



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, July 14, 2009 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Sharon Henry, Joan Janusz, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Mary Nelson, Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Patty Gallivan, Susan Sanderson

Guests: Roger Jenni, Kari Nelson, Zach Pruitt

Members and guests were welcomed to the meeting. Motion by Sharon to approve the June 2009 minutes, seconded by Kathy. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation of 2009 Northfield Student Survey data

- Roger Jenni (Northfield Public Schools Coordinator of Testing and Assessment) presented the results of the Northfield Student Survey. The survey was given in February to students in grades 6, 8, 9, and 11 at Northfield High School, Northfield Middle School, the Northfield Area Learning Center (ALC), and ARTech. The survey inquires about students' use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs, as well as their perceptions of peer use and their perceptions of parent and peer disapproval of use.
- See written report.

Pure Performance

- Curt shared an update of the work that Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School Activities Director) has been doing to bring Pure Performance to Northfield.
- John Underwood from the American Athletic Institute will be visiting Northfield on Tuesday, September 1. In the morning, he will lead an in-service for Northfield High School teachers and coaches. In the afternoon, he will speak with all fall high school athletes.
- Tom is seeking assistance from the Task Force in planning an evening event for parents and the community. He also would like the Task Force to take the role of shepherding John Underwood from events over the course of the day (including assuring he is fed). The Task Force felt these are efforts they could undertake.
- As part of the Northfield Pure Performance efforts, Northfield High School athletes, their parents, their coaches, and their team captains are being asked to sign a pledge that the athlete will remain drug- and alcohol-free and that he/she agrees to talk with a coach if someone on the team is using. In addition, Tom plans to have captains' trainings throughout the upcoming school year to better equip the team captains to play this important leadership role.
- Curt, Kathy, Sharon, and Judi all offered to assist with the Pure Performance project. Kris agreed to share information on this effort with the Northfield City Council.

Night to Unite

- The Northfield Police Department will be holding the Night to Unite (formerly National Night Out) on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, in front of the Post Office.
- The Task Force participated in this event in the past and felt it was worthwhile. Thus, the group will have a table again this year.
- Sharon, Curt, and possibly Joan agreed to staff the table at the event.

Court Monitoring

- Several Task Force members shared their experiences with the court monitoring program. All felt that reading Victim Impact Statements was a very important activity for the Task Force to take part in, although they recognized, too, that it was a hard activity to do. It was noted, too, that those being sentenced seemed to have very different levels of recognition of their actions and the consequences their actions had on others.
- The group would like to continue to monitor those involved in the heroin arrests, including those given probation.

“Take It to The Box” Medication Disposal Program

- Mary reported that the “Take It to The Box” medication disposal program will launch on September 22. Both the Northfield and Faribault Police Departments will have boxes where community members can return unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines. The boxes will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- The planning committee is undertaking an ambitious community education campaign. Anyone who would like to assist with these efforts is definitely welcome!

Suggestion of Future Guest Speakers

- The Task Force decided that the next speaker should be someone from Rice County Community Corrections, preferably the director and a probation officer. Zach will attempt to line this up.
- In the future, inviting judges to a meeting was also suggested again.
- The group discussed the possibility of meeting with those who have been sentenced in the heroin arrests and are required to give community presentations. The group felt they wanted to wait a few months before considering this request.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt