



**Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use**  
September 12, 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, Jackie McBeain, Mark Mohlke, Mary Nelson, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

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

**Guests:** Zach Pruitt (staff support)

Members were welcomed to the meeting. A special welcome was given to Mary Nelson, who returned from a year in Mexico! Also, a big welcome to Jackie, who was officially appointed to the Mayor's Task Force at the September 11, 2011, City Council meeting.

*Motion by Joan to approve the minutes from the August 2011 meeting. Seconded by Paul. Motion unanimously approved.*

Mayor's Task Force financials

The group reviewed the 2011 Mayor's Task Force expenses through September 10, 2011. The Mayor's Task Force has spent \$6,837.72, leaving \$8,912.28 remaining through the end of 2011.

Kris reported that funding for the Mayor's Task Force remains in the preliminary City budget for 2012. He will check with Kathleen McBride on the current status.

Review and recommendation process for Mayor's Task Force applications

The group discussed the development of a process to review applications from community members interested in being on the Mayor's Task Force. It was agreed that having a formal review process (in addition to the formal application) would be helpful.

- It was recommended that interested candidates come to at least a few meetings before their application is considered so that they can see how the group functions.
- A couple of current Task Force members could also conduct a meeting with the interested candidate to ask a set of questions about their reasons for joining the group.
- Ultimately, the full Mayor's Task Force should offer a recommendation to the Mayor/City Council about the applicant.
- Recognizing that much of the work of the Mayor's Task Force is accomplished through committees, new members will be asked to join at least one standing committee.

- Having a formal orientation for new members was recommended. It was suggested that a current member or two sit down with the new member and go over the group's initiatives.

Based on the group's discussions, staff will draft an initial outline for the review process and will bring this to the October meeting.

#### Pure Performance

- The Pure Performance training in Lakeville was cancelled due to low enrollment. There is hope that it will be rescheduled later in the school year.
- Scott Richardson, Melissa Bernhard, and John Sand presented on Pure Performance during the Northfield High School fall activity night. Their presentation focused particularly on the impact of drug and alcohol use on student athletic performance.

#### Cyberbullying PSA contest

The Mayor's Task Force cosponsored a public service announcement (PSA) contest on cyberbullying and responsible technology use this summer. There were a number of great submissions by Northfield youth. Ten finalists have now been uploaded on the Healthy Community Initiative website for community voting. The top vote getter will receive a \$200 prize; the Mayor's Task Force and other partners will help to select another \$200 winner for the judges' prize.

#### Talk, Listen, Connect initiative

Production of the middle school and high school student directory is underway. There has been a notable increase in the number of ads purchased for this year. The directories will be distributed at school conferences this fall.

The group also reviewed the new TLC packets that will be handed out at school conferences and other events this fall. Many thanks were given to Kathy for her vision/ideas for the packet.

#### MOST campaign

The MOST campaign is underway for the 2011-12 school year. The first round of posters is going up. Soraya Dangor (AmeriCorps VISTA with HCI and the LINK Center) will work with Susan on the MOST campaign this year. Susan shared that additional volunteers from the Mayor's Task Force would be most welcome!

#### Prevention award

Zach shared that the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition is sponsoring Prevention Awards to recognize individuals and groups who have worked to help prevent and reduce youth substance use in the community. Zach will send out information on the nomination

process. He encouraged Task Force members to consider nominating someone. The nominations are due by September 30.

#### Drug paraphernalia ordinance

- The Northfield City Council is considering an ordinance that would prohibit the sale of drug paraphernalia in the City of Northfield.
- Joan and Paul spoke before the City Council, expressing that the Mayor's Task Force had voted to support the exploration of this ordinance.
- At this point, the group felt that there did not appear much more that the Mayor's Task Force should do unless asked to help by the City Council or City staff.

#### City Council presentation

The Mayor's Task Force is slated to give its annual presentation to the City Council on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. Paul and Jackie volunteered to do the presentation. Joan will also be in attendance to help with questions.

#### Guest speakers

The group discussed potential speakers to have at upcoming meetings. Suggestions included:

- Mike Smith or Jake DeMann (both of whom have expressed interest in speaking with the group)
- Rice County Sheriff Troy Dunn
- Representative from the Rice County Attorney's Office
- Officer trained in using drug dogs
- Northfield High School Activities Director Tom Graupmann (and Pure Performance leaders)
- School Resource Officer Thad Monroe
- Christine Curtis, new director of Rice County Community Corrections

The group also discussed the balance of having speakers with having time to assure that the business of the Mayor's Task Force can also get done. The group opted not to invite a speaker for October, but to consider inviting Mike Smith to the November meeting.

#### Dakota County letter

The group reviewed the response letter received from the Dakota County Sheriff's Office. Several group members still had follow-up questions about the incident.

It was determined that it will be important to seek out ways to work together with the Dakota County Sheriff's Office, including through support for the social host ordinance there. Curt offered to touch base with Patti McDonald from Lakeville to see if she has had any additional communication with the Sheriff's Office about these efforts.

Drug dogs letter

The group reviewed the responses received from the local schools to the letter submitted by the Mayor's Task Force about their planned use of drug dogs this school year. The group directed staff to follow-up with ARTech about their rationale for not planning to use dogs and with the Northfield Public Schools to ask to be informed of the results of the searches when conducted.

Work plan check-in

The group reviewed the 2011 activities generated at the retreat in January, as well as the Task Force members who expressed interest in working in each area. Great progress has been made in many of these areas over the first nine months of the year.

The Engagement/Monitoring group will meet prior to the next Mayor's Task Force meeting to discuss their planned activities. Susan offered to convene the initial meeting of this group

Court monitoring

Time left limited the amount of discussion about the court monitoring program. Kathy shared a draft of a report summarizing the program over the past four years. It was agreed to add this to the October meeting (early in the agenda) to assure that there is adequate time to discuss it.

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