



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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

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

Guests: Curt Benson, Debbie Hahn, Ken Malecha, Dawn Parrot

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

Susan shared that Paul Haider, DARE Officer, would not be able to attend the meeting. The agenda was approved with that change.

Financial and Budget Report

The group was referred to the printed budget report. The City Council will consider a request for \$20,000 from the Liquor Store profits to be directed to substance abuse prevention, with \$2,500 going to the DARE program and \$17,500 going to the Task Force. There is also discussion about the ability to carryover unspent funds from the current year.

Adult Responsibility Committee

- See written report.
- The Adult Responsibility Committee, via Kathy Cooper, has been in contact with Patti McDonald of the Lakeville coalition. She is willing to talk about their work at the November meeting. Patti has requested more information about the work in Northfield so Kathy C. will send her information about the Mayor's Task Force as well as the rest of the Coalition.
- New Talking Points cards were distributed to members. This new format includes questions in English and Spanish on cards held on a ring. The format is very cost effective. There is not a plan for dissemination yet, but several suggestions were made to the committee including distributing them at a viewing of the parent DVD or displaying them in public places in a clever way (in the Talking Points cans, in pumpkins for Halloween, etc.)

Positive Community Norms Committee

- See written report
- Mary provided a brief explanation of the basis for the project and shared several examples of posters under consideration for the campaign. Input about design, colors and other features of the materials is being sought from young people. The group continues to meet weekly.

Other Initiatives

Day of Feasting: This event is sponsored by the Main Street Moravian church (see printed information in the meeting packet). Area resource people will be speaking at the town hall style session, including Dr. Charlie Reznikoff, Sheriff's Deputy Scott Robinson, Sarah Shippy from Omada Behavioral Health Services, and Northfield High School Assistant Principal Jeff Eckhoff. Reservations are needed for the meal, but not for the educational session. This event will be held on Sunday, November 16.

Prescription Drug Disposal: Mary reported that Northfield Police Chief Mark Taylor is committed to the collection and disposal of prescription drugs, over the counter medicines and controlled substances. He is talking with architects about a collection space. It seems that other agencies in the county are also interested. The collection will also be paired with an education campaign and has the support and involvement of the Enforcement and Provider Teams.

Court Monitoring: The new contact at the County Attorney's office is Assistant County Attorney Tori Stewart. She supplied a list of cases, some of which were in court on September 4 but we have yet to receive new court dates for those cases. Kathy S. has requested that information from Tori.

Compliance Checks: Mary has been working with all the agencies in the county supplying certificates, press releases and letters.

Northfield News columns: Previous columns have run on the Mind and Body page, but there is concern about how visible the MTF pieces are in that location. Some expressed frustration that the columns do not always run as seems to be the case with the submission for October. Joan suggested that representatives of the Task Force meet again with the newspaper. Joan will make contact to set something up and notify other members of the opportunity. There was also a suggestion that a radio spot once a month would be a good opportunity. If anyone is interested in doing this, please let the group know.

ZAP Postcard: Mary shared copies of the new mailing that helps people understand how to report underage drinking parties. They are in the process of being mailed out to parents around the county. Law enforcement agencies also have copies and there are extra copies if anyone has a use for them.

Website Marketing: The group compiled a list of items to be included on the website. Tim Jacobson will be constructing the site.

Other: Mary mentioned that Cheryl Mathison is interested in joining the Task Force. She also mentioned the possibility of pursuing business opportunities at the ALC where Cheryl works.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Northfield Community Resource Center.