

# Rice County Chemical Health Coalition Provider Team

November 18, 2009 12:00 to 1:30 pm

**Present at the Meeting:** Elizabeth Bade (Northfield Public Schools), Gary Braun (Recovery School of Southern Minnesota), Sue Connolly (Family Focus), Mary Davis (Rice County intern), Jim Evans (retired physician), Dorothee Ischler (Center for Human Resources), Jenine Koziolk (Fountain Centers), Judi Malecha (parent and Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use), Lisa Malecha (ARTech Charter School), Yvette Marthaler (Rice County Social Services – Rule 25 Assessor), Kris Matson (physician and licensed Suboxone provider), Anne Meyer-Ruppel (Allina Clinic – Northfield), Zach Pruitt (staff support, Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Kathy Sandberg (staff support, Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Sarah Shippy (Omada Behavioral Health Services), Maynard Speece (Dakota County Detox), Erica Staab (HOPE Center), Ellen Unruh (Rice County Public Health), Andy Yurek (Northfield Hospital)

## Introductions and Updates:

- Elizabeth reported on the Pure Performance presentations that were done in the Northfield Public Schools this fall. Dr. John Underwood from the American Athletic Institute presented to Northfield High School staff, fall coaches, fall athletes, and parents/community members on the effects of alcohol use on adolescent development and athletic performance. More than 1,000 people heard Dr. Underwood's presentation during his day in Northfield.
- Gary reported that the enrollment at the Recovery School is currently at about 25 students, with 5 from Rice County. The school has implemented a fee-based system for transportation, but does not deny transportation if a family cannot afford it.
- Jim reported that beginning in January, there will be a prescription drug tracking system implemented in the state. Dispensers of schedule drugs will be required to check and report into the system. Pharmacists will enter the information, but physicians will be able to access the information. The group talked about how we could communicate information about this change to local providers. **Jim, Anne, and Kris** expressed a willingness to help with brainstorming next steps.
- Maynard reported that they are exploring the possibility of taking suicidal patients.
- Jenine shared that the Fountain Centers has an excellent speaker who is in recovery and is interested in talking with groups about his/her experiences.
- Lisa reported that ARTech will have the Prison Reality program from the Faribault prison visiting the school on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The program had a significant impact on students last year. If Provider Team members are interested in sitting in, please contact Lisa ([lmalecha@artech.k12.mn.us](mailto:lmalecha@artech.k12.mn.us)).

## Ellen Unruh:

Ellen shared information with the group about the work she is doing with Rice County Public Health related to reducing tobacco harm. Ellen spoke about the harm of smoking and of secondhand smoke, the current legislation, and new efforts here in Rice County (and across a four-county region in southeastern Minnesota through the Four-Corners Partnership).

Strategies that are planned include:

- 1) Addressing tobacco advertising that targets youth
- 2) Keeping the Freedom to Breathe Act strong
- 3) Increasing the number of tobacco-free college campuses
- 4) Connecting smokers with resources to help them quit

Ellen shared information about new products that deliver nicotine in other ways, including products similar to breath mints and breath strips.

The group discussed the possibility of lending the Provider Team's name and resources to help raise awareness among youth about the effects of advertising/marketing on youth and the work that the tobacco industry is doing to market to young people.

Ellen will continue to participate in the Provider Team. Anyone interested in learning more about the tobacco reduction efforts or participating in the work, please contact Ellen ([ellen.unruh@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.unruh@gmail.com)).

### **Halfway House:**

Two community meetings were held. While there was significant positive support for the house, there was concern about some of the opposition that came from the meetings. There are many people in the community who are interested in helping promote the halfway house and support it. The group talked about possibly having another meeting close to the opening date. The theme of the meeting would be ways that the community could help to support this house ("Here is what we need..."). Any remaining concerns could also be addressed at that point. Neighbors would also be given information on who they should call if they have any concerns.

It was suggested that Gil (the director of New Beginnings) would be a good resource to connect with, as he has had extensive experience working to foster community buy-in and support for efforts like this. **Yvette** agreed to make contact with him.

### **Buprenorphine:**

Kris reported that the Northfield Hospital's Opiate Agonist Therapy (OAT) Clinic continues to go well, with a significant number of patients seen. She and Dr. Charles Reznikoff are both licensed to administer Suboxone (aka Buprenorphine).

One concern raised was assuring that individuals on Buprenorphine who then spend time in the local jail are able to continue on the medication. **Yvette** agreed to contact the local prison about this and to set up a meeting to discuss this possibility. **Kris** and **Sarah** expressed interest in attending and Dr. Reznikoff would hopefully be able to attend.

A request was made for potential additional education on Buprenorphine with staff at the Fountain Centers and Dakota County. **Zach** will help to make connection between Dr. Reznikoff and **Jenine** and **Maynard**.

Yvette shared that HealthFinders has provided funding to help with gap coverage for Rice County residents who are in between insurance and need Buprenorphine.

Kris noted that she and Dr. Reznikoff recently presented at Hazelden about heroin and opiate abuse in Northfield. Two local individuals in recovery were also on the panel.

### **Review of Provider Team Activities:**

Staff shared a handout of what the Provider Team has accomplished over the past three years. See handout. All agreed that the group has undertaken and achieved a number of important interventions.

Because so much negative attention has been focused on Rice County in the Twin Cities press, Jim raised the point of whether the Provider Team would want to share its activities and accomplishments with the regional media. Minnesota Public Radio was suggested as a potential source. **Yvette** agreed to look into this.

#### **Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant:**

Andy shared that the Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant to Northfield Hospital has allowed for a number of physician education opportunities about Buprenorphine, opiate addiction, prescription medication abuse, and related topics. In addition, Dr. Reznikoff has presented to staff of a number of Rice County schools, as well as to numerous groups of students. Andy reported that the Hospital is working on protocols for how different departments respond to patients on Buprenorphine. Dr. Reznikoff has provided assistance with drafting these, which may be models for other medical establishments to utilize.

The grant runs through the end of February 2010. The grant manager is coming for the official site visit in December.

#### **Prescription Drug Disposal Campaign:**

The "Take It to The Box" campaign is well underway, with medication disposal boxes in place at both the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations. Community members are able to bring no longer needed prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the box 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Several hundred pounds of medication have already been deposited.

#### **Adolescent Outpatient Treatment Group:**

Sarah shared that the adolescent outpatient group continues to run twice per week. As many as 15 youth participated at one time this summer. There are currently seven youth attending. Transportation is offered from Faribault for youth who need it. EcoTrans has given the Provider Team a significant discount in the transportation costs, which has made it possible for the transportation to continue.

#### **Homelessness Concerns:**

The group discussed concerns for community members who are arrested for drug-related offenses and consequently have felonies on their records. This makes them ineligible for housing rental (and makes employment difficult). **Yvette** will invite a representative from the Rice County Homeless Response Team to the next meeting to discuss this.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 – Noon-1:30 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center (1651 Jefferson Parkway)