



## Enforcement Team Meeting Notes

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

**Present:** Gary Braun (Recovery School of Southern Minnesota), Dan Collins (Faribault Police), Kathy Cooper (Safe Communities Coalition), Jeff Eckhoff (Northfield High School), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Brent Hawkins (Faribault Middle School), Lisa Malecha (ARTech), Chelle Marquardt (Rice County Community Corrections), Sheila Nesbitt (MN Institute of Public Health), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police), Pat Parlin (Northfield Area Learning Center), Neal Pederson (Faribault Police), Zach Pruitt (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Scott Robinson (Rice County Drug Task Force), Martha Schultz (Faribault Public Schools), Kathy Sandberg (Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office), Mark Taylor (Northfield Police)

### **Minutes Approval**

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

### **Agency Updates:**

#### ***Law Enforcement –***

Sheriff's Department – No one present to report.

Northfield Police – Mark reported they have had some marijuana arrests in Northfield lately. The departments are getting lots of deposits in the medication disposal boxes – over-the-counter as well as prescription medications. The departments are trying to coordinate disposal soon since there has been such an enthusiastic response. Faribault got a couple of green glass prescription bottles from 1958.

Morristown Police – No major reports.

Faribault Police – Neal reported that the Rice County Drug Task Force has been busy, but no ZAP callouts lately in Faribault.

***Community Corrections*** – Chelle reported that they have several kids who have been getting minor consumptions in Steele County. Many are still being given petty offenses, even though they have had several priors locally.

***County Attorney's Office*** – Tori reported that there are two provider cases pending. One individual was scheduled to be sentenced yesterday, but did not show up in court; a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. The next case should be up on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Dan commented that the owner of the Faribault Tobacco Shop failed two compliance checks.

#### ***Schools:***

Discovery School – Jim reported that their enrollment is up and things are pretty calm. A couple of students were ticketed for smoking. They are having chemical dependency counselor services one-half day per week.

Recovery School of Sothern Minnesota - The school is open with 20+ students enrolled but expecting some to be leaving. The target is 30 students by the end of the year. There have been significant budget cuts, but the school continues. Gary also mentioned that Steele County has formed a Coalition similar to Rice County, which all agreed seems like a positive move.

Northfield High School - They have seen more marijuana than in previous years, possibly as a result of the efforts to have kids help identify other kids who are using. Jeff indicated he is worried about the new 9<sup>th</sup> graders, who seem to be using more and there seems to be activity in the parking lot.

Northfield Area Learning Center – There are a couple of students who are participating in inpatient treatment. There is talk about students using cold and other over-the-counter medications. Staff has been talking to parents about that. Pat gave out copies of the “Drugs 101” DVD to all parents at conferences.

Northfield ARTech - Things are going well with nearly full student enrollment. The staff did a lot of work last year around substance use, which seems to be helping.

Faribault Middle School – Brent reported that they had conferences last week and had resources for the Coalition. Brent reported that a lot of the drug-related information had been picked up by parents from the Coalition table and from another table that Brent set up. The schools are waiting for the results of the Faribault Student Survey, which was recently administered. A service project clean-up of the school Nature Area and trail turned up lots of beer and cigarette packaging.

Faribault High School - STOPS and SPOTS are getting going. Becky reported that they are hearing a lot about kids “waking and baking” (smoking pot). Faribault Student Survey was completed. Chemical dependency counselor is seeing kids one day per week.

### **Drug Task Force**

Concern was expressed by the group about the potential legalization of medical marijuana and its influence on young people as well as on our workforce. Speculation was that there is reason to be concerned about legalization in Minnesota and other places. Dan encouraged people to be in contact with legislators about this issue.

Scott reported that there have been some fascinating programs talking about medical marijuana in California on TV. The unintended side effect is the disintegration of neighborhoods associated with growing and dealing marijuana.

Scott also reported that the Rice County Drug Task Force has been busy. Kids are diverting pills from a legitimate prescription and this is going on in Northfield and maybe other places. This action with the controlled substance is a felony. In another case, a local student was dealing marijuana in the schools and was arrested. There was a case in the rural areas of a very large marijuana grow where they followed the smell to an area hidden in a corn field. The marijuana was very high concentration of THC. There were several other cases of growing marijuana locally, but the outside growing season is now passed so the marijuana will be grown indoors or come from elsewhere.

Crack cocaine is also a concern. The heroin issue is still being worked on, as well as pills.

Scott spoke to the Faribault Police Reserves and showed the “Drugs 101” DVD.

Lisa commented that ARTech has students from a number of different communities who are very mobile.

Chelle reported that they have taken a few tennis balls off of kids. Scott confirmed that there is a trend of kids slicing the seam of tennis balls and hiding drug-related items inside. Chelle encouraged the schools to be on the lookout for kids with balls in their pockets.

### **Compliance Checks**

Rod is working on doing checks for Faribault, but is struggling to get underage buyers. License holders are asking for information about the time of the check so that businesses can recognize individual employees.

### **ZAP Update and Discussion**

Zach reminded the group about our plan to engage in an assessment of our work with the ZAP Project. Sheila provided some information about the Minnesota Institute of Public Health and the successes that have been realized from ZAP projects around the state. The assessment process will focus on key informant interviews asking about the successes, challenges/obstacles, strategies used to overcome challenges, and ideas for future efforts. The result will be an internal document for the group to use in moving forward. Dave suggested that the sustainability question with regard to resources is important. Dan commented that the outside perspective that MIPH will offer can be very helpful.

Sheila or another person from MIPH will be having those conversations during the month of November. The goal will be to summarize the information gathered with a report to the group in January. Zach passed around a summary of what the project will look like; this was the same handout that was passed out last month. The group was encouraged to provide input about the questions asked and/or the information we would like to collect. People with input can send that on to Sheila. They will be talking to law enforcement, schools, county attorney's office, corrections, etc. The protocol for law enforcement will likely include some specific questions about the operations of ZAP (warrants, evidence, etc.). Jeff suggested that it may be time for some additional ZAP publicity again. Mark mentioned that there has been some pressure to "call out the cavalry," even if it was not necessary to deal with the parties. A suggestion was made to have MIPH think about talking to the media. Chelle mentioned that they are still doing the inventory with kids who have been charged under a ZAP callout, but Corrections has no follow-up responsibility for the inventory. Parents are told that they have the responsibility for that. Chelle also said that she has done almost all of the inventories, but has not had any follow-up calls from parents.

The group is encouraged to submit names of people to be interviewed. Sheila said they would do the largest number of interviews with law enforcement representatives (nearly half). In addition, she hopes to interview a couple of prosecutors, a couple from probation, 2-3 school personnel, and 1-2 media people. Sheila estimated that they would do about 20 interviews.

**Next Meeting Date:**

***Wednesday, November 18, 2009  
Rice County Gov. Services Building – Room 3A  
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m***