



Enforcement Team Meeting Notes

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

Present: Kathy Cooper (Safe Communities Coalition), Jeff Eckhoff (Northfield High School), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Scott Hanson (Bethlehem Academy), Chelle Marquardt (Rice County Community Corrections), Mary Nelson (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police), Linda Oto (Connected Kids mentoring program), Neal Pederson (Faribault Police), Kathy Sandberg (Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office),

Minutes Approval

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

Agency Updates:

Law Enforcement –

Sheriff's Department – No one present to report.

Northfield Police – No one present to report

Morristown Police – No major reports. Dave commented that there doesn't seem to be as much juvenile loitering as in the past. No reported drug or underage drinking activity. Dave also mentioned that recently he has seen bottles of cold/flu medicine such as Nyquil packaged in two or three bottle bundles and prominently displayed in the entrances to stores. The group has concerns about the accessibility of these types of over-the-counter medicines and potential abuse by youth.

Faribault Police – Neal reported that the Rice County Drug Task Force has been busy, but no ZAP callouts lately in Faribault. He also commented that both Faribault and Northfield had their first Take It to the Box medication disposal program pick up last week. Between the two cities 333 pounds of assorted pharmaceuticals, including bottles and packaging, were sorted and most was taken away for proper disposal. Neal reported that some of the drugs, such as prescription narcotics, are separated out and sorted into specific kinds. The medication is then counted pill by pill, sealed, and sent to Illinois to be incinerated. They also found two mercury thermometers that will be sent to Wisconsin to be recycled. Both Mary and Neal said the overall process was interesting and that the Daily News did a great job covering the story. They are hopeful with the additional attention from the press that more people will find out about Take It to the Box.

Community Corrections – Chelle reported that they are seeing kids who use are using marijuana primarily and some alcohol abuse. Recently a cell phone was confiscated that had information about Faribault youth who are buying, selling, and trading drugs, drug-related information, etc. The information is being forwarded to the Drug Task Force.

County Attorney's Office – Tori reported that there is one new case pending related to procuring alcohol for minors. She reported signing the complaint for another provider who was identified in a ZAP callout. At a sentencing last week, a liquor store employee plead guilty to providing alcohol to an underage buyer who was part of a county compliance check. Another person scheduled to appear for sentencing did not

show and there is a warrant out for his arrest. Tori updated the group that she and Ben Bejar will both be representing the county attorney's office at future Enforcement Team meetings and that Ben will be able to provide the group with more specific information about drug-related cases.

Schools:

Bethlehem Academy - Scott reported that he has received the results of BA's drug/alcohol student survey and that overall the numbers or use are very low. He mentioned that there are a couple of students who have attended treatment and are working with them to reintegrate into school. He anticipates having the drug dogs do a search of the school again this winter sometime. BA parents and school board continue to be supportive of prevention efforts like drug dogs as well as education programming.

Discovery School – Jim reported that he suspended a student for tobacco use for the first time this year. He is requesting additional police presence during the noon hour to prevent students from smoking in the school's neighborhood. He still suspects that there are drug deals happening near Discovery, but has not new evidence.

Northfield High School – Jeff reported that there is nothing new. They had a special education student who made some terroristic threats the other day following the Rachel's Challenge program. Chelle mentioned that some students are using chewing tobacco at the school.

Faribault Public Schools – Kathy reported that the Faribault Public Schools student surveys are also completed and have been sent to an evaluator who will compile the data, create a booklet and highlight trends. Kathy also mentioned that Dr. Charles Reznikoff will be presenting to the high school staff on December 9th during early release and also will present to the middle school 7th and 8th grade classes.

Drug Task Force

Neal reported that the Drug Task Force has identified both crack cocaine and methamphetamine for sale in Faribault. They have been finding more houses where meth is being made. The task force seems to be dealing with more marijuana and cocaine in Northfield.

Compliance Checks

Faribault Police Department is still working on finding young people to do the buys. Northfield will also be doing another round.

Prescription Drug Disposal Update

See above report from Faribault Police Department. The group will likely re-engage with efforts to get information out to an increasing number of people.

ZAP Assessment

Shelia Nesbitt from the MN Institute of Public Health is still preparing the ZAP key informant interview protocol. She will be conducting around 20 interviews over the next several weeks to get a sense about the Rice County ZAP Project. Kathy and Becky expect to hear something very soon.

Medical Marijuana Discussion

Kathy and Becky shared with the group some information they collected recently regarding Medical Marijuana. There are currently 13 states that have legalized the use of doctor prescribed marijuana to treat symptoms of illnesses such as glaucoma, cancer and other terminal illnesses among numerous lesser conditions. Kathy spoke with Jay Jaffe from the MN Department of Health and acknowledged that legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes creates a problem for law enforcement and that most law enforcement agencies will rightly oppose such legislation. He cautioned our coalition to think about medical marijuana and the legalization of marijuana as separate issues. He also said that some states that have passed this law more recently have learned from the chaos of other states such as California and developed better parameters. Jay encouraged us to consider conducting an assessment of our community's current views and knowledge about the issue of medical marijuana and let that guide our work.

The group responded that what was concerning about the last proposed bill to the MN legislature was the number of plants an individual could grow in their home; 12 plants seemed to be unreasonable and unsafe. To illustrate how much of the drug they would have in their possession, Dave shared that the Drug Task Force kept and dried a confiscated marijuana plant recently to assess how much pot could be harvested from a single plant. They got 1.5 pounds. The group agreed that much marijuana would have a lot of street value and would lead to more home invasions, etc. Chelle reported that youth right now are buying and selling for \$30/oz.

From a prevention perspective messages around marijuana and visible use of the drug sends a strong message to youth that it's okay.

Overall, the medical community in the US is for medical use of marijuana. There is a lot of federal pressure and the American Medical Association has asked for a reclassification of "cannabis." The group recognizes that a bill will inevitably be brought before our MN legislature again and decided to monitor the situation.

2010 Planning

Becky summarized some of the successes the group has enjoyed and suggested it might be wise to take a look at the possibilities for the coming year. The group generated a list of possible activities or efforts in the coming year. Those items include:

- Working with stores on the sale of over-the-counter cough and cold meds
- Medical marijuana
- Continued involvement with the schools and engaging the elementary schools
 - Include admin in Enforcement Team meetings
- More presentations by various agencies - Drug Task Force, County Attorney's Office, etc.
 - Schools
 - Community
 - Parents
- Re-examine the goals or mission statement of the group

- Speaker's kit and/or follow up for what parents can do when they find drugs and/or paraphernalia - Follow up to the Drugs 101 DVD
 - Where to look?
 - What do I do when I find something?
 - Who do I call?
 - What will happen next?
- Put together materials that help other communities replicate some the successful programs we have had
 - Put together a summary of our steps
 - Share them at conferences, etc.
- More information/education for parents
 - Parent/teacher conferences
 - Parents with young children
 - Parents of different socio-economic status
- Inclusion of efforts aimed at the non-English speaking communities
 - Connect with parents when children are young
 - Identify a strong connection point in those communities
 - Matt Mussel – former B.A. staff
 - MN Prevention Resource Center – speak with Latino community
- Financial support for programs
- Address time-lag in court system
 - Youth need immediate consequences

The group agreed to continue planning for 2010 at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, December 16, 2009
Rice County Gov. Services Building – Room 3A
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m