



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

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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**Members Present:** Pat Allen, Curt Benson, Jon Denison, Kathy Cooper, Patty Gallivan, Sharon Henry, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

**Members Absent:** Ken Engstrom, Joan Janusz, Mary Nelson

**Guests:** Ken Malecha, Zach Pruitt, Kathy Sandberg

Members were welcomed to the meeting. Motion by Patty to approve the January 2009 minutes, seconded by Kris. Minutes were unanimously approved.

### Review and Discussion of Action Plans that were created at the retreat

#### *Northfield News* columns/Communications/Multi-media campaign

- Article in the *Northfield News* online edition about the city reducing boards and commissions. They are combining boards and commissions, but they are leaving the Task Force as a separate entity. The article mentioned that the Task Force “should continue its efforts, but should better communicate those to the public.” We need to contact the council to clarify what they mean and what their needs are to have better communication.

#### Task Force Website

- The website exists, but has not gone live. Curt and Mary are working the content. If anyone wants to help, let Curt or Mary know.

#### Targeted mailings to parents/Talking Points project

- This is an ongoing effort and the committee is meeting Thursday and will put together a work plan.

#### Prescription drug disposal

- The action plan will be finalized; the committee is working on it.
- Funds from the recent grant to Northfield Hospital will be used for prescription drug disposal.

#### Positive Community Norms – high school, middle school, parent and community campaign

- The committee is continuing to meet for the high school campaign. The committee will need to continue meeting to put the other campaigns together. We should have an outline for the parent campaign in about 2 months.
- The committee is looking for help determine who will lead and be involved with the parent and communication campaign.
- With the other campaigns, the Task Force needs to use the same model on having partnerships (such as has been the case with the High School).

- It was suggested that members of the Parent Communication Network may be willing to help with the parent campaigns; Zach agreed to draft a blurb to include in their next PCN newsletter.

#### Fall Activity Night at the Northfield High School

- Discussion needs to be started with the High School. Curt will extend an invitation to Tom Graupmann to attend the March meeting.

#### Court monitoring

- One of the purposes of the court monitoring program is to see how judges are sentencing and our presence in the court room helps.
- The monitoring covers 2 segments of people – adult providers of alcohol cases and heroin cases.
- It can sometimes be hard to get information about the adult providers from the County, but the committee will continue to work on this.
- The committee is keeping track of court dates and distributes the dates to the Task Force.
- Susan and Kathy S. are working with the Rice County Attorney to put together a Victim Impact Statement for the community perspective for a heroin court case next week. Kathy S. is asking the Task Force if they have anything to contribute. Once the draft is made, it will be sent to the county attorney.
- A summary report will be put together after the heroin cases are completed.

#### Buprenorphine advocacy

- The grant that the Northfield Hospital applied for was approved. The funds will be used for addiction education issues and training on a regional bases.
- The group reiterated that they have been impressed by the hospital's commitment and dedication to the project.

#### Compliance checks & Initiative with alcohol sellers

- Kathy C. is putting an action plan together and will distribute to the Task Force.

#### Budget/Development

- Timeline was discussed and dates were changed. We will need to start working on the 2010 budget in March.

#### School Curriculum

- The Adult Responsibility Committee will continue to meet.
- The Task Force is welcome to attend the school district staff development workshop on February 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Northfield High School auditorium. Dr. Charles Reznikoff will be speaking to the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. His talk will be about the science of addiction and prescription medication abuse.
- The hospital's recent grant will use funds for Dr. Reznikoff to speak to the teachers and also to present in school classrooms.
- All agreed that it is good that the school district is receptive. It was suggested to draft a letter of appreciation to the district for hosting the in-service and for their ongoing attention to this issue.

#### Support for the transition after high school/early 20s

- Pastor Amy Gohdes-Luhman at the Main Street Moravian Church is interested in this subject.
- This effort will require a broad cross-section of community dialog and partnership.

### 2009 Budget – revisions based on action plans

- Move the item to next month's meeting. Zach will gather the funding information from the action plans.
- The contract hours for Heather Kuehl are just about done and the committee would like to offer more hours for services until June for her to work on the other campaigns. Heather's work is critical to the Positive Community Norms campaign.
- Pat moved to have Heather's contract extended for an additional 100 hours up through June, Kris seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

### Membership

In discussions about the Task Force's membership, the group raised a number of questions, including:

- Should we be increasing membership?
- Where do we need representation/from what sectors?
- Need to recruit volunteers for committees to work on projects
- Are there others that would enhance the task force membership, e.g. medical staff, school staff, school board members?
- Maybe we should put a news release in the paper about recruiting for task force membership and volunteers. We will need to be specific about which committees need volunteers.
- Move membership and communication strategy to April's task force meeting.

Motion by Patty to adjourn, seconded by Kathy C. All approved.

*Respectfully submitted by Ellen Haberoth*