



Enforcement Team Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 – 1:15-2:45 p.m.

Present: Richard Cook (Rice County Sheriff's Department) Jeff Eckhoff (Northfield High School), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Brent Hawkins (Faribault Middle School), Loren Johnson (Rice County Community Corrections), Scott Hanson (Bethlehem Academy), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police Department), Mary Nelson (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Linda Oto (Northfield Connected Kids mentoring program), Pat Parlin (Northfield Area Learning Center), Neal Pederson (Faribault Police Department), Scott Robinson (Drug Task Force), Kathy Sandberg (Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Martha Schultz (Faribault High School), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Bob Sletten (Rice County Sheriff's Office)

Introductions were completed.

Agency Updates:

Law Enforcement - Nothing new to report.

Community Corrections - Nothing new to report.

County Attorney's Office - No one present to report.

Schools:

Bethlehem Academy - Scott reported that they are working on protocol with their school board to utilize drug dogs in the school and parking lot. The school board approved a policy and they are developing a plan to make the event educational. They plan to conduct a search in the spring, but beforehand they intend to send a letter home and convene an educational session with students and parents. Scott mentioned that he contacted the Faribault High School and Northfield to get info about their school policies and protocol.

Dave Osborne mentioned that Medford Schools utilized drug dog searches as well.

Northfield High School - Jeff reported that they had the drug dogs in their school this week. He said that scheduling the dogs were difficult. It took about 35 minutes to complete the parking lots and school facility including locker rooms. The students responded well and seemed to understand how drug dogs are important for school safety. They utilized a "lock down" drill with a script that an individual read over the intercom system explaining what was going on.

Discovery School - Jim reported that female students have reported a white male in his late teens/early 20s has been using young girls to distribute drugs. His name is Robert with a nickname of "Rabbit" and lives in close proximity to Discovery. Jim was already in communication with Faribault PD and sharing information.

Faribault Middle School - Brent reported that there have been reports of drug transactions being done on buses, mainly marijuana. They have been searching kids and interviewing individual students about an identified student involved in other drug dealing activity in the

community. Transactions have reportedly taken place at the Viaduct, Kwik Trip and Buckham Center. Scott Robinson recommended that Brent work with their school liaison officer to get the information to the Police Department.

Northfield ALC – Pat reported that they haven't been seeing students coming to school under the influence of drugs/alcohol as much recently. They have a chemical dependency counselor providing services to students and more students are being connected with inpatient and outpatient treatment. They are considering using drug dog searches in their parking lot and commons area.

Tobacco Training Update

Becky reported that after researching several agencies, currently there are no tobacco trainings being offered for merchants by any state or county programs. Our contact at the state Alcohol and Gambling Division feels very strongly that alcohol trainings should not be combined with tobacco trainings. There is one organization in the north metro providing training 2x/year. The Association of Non-Smokers Rights has adapted a manual put together by the MN Department of Health and works intensely with merchants, recognizing their efforts for passing compliance checks. The group felt that in Rice County a full training would not be widely attended, but we could develop a short piece of training to add on to the end of the Alcohol Awareness Trainings. Also, simply handing out information at the end of training might be sufficient. Others suggested developing a manual for the tobacco merchants on employee training and make that information available on the new website as well. Coalition staff will pursue these ideas.

Drug Task Force

Scott Robinson reported that they are investigating indoor growth of marijuana plants, but that cocaine seems to be increasing in prevalence. Recently they made an undercover arrest of an individual from Chicago selling cocaine in Faribault. This individual is a member of the Black P-Stone gang and they are seeing an increase in drug dealers specifically targeting Faribault as a community in which to distribute. The judge set a very high bail, which demonstrates support for the work of the Drug Task Force. Scott also said that the work of the Drug Task Force is cyclical in Rice County because when attention and focus is put on situations in one community, then situations tend to grow in the other community. Regarding the heroin cases in Northfield, the hospital has reported seeing people come in with opiate withdrawal symptoms and the community at large has been supportive of their work.

Sheriff Cook stated that we have a great need to erode the market for these substances. We live in an addictive society and that people are masking their pain with drugs. Eliminating the demand for these drugs is the only way to keep illegal substances out of our community. He said we need to revisit prevention efforts, specifically in the schools.

Special Presentation

Sheriff Cook presented a certificate of achievement to Scott Robinson, recognizing all of his work on the Drug Task Force and work with the Coalition.

Survey Results

Kathy reported that the new survey results for Faribault students have been compiled by Roger Jenni and available to review. The data includes age of onset, what teens are using, perceptions of harm and disapproval. Kathy will bring to our next meeting longitudinal trends for discussion.

DVD Project and next steps

Kathy reported that the DVD is almost done. There are just some minor changes to make and then it will be ready for distribution. The group was encouraged to stay after and view the video. Those that were able to stay were very positive of the work put in as well as the finished project. The question is now how to use this tool and get it to families, schools, community, etc.

Compliance Check Binders

Mary presented binders to all the law enforcement agencies performing checks. The binders include information such as how to recognize businesses, how to use the media for publicity, etc. and what support Mary can offer for this process. Mary suggested that tobacco training info could be presented to all merchants after the compliance checks whether they passed or failed. She would also like to recognize individual employees with a certificate for refusing to sell to someone underage.

Background Check Funds/Availability

Becky asked the group if any of the law enforcement agencies conduct background checks or what other groups use for there background checks. The schools reported they use companies out of the cities and that employees have to pay for their own.

ZAP Frequently Asked Questions

The group was given a draft of FAQ handout. As people come and go in agencies Coalition staff thought it would be helpful to have a document that answers some questions about the Zero Alcohol Providers program. Bob clarified that each department has a designated individual (either on/off duty) that determines whether a situation warrants a ZAP callout. He also stated that if a jurisdiction receives a report of a party individual departments may choose to handle it alone. Law enforcement individuals talked about the need for students/parents/community members to come forward with information about underage drinking parties. In order to obtain a search warrant, officers need more detailed information. They prefer to prevent situations where youth will be drinking and could potentially get hurt because they are running away when law enforcement shows up.

Other Business

Partnership Power: Anti-Drug Groups and Law Enforcement Satellite Program – There will be a broadcast on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 12:00 in Room 3A at the Government Services Building. Some mentioned that though our county does well with this, it would certainly provide a learning opportunity. Neal asked how to access the webcast. Staff will check into that possibility.

Regional ATOD Forum: ZAP

There will be a regional forum in Wilmar, MN on Friday, January 30th. The focus will be on the Zero Alcohol Providers strategy and judicial response to underage drinking. Mary stated she plans to attend.

Other

Bob requested that a contact list for the Enforcement Team be sent out. Staff will send out via e-mail for group's review and make available next month.

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, February 18, 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.
Gov. Services Building Rm. 3A