



Enforcement Team Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 – 1:15-2:45 p.m.

Present: Dan Collins (Faribault Police Department), Richard Cook (Rice County Sheriff's Department), Kathy Cooper (Safe Communities Coalition), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Brent Hawkins (Faribault Middle School), Scott Hanson (Bethlehem Academy), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police Department), Mary Nelson (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Linda Oto (Northfield Connected Kids mentoring program), Neal Pederson (Faribault Police Department), Zach Pruitt (Northfield HCI), Kathy Sandberg (Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Bob Sletten (Rice County Sheriff's Office), Mark Taylor (Northfield Police Department), Simon Tyler (Northfield ARTech),

Introductions were completed.

Agency Updates:

Law Enforcement – Dan Collins reported that Fugali's Liquor Box in Faribault did not contest their civil penalty for selling alcohol to a minor. The youth involved was also charged.

Community Corrections – No one present to report.

County Attorney's Office – Tori Stewart reported no new updates. Kathy mentioned while attending some of the sentencing hearings she noticed most of the cases involved people who were using alcohol or drugs. Tori and others confirmed her observation that many crimes occurring in Rice County are made by persons who use/abuse alcohol and other drugs, even if the case is not an alcohol/drug related crime.

Schools:

Bethlehem Academy - Scott reported that the school board approved a drug dog policy as well as the accompanying lock-down procedure. They anticipate a drug dog search in April or May. Kathy and Scott continue to work with preparing the students, staff and parents by educating them about the importance of healthy choices, school safety, etc.

Discovery School - Jim reported that substance abuse activity at his school has been "quiet" the last month.

ARTech – Simon reported that they Rice County SWAT team has been running exercises at his school. They have been able to practice lock-downs. Law enforcement mentioned it has been helpful for them to learn ARTech's facilities.

Faribault Middle School - Brent reported that the use of drug dog searches is on Faribault's district administration agenda for discussion. He also said the Faribault School Board has expressed support in the past for this procedure and that middle school staff are very interested and ready to participate.

Drug Task Force

Members of law enforcement reported that the Drug Task Force is very busy with different kinds of cases. Currently, court sentencing for the heroin arrests is taking place. A market for methamphetamine still exists, though the drug has become very expensive. Cocaine is currently the drug of choice among users. Dave reported that Morristown is experiencing active marijuana growth and reported recent arrests.

Survey Results

Kathy presented the recent results of the Faribault HCI survey. The group looked at statistics for 30 day use, perception of harm, parent conversations, ease of access for alcohol, marijuana and other drugs. Students in all 4 grades reported that prescription drugs are easier to obtain than other drugs, and in most cases, easier than marijuana. The group talked about students who reported that their parents “never talk to them about alcohol or drug use” and found it interesting that in other surveys, parents report in high numbers that they do talk to their kids about substance use. It seems there is a need to help develop meaningful conversations between parents and children around this topic. Simon also pointed out the lack of “other adults” as a protective factor in the lives of the students who were surveyed.

The HCI survey will be given to all Northfield schools very soon.

DVD Project and next steps

Kathy reported that the DVD is done and that the booklet is very close. The group was impressed with the work Mary had done on the DVD booklet. The group suggested making the DVD available on the new Rice County Chemical Health website, playing it on Faribault and Northfield Community television stations. The group also said this would be a valuable resource for schools, as well as parent groups. The group felt it would be most impactful paired with meaningful discussion between youth and adults. It was suggested that the 7th and 8th grade health classes view the DVD as part of their curriculum. Other ideas included parents and athlete viewing it at the fall athletic meetings and putting it on YouTube. Simon suggested that youth from ARTech and The Key in Northfield could give youth feedback about the booklet design/contents and help with distribution. Kathy and Becky intend to show the DVD at the next Parent Group meeting on March 9, 7:00 p.m., Washington Rec Center.

Data Tracking

Coalition staff is in need of tracking data for grant applications, specifically adults who provide alcohol to minors and minor consumption tickets. The group also thought tracking data on DUIs for people under 21 would also be helpful. Dan, Mark and Dick will work on pulling together a county-wide report.

ZAP Frequently Asked Questions/Youth Reporting Ideas

The group was given a second 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. The group thought it summarized ZAP well. Becky will contact Bob Kell at the Welcome Center in Faribault for a Spanish translation. It was also mentioned that a letter would be sent home again to parents in the coming weeks, asking them prepare for the spring break, prom, and graduation seasons when alcohol use increases among high school students. A reminder about the ZAP program would be appropriate at that time. The group felt there needs to be a reminder to students and staff about how important it is to report information to individual school’s liaison officers. The Faribault Police Department is working on a text message program for receiving

information. Bob volunteered to track ZAP call outs and when law enforcement uses ZAP protocol to break up underage drinking parties. He will also provide Coalition staff with anecdotal examples and information about parties that are prevented.

2008 Enforcement Team Year-End Evaluation

The group spent some time reading over the evaluation.

Other Business

Kathy mentioned that the Drug Free Communities Grants for both Faribault and Northfield are due on March 2nd.

Zach also reported that the Northfield Hospital received a grant from the MN Department of Health focused on emerging health needs in rural communities. Their efforts will engage physicians, schools, EMS persons, and the community at large in Rice County around the topic of heroin and opiate addiction. Dr. Charles Rezinikoff has already presented to 130 Northfield teachers during a staff in-service on prescription drug use and disposal.

Take Back Program

Mark reported that he is working with law enforcement in Chisago County to get a take back program for prescription drugs going in Northfield. He said that various cities might be able to share the cost of disposal by participating in a route up I-35. Dan said he is getting a bid for a box in the new Law Enforcement Center in Faribault, but that the disposal is the expensive part. Neal reported that North Ambulance is willing to take some items for disposal. Mary suggested that we develop a comprehensive community education campaign to encourage use, explain importance, and communicate where, when and how of the take back program.

Next Meeting Date:

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