

## **Enforcement Team**

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 – 1:15-2:45 p.m.

**Present:** Laura Carlson, Jeff Eckhoff (Northfield High School), Scott Hanson (Bethlehem Academy), Brent Hawkins (Faribault Middle School), Mary Nelson (Rice County Chemical Health Coalition), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police Department), Linda Oto (Northfield Connected Kids mentoring program), Pat Parlin (Northfield Area Learning Center), Neal Pederson (Faribault Police Department), Scott Robinson (Rice County Drug Task Force), Zach Pruitt (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Kathy Sandberg (Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Jason Schmitz, (Lonsdale Police Department), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Tonya Slager (Rice County Community Corrections), Bob Sletten (Rice County Sheriff's Office), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office), Mark Taylor (Northfield Police Department), Simon Tyler (ARTech School), Mark Vogelsburg (Rice County Drug Task Force), Drew Weirson (Rice County Drug Task Force)

Introductions were completed.

### **Agency Updates:**

**Law Enforcement** – As has been reported in the media, the Rice County Drug Task Force has been very busy lately with a series of investigations and arrests. They are now planning the next directions for the Task Force. There was a ZAP call-out on November 1 on Cannon Lake. Five citations were issued for underage consumption.

**Community Corrections** – Corrections is looking into how juveniles who are found using tobacco products are handled.

**County Attorney's Office** - The three failed compliance checks conducted by the Rice County Sheriff's Office all went to court and all pled guilty.

### **Schools -**

Discovery School: Jim credited the work of the Drug Task Force for a reduction in truancy at Discovery Public School.

ARTech: Simon reported that he has been connecting with service providers from across the county to help the school meet the needs of its students. He is grateful for the respectful actions of law enforcement officers when called to the school. He is also working closely with Northfield Public Schools and the ALC.

Bethlehem Academy: They currently have a student in treatment and are trying to find ways to support that student's ongoing sobriety upon return to school.

Northfield High School: The number one concern at the present is the cough and cold medicine abuse among young people.

Northfield ALC: The ALC has a chemical dependency counselor who comes in to work with students around substance abuse issues. It helps students to know there is someone they can go to with their questions or concerns.

Faribault Middle School: There is concern with drug/alcohol experimentation, especially with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

### **DVD Update:**

The DVD is locally produced and focused. It covers contemporary drug use information and encourages parents to know what their kids are doing and to keep communicating with them. In addition to information about specific drugs, there are clips from interviews with drug addicts and also quotes from area youth. Suggested ways to promote the DVD include using it at fall orientation or other school events (such as the open house), use homeroom time to show it, and putting it on the website.

### **Alcohol Sales Issues:**

All of the agencies have completed a round of compliance checks. State grants available to support compliance checks are cumbersome and really do not provide many resources. Mary reminded departments that she has a packet of materials that can be easily customized for their use with press release copy, certificates, etc. The Alcohol Awareness class in November was not held due to lack of registrations. An on-site training was done at Boston's restaurant for roughly 30 employees. The next training will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 PM at South Central College. There will be new dates for Spring Semester at the December meeting. The group talked about the various ordinances; Rice County and Morristown currently have ordinances that match the best practices recommendations made by this group.

### **Law Enforcement and Schools working together:**

Members participated in a discussion of the ways the schools and law enforcement can work together through the Enforcement Team. The following suggestions were made:

- Community Forum- It was noted that the "After the Headlines" meeting in Northfield was successful in getting people to come out and attend a meeting. Faribault High School had small sessions in conjunction with parent conferences. The Rice County Drug Task Force is willing to participate.
- ARTech recently had the "Prison Reality" program from the Correctional Facility in Faribault come and talk with students. Simon indicated that it was worthwhile and that they indicated that those in prison often have substance abuse history.
- Whistling seems to be a way that teens alert one another to the presence of law enforcement or other authority figures.
- Training for school people on how to help students returning to school from treatment experiences would be helpful. Sometimes they are referred to sober schools. Staff in the schools needs training in how to be helpful and then need to show students how to be supportive. Setting up

some form of support group for these students was also suggested as a potential possibility.

### **Updates:**

- The letter about cold and cough medicine (copy in meeting packets) that was discussed at last month's meeting was sent to area pharmacies, grocery stores, discount stores, and convenience stores. Corrections is considering including over-the-counter medicines in restrictions for youth on probation. Corrections and other agencies are continuing to see the use of large amounts of cough and cold medicines that are not detected in regular drug screens. The group suggested that parents be the next target of communication about these medicines. Most schools have a policy that does not allow students to have any medicines at school; parents are to go through the school nurse if their child needs to take medicine during the school day. The group suggested that a letter be drafted to parents signed by the law enforcement agency in that area about this matter. Letters can be sent home with school mailings. Kathy will draft the letter and circulate to the police chiefs so they can be forwarded on to the schools. It was also suggested that the letter be sent to foster parents in Rice County.
- Scott reported that the group was represented at a recent event in Northfield at the Main Street Moravian Church. Panel members included Scott Robinson (Rice County Drug Task Force), Jeff Eckhoff (Northfield High School), Dr. Charlie Reznikoff (physician with expertise in addiction – and who is able to prescribe Buprenorphine – who is working two days per month at Northfield Hospital), Sarah Shippy (Omada Behavioral Health Services), and two young adults in recovery from substance abuse. Approximately 100 people attended the session. It seems there was a lot of support for the work that is being done.

### **Other Business:**

Zach mentioned that the Coalition will be offering training to volunteers and others who work with youth. January and February dates will be offered in both Faribault and Northfield.

Mark reported that he is continuing to pursue the prescription drug disposal issue. He plans to visit Chisago County to see their operation and has been studying the placement of a collection spot at the Northfield Safety Center.

Everyone was thanked for coming, with a special thanks to the school representatives. It is hoped that schools will have representatives at all the Enforcement Team meetings and that we can continue to expand these partnerships moving forward.

### **Next Meeting:**

The group will meet again on **Wednesday, December 17 from 1:15-2:45 pm** at the Rice County Government Center.