 of the 40 were born in 1984 or later.
- 23 of the 40 identified heroin as their drug of choice.
- 30 of the 40 are male.
- 29 of the 40 have made 10 or more visits to the clinic.
- 2 of the 40 are new heroin cases within the past six months.

Most of his patients have come via referral, either from current patients, from Omada Behavioral Health Services, or from physicians who note a patient who is abusing pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Reznikoff discusses tapering of Suboxone/Buprenorphine with each patient at least once per year.

Dr. Reznikoff was asked about potential reasons that he believes Northfield saw a rise in heroin/opiate abuse. Potential reasons he cited include: Northfield's proximity to the Twin Cities; the pureness and low price of heroin in the Twin Cities; the influence of older siblings on youth's decision to use; co-occurring struggles with issues like anxiety, depression, ADHD, learning disabilities, etc.; and access to money and cars. Many of the individuals who abused heroin began their use with OxyContin.

Dr. Reznikoff sees an increase in the abuse of prescription medication. The Northfield Hospital is planning to add an additional day per month of the Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic and has hired a physician to staff the clinic on this day.

The Mayor's Task Force thanked Dr. Reznikoff for his work in Northfield and offered any assistance they could provide to his work in these areas.

#### Town Hall meeting on Middle School

Several Mayor's Task Force members attended the event, which was held at the Main Street Moravian Church. Mayor's Task Force members were disappointed that more community members had not attended. The panel was heavy on school personnel representation. The group commended Amy Gohdes-Luhman and the church for their leadership of the Town Hall series and their genuine commitment to youth issues.

#### Halfway House

West Hills Lodge continues to move forward with the required state paperwork to open the Northfield halfway house. Zach shared a list of items that West Hills Lodge is looking to help furnish the house. If any members have any of these items (or know of others who might), please let Zach know.

#### Court Monitoring

The Court Monitoring Committee had a presence at the recent court appearance for Michael Smith. Patty read a Victim Impact Statement. The *Northfield News* ran a portion of the statement in the newspaper. Joan will pass along the complete version of the statement to all members of the Mayor's Task Force.

#### Fall Activity Night

Curt shared that the three Northfield community members were attending the American Athletic Institute's "Life of an Athlete" training in Lake Placid, NY. They will then give the keynote presentation at the Fall Activity Night for Northfield High School athletes and their parents. Curt will set up a meeting with the three individuals, as well as Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School Activities Director) to hear more about the training and potential next steps. They will all also be invited to an upcoming Mayor's Task Force meeting.

#### Social Host Ordinances

This item was tabled until next month due to time.

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