



## Enforcement Team Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 – 1:15-2:45 p.m.

**Present:** Kathy Cooper (Rice County Safe Communities Coalition), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Scott Hanson (Bethlehem Academy), Mary Nelson (Northfield Mayor's Task Force), Pat Parlin (Northfield ALC), Kathy Sandberg (Family Services Collaborative), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Bob Sletten (Rice County Sheriff's Office), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office), Mark Taylor (Northfield Police)

### Agency Updates:

#### *Law Enforcement* –

Sheriff's Department – Bob reported that there have been no reported underage drinking parties and no ZAP procedures used this month. He anticipates that the Northfield Jesse James celebration may increase underage drinking activity.

Northfield Police – Mark reported that all has been quiet in Northfield.

Morristown Police – No one present to report.

Faribault Police – No one present to report.

*Community Corrections* – No one present to report.

*County Attorney's Office* – Tori reported that there are a few cases pending involving underage consumption. She will email the updated list to Becky for court monitoring.

#### *Schools:*

Bethlehem Academy – Scott reflected on the work accomplished last year to reduce youth alcohol and drug use. He mentioned specifically work on new school policies and education opportunities for parents and students. Scott and Kathy have been meeting to establish dates for educational sessions for parents, staff, and students for the 09-10 school year. They will also link their school website to the Drugs 101 DVD located on the RCCHC website. Scott requested copies of the DVD be made available to parents at conferences.

Discovery School – Jim reported that there has been very little activity among his summer school students regarding alcohol or drug use.

ARTech – No one present to report.

Northfield ALC – Pat reported that she has not received any notices of underage consumption by her students this summer. The school will host a recovery support group and Sarah Shippy's counseling services 2x/week starting this fall.

Northfield High School – No one present to report.

Faribault High School – No one present to report.

Faribault Middle School – No one present to report.

Recovery School of Southern Minnesota – No one present to report.

Kathy did mention that the Online Faribault Student Survey (HCI Survey) will be administered at FMS, FHS, BA and Discovery schools this fall. She also reported that a CD counselor will be providing services at FHS, Discovery School, and BA this year.

### **Drug Task Force**

Bob reported that there have been no major arrests made by the Drug Task Force in recent weeks, though a couple of small marijuana grows were seized. Mark reported that two arrests were made in the case of a heroin overdose in Northfield. The County Attorney charged each individual with three counts of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree murder and their initial hearing will be on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Mark stated that all the work done on these heroin cases has provided the task force with good information and they are continuing to investigate other individuals who are involved higher up in the heroin sale/distribution operation.

The task force members are also reporting that it's harder to purchase heroin in Rice County, but that it still has a presence. Bob commented that cocaine has become the prominent drug of choice and that there is a lot of evidence being collected at this time with arrests to be made in the coming months. He also noted that law enforcement is finding that different groups of people use different drugs. Scott asked if prescription opiate use was a precursor to heroin use in cases where young people have overdosed. Kathy C. confirmed and also stated that alcohol has played a roll. Kathy S. commented that the enforcement is important, but that preventing youth from getting started using alcohol and drugs at all will have the greatest long term effect.

Bob and Mark also stressed the importance of evidence in bringing about justice in these kinds of cases. There seems to be a misunderstanding in the community about what is required of law enforcement before people can be held accountable by the justice system. Kathy stressed the importance of communication and collaboration between law enforcement, schools, community groups, and health care providers to support each other and send the same message about youth alcohol and drug abuse.

### **Prescription Drug Disposal Update**

Mark reported that the disposal boxes are currently being constructed by a local welder. The Northfield Police Department has been receiving numerous phone calls and even had citizens bring in their items for disposal. They are working to set up disposal procedures and both police departments will need to become licensed for hazardous waste disposal through the federal Pollution Control Agency. He said that both Faribault and Northfield will be ready to open on September 22 with 24/day, 7 days/week availability.

Mary reported that Al Franken's office is interested in pursuing legislation that would require pharmaceutical companies to pay for the disposal of unused drugs. She noted that this kind of legislation probably won't become reality for several years.

Mary also talked about the media campaign using multiple strategies to spread the word about the Take It to the Box program. The group is working with a variety of groups including pharmacists, veterinarians, health care providers, in-home care providers, etc She noted that the boxes will

accept most everything except syringes or sharps waste. Mary said she and HCI have been receiving numerous phone calls, including two calls from out of state. Everyone is anticipating large quantities of medications for disposal and the group discussed accepting items from people who don't live in Rice County. Though there will be no way to tell where these medications are coming from since the program is anonymous, if someone from a neighboring community calls to ask if they may dispose of their items in Rice County, the answer should be "no."

Kathy also mentioned that the RCCHC Provider Team is going to be working with area physicians on writing appropriate sized prescriptions in hopes to reduce the amount of excess medication being stored in people's homes. The Rural Flex grant will fund those efforts. She also talked about a new DVD that has been created by Jordan Taylor for the Take It to the Box initiative. The video is 8 minutes long and covers the topics of Safe Use, Safe Storage, and Safe Disposal. The DVD is ready to share at community events, etc.

### **Drugs 101 Parent d DVD**

Kathy reported that the Drugs 101 DVD was a huge success at the Rice County Fair and that more copies are currently being made. Copies will be made available at local schools during conferences. The DVD is also airing on NTV and FCTV.

### **Compliance Checks**

Becky is working with the Sheriff's Office on letters and certificates for county license holders. Only one county alcohol establishment failed their check (Morristown business). Northfield's are done. Faribault's are also done. Kathy Cooper offered resources from the TZD grant for compliance checks. Becky also shared with the group the fall alcohol awareness training schedule. The group also reviewed a brochure for licensed vendors about how to handle a false i.d. All law enforcement agencies were able to take some for the purpose of distributing to establishments. The group also suggested leaving some with both cities administration offices to be included with new license applications.

### **School and Law Enforcement Partnerships**

The group was encouraged to think about ways that schools and law enforcement might continue to work together to prevent youth alcohol and drug abuse. The group noted that both schools and law enforcement feel very positive about their partnership.

### **ZAP – MIPH Grant Assessment**

The group looked over a draft document outlining what an outside evaluation of our ZAP program by the Minnesota Institute of Health might look. The assessment would involve representatives from the MIPH coming to Rice County to conduct interviews and focus groups with various stakeholders to gain understanding and insights about our ZAP efforts. The purpose of the assessment would be to:

- Highlight successes
- Identify challenges and obstacles
- Discuss future direction
- Make suggestions

The group seemed agreeable to the proposal. Zach and Kathy will work with Robyn Wiesman from MIPH to coordinate the evaluation.

**Weed and Seed Grant**

Kathy reiterated that Sheriff Cook spoke with the U.S. Attorney about the possibility of the coalition applying for the Weed and Seed grant. The U.S. Attorney's Office agreed to positively support and participate in the grant planning process.

RCCHC staff had intended on spending time collecting data and developing strategies at this meeting, but received information a few weeks ago that there may not be new funding for the Weed and Seed grants as previously thought. Zach has contacted Senator Klobochaur and Representative Franken's offices to see what information they have. The application process will be on hold until we hear one way or another.

**Minutes Approval**

Becky asked the group if they would like to approve the previous months minutes at each Enforcement Team meeting before they are posted on the website. The group thought approving the minutes was prudent. She will add approval of minutes as an agenda item and provide minutes to the group each meeting.

**Other**

Scott asked a question about the prevalence of kids getting high from various kinds of flower seeds. Tori suggested contacted corrections to see how prevalent this problem is.

**Next Meeting Date:**

***Wednesday, September 23, 2009  
Rice County Gov. Services Building – Room 3A  
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.***