



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

Tuesday, July 8, 2008, 7:00 to 9:00 pm  
Northfield Community Resource Center

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**Members Present:** Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Sharon Henry, Joan Janusz, Mary Nelson, Zach Pruitt, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

**Members Absent:** Pat Allen, Ken Engstrom, Mayor Lee Lansing, Jim Pokorney

**Guests:** Curt Benson

### Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Patty to approve the June minutes, seconded by Joan; motion unanimously approved. The agenda was also approved.

Budget Report: See report. \$2,331.82 has been spent.

### Committee Reports

**Adult Responsibility:** See report.

In addition, Kathy C. shared that the group had been reviewing the online AlcoholEdu website as a possibility for an online alcohol awareness program for high school students. A high school in St. Paul has utilized this resource and the committee is requesting a demo. The group also plans to look into what Lakeville is doing in this regard. In addition, the group will work to produce a postcard follow-up to the Zero Alcohol Provider (ZAP) mailing that details what community members can do if they know of an underage drinking party/steps to follow to report them.

The full Task Force unanimously endorsed the Adult Responsibility Committee working with the Northfield School District on enhancing the current health curriculum.

The Task Force unanimously supported having the Talking Points materials translated into Spanish.

The Task Force unanimously supported Curt working with Tom Graupmann (Northfield High School activities director) to have a message about ZAP and underage drinking at the fall high school activities night. It is hoped that either Northfield Police Chief Mark Taylor or Rice County Sheriff Richard Cook would be willing to give this brief presentation with Tom Graupmann.

**Communications:** See report.

The group is moving forward with the website, the logo, and the monthly *Northfield News* columns. The committee discussed the desire/need to involve more people in its work, particularly with the newspaper columns.

**Social Norms Marketing:** See report.

Progress is being made with identifying a consultant to work with the Task Force on the Positive Community Norms effort. The consultant will hopefully be in place by the next meeting.

**Development Committee:** No report.

**Court Monitoring Update:** See report.

Mid-Year Review of Task Force's current projects and activities:

The Task Force reviewed the potential activities it is/could be undertaking for the remainder of 2008, as well as the interest level of group members in working on these areas. Using the new Turning Points (clicker) technology, the group rated their support for each item.

All of the items received support from the Task Force to continue for the rest of 2008, with the exception of a neighborhood safety effort; the group felt this was a better project to revisit next year when there is more time and the Police Department may be staffed at full capacity.

See attachment for those who expressed a willingness to devote time to each project.

Group members noted that it will be important to review and discuss the initial social norms marketing messages as a full Task Force to be sure that the group is comfortable with these, as this is a new endeavor for the Task Force and the group feels it is important to assure that the campaign will balance highlighting the good decisions many youth make with the realities that this is a serious issue in the community.

Discussion of Northfield News series of heroin use

Several Task Force members expressed surprise by the lack of comments thus far on the series. This may be due to the fact that many of the articles have been personal stories, which can be difficult to comment on.

The Task Force voted unanimously to write a letter to the editor, thanking those individuals who have stepped forward to share their stories. Kathy C., Joan, Mary, and Susan agreed to work on the letter. An additional letter may be written after the series is complete, offering the Task Force's perspective on the articles. The group felt it was important to include in the articles that the Task Force can always use more members and to invite people to attend.

Agenda items for next meeting

- Northfield Police Chief Mark Taylor
- Discussion of who will lead/spearhead the Task Force's different projects for the remainder of 2008
- Possible projects for 2009

**Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

*Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*