



Enforcement Team

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 1:15-2:45 p.m.

Present: Gary Braun (Recovery School of Southern MN), Dan Collins (Faribault Police Department), Kathy Cooper (Rice County Safe Communities Coalition), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police Department), Pat Parlin (Northfield Area Learning Center), Neal Pederson (Faribault Police Department), Zach Pruitt (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Kathy Sandberg (Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Martha Schultz (Faribault Public Schools), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office)

Minutes Approval

The group reviewed and approved the minutes from February. *Becky will post the notes to the Enforcement Team web page.*

Agency Updates:

Law Enforcement –

Sheriff's Department – No one present to report.

Northfield Police – No one present to report.

Morristown Police – Dave indicated that things are quiet in Morristown. He is anticipating increasing enforcement efforts during upcoming summer celebrations.

Faribault Police – Dan and Neal reported that things have been busy as usual, although nothing out of the ordinary.

Community Corrections – No one present to report.

County Attorney's Office – Tori reported no new alcohol provider cases. The group wonders if that's because there is less underage drinking going on, or if youth are being more careful about their parties.

Schools:

Bethlehem Academy – No one present to report.

Discovery School – Jim reported that he has 66 students enrolled at his school. His 9th – 12th grade students attended the Double Impact Mock Crash. The 6th – 8th grade students stayed at the school and viewed the crashed car outside their building. Marijuana seems to be the drug of choice with his students. A serious trend the school has been battling all year is related to depression and suicide. Jim commented that there have been multiple suicides across the state of MN and it seems that this could be a problem nationwide. He is encouraged by the news that Discovery has received a grant through the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition to implement an evidence-based curriculum for drug and alcohol use among middle and high school students next year.

Recovery School of Southern MN- Gary reported his school is in the low 20s for attendance. They have added 3 new board members and are working on challenges related to being a charter school (i.e. transportation, etc). Students and staff recently participated in a retreat in Lansboro sponsored by Sobriety High. They will also be participating in a best practices conference coming up. Gary attended the Town Hall Meeting held in Faribault.

He thought it was well organized and well publicized. He was disappointed with how few community members attended.

Northfield ALC – Pat reported that she is seeing a shift in her school's environment; there seem to be less drug-related issues with the current group of students. She attributes this shift to having 50+ students who are juniors and seniors and who are working hard to graduate. She also reported that some students who were providing chemicals to others have moved on. The ALC's small business program was recognized this week for donating over \$14,000 to the CAC Food Shelf. Sarah Shippy continues to meet with students. Prom was last weekend and everything appeared to go fine.

Faribault High School – Martha is continuing to work on communication with school administration regarding reports of underage drinking and drug incidents. STOPS is currently sponsoring Awareness Week and hosting activities in the lunchroom. The whole school attended the Double Impact Mock Crash and the overall feedback was positive. Martha reported that the MN Student Survey was conducted recently for 6th, 9th and 12th grade students and will be done at the ALC as well. Although federal funding for the Safe and Drug Free Schools program has been cut, the MN Student Survey will be conducted again in 2013.

Good feedback on the Mock Crash in Faribault. Most comments were positive. Obituaries were posted in the schools following the crash.

Drug Task Force- Dan reported they have made several arrests lately and there is still a lot of meth around. Meth, cocaine, marijuana and pills are all available. Many of the individuals being arrested have multiple previous arrests. The group talked about the repeat offenders, many of whom have multiple open cases. The county seems to view their tendency to not hold folks in jail as a positive, but offenders know that consequences are lacking. Dan mentioned that the seating of two new judges may create an opportunity to do some education about substance abuse and addiction.

Medical Marijuana Update

The main effort to pass legislation is on hold until 2011 with hopes of having someone in the governor's office who is more favorable to their cause. Dan mentioned that The Current did a special on marijuana.

Social Host Update

Kathy Cooper reported that 42 cities in MN have adopted social host ordinances, as well as 2 counties. Owatonna has also has an ordinance. She reported that at Northfield's Town Hall meeting, the Dean of Students from St. Olaf came out in support of an ordinance for Northfield. Kathy gave the group information from Gordy Pehrson about how to write an ordinance and stressed that they can be written to specific qualifications and can address situations where people are afraid of penalizing individuals who aren't responsible. An additional 13 communities are considering ordinances.

2009 Evaluation Survey

The group reviewed the Enforcement Team's End-of-Year Survey results. The Survey asked several questions about the work of the Enforcement Team and gave team members a chance to make suggestions. Overall the comments were very positive and it seems folks still think the Enforcement Team is worth continuing. The group agreed we need to focus our efforts on a couple of areas and move forward. Providing training for new judges was suggested as an additional action item. Tori shared that the process for appointing new judges has started and should be complete by mid-May. The group would like to schedule a meeting with the new judges. Kathy will contact Bob Langer to discuss possible strategies.

MIPH ZAP Assessment Report

Dan Collins, Mark Taylor, Becky, Zach and Kathy met to review the results of the report with Sheila Nesbitt. Dan gave a summary of the assessment conducted by the MN Institute of Public Health. Overall, ZAP has been well received by multiple sectors of the community that were surveyed about it. Arrest records were reviewed and that data is included as well. Recommendations from Sheila were also presented in the report. Dan indicated that he feels some responsibility for taking preventative action when there is information about a party available. Dave agreed that this strategy is one they want to continue. MIPH seemed to think the practice of alerting parents to a rumored party may be a drawback to ZAP

because it's not as visible as breaking up a party using ZAP protocol. There was a comment about a lack of laptops in police cars, but Dave and Dan were not aware of a shortage in that area. Overall, the report is very positive. There seems to be room for improvement in communication about the use of the ZAP protocol as opposed to use of the term "call out." It is up to us as to how we respond to the results of this report.

Some potential areas of growth include:

Increase Communication to the Public – need to be consistent in publicizing the good that's happening, including arrests, citations given, court appearances and sentencing. Celebrating ZAP in the public eye will serve as a deterrent and a reminder. Kathy Cooper also mentioned that only 9 cases of adult providers resulted in sentences. In 9 other cases the charges were dropped, and 2 still have outstanding warrants.

Increase Communication Among Coalition Members - need routine updates between partner agencies and stakeholders about successes, challenges, etc. Regular communication will help keep everyone informed about ZAP incidents, as well as parties that were prevented. Need to log those occurrences.

Streamline the Search Warrant Process – law enforcement reports that the steps involved in getting a search warrant can take up to 3 hours. Developing a search warrant template, providing additional training to officers about how to write a warrant, and pursuing other avenues to reach judges could help in the process.

Increase Efforts to Gain Reports from School Staff – institutionalize reminders to school staff (including custodians, secretaries, and cafeteria workers) to keep their ears open for information about underage parties and report it to the school liaisons.

Meeting with Pharmacists

Through Take It To the Box and other efforts, it has been suggested that this Team meeting with pharmacists in the county to share ideas about reducing prescription drug and over-the-counter medication abuse. The group was supportive of planning two such meetings in the county.

2010 Priority Areas

Tabled until next month due to lack of time.

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, May 19, 2010
Rice County Government Services Building – Commissioners Room
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m