



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

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center

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

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

**Guests:** Curt Benson, Jon Denison, Valerie Denison, Paul Hager, Mary Rossing

Members were welcomed to the meeting and asked to introduce themselves. Motion by Kathy C. to approve the August 2008 minutes, seconded by Sharon. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion by Joan to approve the agenda, seconded by Patty. Agenda was unanimously approved.

### Budget Report

Zach presented the updated budget report from Kathleen McBride (the City's Finance Director). The Task Force has spent \$2,331.82 of its 2008 budget.

### Follow-up from August Meeting

- The group appreciated Police Chief Mark Taylor coming to speak with the Task Force. Members were impressed by his commitment to these issues and to working collaboratively to address them.
- The group expressed interest in learning more about the DARE program in the Northfield Public Schools. Zach agreed to contact the Northfield Police Department to see if the DARE officer (Paul Haider) could attend a Task Force meeting.
- The group expressed interest in hearing the current status of using drug dogs in the schools. Zach offered to check with Chief Taylor on this.
- A question remains about what gets included in the police digest in the *Northfield News*. Mary and Susan offered to continue to research this.
- Several group members expressed interest in inviting Barb Wornson to attend a Task Force meeting. Barb wrote a guest column in the *Northfield News* on drug-related topics and runs the Sobriety High Schools in the Twin Cities. Susan offered to extend an invitation to Barb.

### 2009 Task Force Budget

The Budget Committee presented a draft of the 2009 budget for the Task Force. Task Force members expressed gratitude to the committee for the time they put into this. Motion by Patty to

approve the 2009 budget, seconded by Kathy C. The budget was unanimously approved, with one abstention (Joan).

#### Adult Responsibility Committee

- See written report.
- The Adult Responsibility Committee recommended inviting representatives from Lakeville to attend a future meeting and talk about their prevention work there. The group felt that there would be opportunities to learn from what Lakeville has done in their community. It was also suggested that the Task Force invite Northfield Public Schools' partners to attend that information-sharing meeting (i.e. Chris Richardson, Tom Graupmann, Marnie Thompson).
- The Adult Responsibility Committee is interested in the Task Force hosting a community presentation by Dr. Charlie Reznikoff, the physician contracted by Northfield Hospital to work with patients with opioid dependence and other substance use issues. The Task Force unanimously approved the committee moving forward with this.
- The committee is also interested in facilitating a conversation with the local colleges about the Amethyst Initiative and underage drinking. The Task Force discussed whether the college presidents or the dean of students would be the best representatives for such a conversation. The Task Force endorsed the Adult Responsibility Committee moving forward with such a discussion.
- The committee is continuing to look into the Alcohol.edu curriculum and connecting with the Northfield Public Schools' health teachers about this option.

#### Positive Community Norms Committee

- See written report
- Heather Kuehl, the independent consultant working with the committee, introduced herself. The committee expressed gratitude to Heather for all of her work on the Positive Community Norms campaign. The group is also very grateful to Neuger Communications for donating their time and talent to this effort.

#### Northfield News columns

- Joan encouraged Task Force members to share any ideas for columns and to let her know if they are interested in writing any.
- Mary R. suggested that after each column appears in the *Northfield News*, the Task Force could consider lining up a short interview with KYMN radio on the column's topic. This would provide another way to offer community education on important issues.

#### City Council presentation

Joan and Susan presented about the work of the Task Force to the City Council this month. They also encouraged the Council to sign a proclamation recognizing September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, which the Council did.

The response to the presentation from Council members and community members was very positive. The Task Force was grateful to Susan and Joan for their willingness to do the presentation.

### Youth Twelve-Step Program & Parent Support Group

Zach shared information about two new support groups in the community:

- A 12-step support group has been formed by two local young adults. The mission of this group is to provide peer support for area youth (ages 15 and up) who are in recovery or struggling with chemical use. This group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 pm.
- A parent group for parents whose children are struggling with substance use has been started in Northfield. The group aims to share information and offer mutual support. This group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Both groups are being hosted in Northfield at Omada Behavioral Health Services, located at 401 Division Street (Central Block Building – second floor). Yvette Marthaler of Rice County Social Services and Sarah Shippy of Omada are present at the meetings to provide any needed support to the groups.

### Marketing/Communications

The Task Force provided input on the business card samples that Mary N. had created. They also offered the suggestion to register a web domain name for the Task Force so that it is easier for people to find the site; the domain name could automatically forward to another Task Force website if the Task Force does not want to host its own site yet. Curt agreed to work with Mary N. to set this up.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use will be on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Northfield Community Resource Center.