



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Pat Allen, Kathy Cooper, Jon Denison, Patty Gallivan, Sharon Henry, Joan Janusz, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs, Mary Nelson

Members Absent: Ken Engstrom, Mayor Lee Lansing, Jim Pokorney

Guests: Curt Benson, Julie Bubser, Mark Ensrud, Tom Graupmann, Ellen Haberoth, Lisa Malecha, Judi Malecha, Patti McDonald, Scott Richardson, Julie Sunstall, Mark Taylor, Marnie Thompson

Members were welcomed to the meeting and asked to introduce themselves. Motion by Pat to approve the October 2008 minutes, seconded by Joan. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation by and discussion with Patti McDonald, Lakeville coalition

Patti shared that she became involved with the Lakeville coalition because of a friend's death in an alcohol-related crash. The coalition started in a similar way as the Mayor's Task Force. The coalition needed the community to acknowledge that there is a problem and created a program to reduce underage drinking. The collaboration consists of people from the following sectors: faith community, schools, police, students, coaches, businesses, civic groups, and city representatives.

The Pure Performance effort targets youth in athletic and non-sport activities. They are targeted because of the large group of students involved in those activities. The goal is to get kids to make healthy and positive choices. The school board adopted intervention procedures involving the athletic directors, coaches, parents and students. It is important to add the information to the curriculum to assure sustainability and a wide reach of the effort. It helps that the school board supports the program, as it helps to assure the support of the athletic directors, coaches, school administrators, and teachers.

The program is to increase awareness and create consistent rules throughout all activities with regards to the use of drugs and alcohol. Prevention programs include captains/student leader training, coaches training, and pre-season education sessions. Guest speaker John Underwood presented to school administration, the school board, coaches, teachers, and student athletes about the effects of alcohol on youth and on athletic performance.

Discussion:

How do you know that it's getting better? There have been subtle changes and the parent culture has changed. The social host law in Lakeville has also helped.

Is the culture of silence changing? How are the coaches aware of a problem? It is part of the captain's responsibility – for example, if captains are at a party with alcohol, they are supposed to leave and make sure the team members also leave. Other students are also bringing the information to the coaches.

Financial and Budget Report

- See written report.

Adult Responsibility Committee

- See written report.
- Talking Points cards were at the Thursday's Table and created discussion at the tables.

Social Norms Marketing Committee1

- See written report.

Other Initiatives

Day of Feasting: This was a phenomenal event and very well organized. Sharon is creating a letter to the editor to thank the Main Street Moravian Church for organizing the event.

Newspaper Articles: Members met with the *Northfield News* to discuss the partnership and acknowledged that the newspaper is doing excellent work and that the newspaper is really helping to get the word out about these issues. Instead of an article in the "Mind and Body" section, the Task Force will now have a monthly article in the Guest Column section. Thanks to Sharon and Joan for meeting with the newspaper and to Joan for her work coordinating these articles!

Meeting with newly-elected officials: There will be a special meeting with the city council and school board for youth groups to tell what they are about, what they have been doing, and their future plans. The Task Force needs to also meet with mayor-elect Mary Rossing to keep her current of our activities.

Buprenorphine: The Task Force will draft a thank you letter to Dr. Charlie Reznikoff, Dr. Kris Matson, the Northfield Hospital board, the Northfield Hospital administration, and the Northfield City Council, thanking them for their work in assuring that Buprenorphine is available locally.

Retreat: The group feels there is a need for an extended period of time to enable discussion and re-visit priorities for the new year. This will be an action item at the December meeting – set a retreat date for a Saturday in January or February.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Haberoth