

Enforcement Team

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, December 17, 2008 – 1:15-2:45 p.m.

Present: Laura Carlson (Bethlehem Academy), Kathy Cooper (Rice County Safe Communities), Christina Davenport (intern, Rice County Attorney's Office), Jeff Eckhoff (Northfield High School), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Jim Haas (Rice County Community Corrections), Scott Hanson (Bethlehem Academy), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police Department), Linda Oto (Northfield Connected Kids mentoring program), 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 High School), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Bob Sletten (Rice County Sheriff's Office), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office), Mark Taylor (Northfield Police Department), Simon Tyler (ARTEch School)

Introductions were completed.

Agency Updates:

Law Enforcement- Members were reminded that there are still funds available to support ZAP callouts and to pay for the officer overtime on these calls.

Community Corrections – Jim Haas let the group know that Tonya Slager accepted a new job with the Department of Homeland Security and is, thus, no longer with Community Corrections.

County Attorney's Office – Tori Stewart provided the group with an update of the cases related to furnishing alcohol to minors. She explained that when adults did not actually provide the alcohol, they can still be charged with contributing to the status of a minor by allowing youth to drink on their property. Two cases will have Rule 8 hearings during the week of December 22. Mark Taylor commented that a party that the Northfield Police responded to last week resulted in the issuing of minor consumption tickets and an individual was also charged with furnishing alcohol to minors.

Schools -

Discovery School: Jim questioned the group about how to handle a situation with a student who shows up to school and is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Most schools contact the parents first, but the police are often also called.

ARTEch: Simon reported that they had one response to the letter about cough and cold medicines.

Bethlehem Academy: With regard to students who come to school having used alcohol or other drugs, they call the parents and suspend the student until an assessment is completed; this action is taken regardless of the chemical or the amount used. There are currently two students from the school in treatment. Their Board was very appreciative of the cough/cold medicine letter.

Northfield High School: The cough/cold letter was sent out and also posted on the school's website. When they have a student who is under the influence, they call the parents and the police.

Northfield ALC: Pat reported that parents are called if chemical use is suspected.

Youth Tobacco Issues

Jim Haas spoke to the group about the handling of payable fines for youth who are ticketed for smoking. When someone is ticketed for this offense, they come directly to Community Corrections. The caseload totals about 35 to 40 cases per year. Corrections imposes a \$25 fine on the child/parent and no further action or services occur. Corrections staff noted 3 cases recently where young people were also given consequences through school when the infraction occurred on school grounds. Jim was curious about the group's thinking about this double punishment. Most Enforcement Team members seemed to think that youth who smoke on school grounds should receive both "punishments" – similar in a way to civil and criminal penalties. There was also some discussion about whether or not fines are the most effective penalty.

DVD Update

The second draft of the parent DVD is complete and is being circulated to those who have been working on it. We are getting close! Neal Pederson, Mark Taylor, and the staff from BA are interested in reviewing the draft.

Updates

Cough/cold medicine letter to parents:

- Jim Haas reported that Community Corrections is now able to do the tox screen to identify these medicines.
- Letters went out the parents from local schools with law enforcement signatures.

Drug Task Force:

The Task Force continues to be very busy. The lower level heroin cases are close to resolution. Most requests for lowered bail have been denied. There is a lot of discovery evidence in these cases due to the work of the Task Force.

Other business

Shutting Off the Tap to Teens conference:

- Several folks from Rice County attended and found this to be a good conference.
- There was a lot of discussion at the conference about training for alcohol sellers and servers, a process already in place in Rice County.
- Clips from the movie Haze highlighted the dangerous behaviors associated with binge drinking by college students.

Local training for youth group leaders:

The Coalition will be offering training sessions on identifying and responding to youth with substance use issues. The trainings will be targeted for adults who work with youth. Sessions are being planned for January and February.

Beverage Server Training:

The next set of training dates was distributed. Training for beverage servers and sellers – including site trainings and trainings for non-profit groups with temporary licenses – continues. A question was raised about training for tobacco sales compliance. Staff will check into this.

Other

Zach mentioned that Northfield Hospital has submitted a Rural Hospital Flex Grant to the State of Minnesota. The focus of the grant project would be education and support for professionals and community members around issues of heroin and other opiate use and abuse. The grants will be announced by March 2009.

Next Meeting

The January meeting will be held either January 14 or January 21 from 1:15-2:45 p.m. Date confirmation to follow.