



## Enforcement Team Meeting Notes

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

**Present:** Gary Braun (Recovery School of Southern MN), Kathy Cooper (Rice County Safe Communities Coalition), Meredith Erickson (Rice County Attorney's Office), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Chelle Marquardt (Rice County Community Corrections), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police Department), Linda Oto (Northfield Connected Kids mentoring program), Pat Parlin (Northfield ALC), Zach Pruitt (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Bob Sletten (Rice County Sheriff's Office), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office), Mark Taylor (Northfield Police), Chuck Walerius (Northfield Police)

### Agency Updates:

#### *Law Enforcement –*

Sheriff's Department – Bob reported that Northfield recently responded to a couple of underage drinking parties.

Northfield Police – Mark reported that on June 21 at an underage drinking party, 5 people were cited for underage consumption and 1 adult was cited for procuring alcohol. On July 11, Northfield Police responded to an apartment, where youth from Rosemount, Northfield and St. Paul were cited for underage drinking. Eight tickets were issued.

Morristown Police – Dave reported that all has been quiet in Morristown, including over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Faribault Police – No one present to report.

*Community Corrections* – Chelle reported that they are seeing a lot of teens using ecstasy. She also said that teens who use alcohol are coming in with high blood alcohol contents (such as over .20). They aren't hearing about parties from those kids, but kids are reporting buying the alcohol on their own.

*County Attorney's Office* – Tori reported that there are 3 cases pending involving adults who provided alcohol to minors. She will send that information to Becky or Kathy for the court monitoring schedule.

#### *Schools:*

Bethlehem Academy – No one present to report.

Discovery School – Jim reported that a couple of students were cited for underage drinking and he is hearing about parties.

ARTech – No one present to report.

Northfield ALC – Pat reported that they are in summer school and things have been relatively quiet. They are noticing an increase in the use, sale, and theft of Vicodin. In

one instance, a student was anticipating receiving a full prescription of pain medicine after an oral surgery and announced to his classmates that he would have some extra pills to sell. Pat notified the parent and the parent promptly locked up her medicines. Pat emphasized that there is still a problem with teens taking prescription drugs from their parents.

Zach shared with the group that Sarah Shippy from Omada Behavioral Health saw students from both the ALC and Northfield High School on a regular basis. Pat said there was large group of students that meet with Sarah up to 2x/week on a rotating schedule and that new students to the ALC are automatically introduced to Sarah at their time of enrollment at the school.

Zach said that 188 students in the Northfield district saw Sarah last year – 128 at Northfield High School, 8 at Northfield Middle School, and 52 at the Northfield ALC. Combined, they had 657 meetings with Sarah.

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 – Gary reported they are now on break for the summer. They recently held their fundraising raffle for the school.

### **Drug Task Force**

Bob reported that two weeks ago, five arrests were made related to methamphetamine activity in the Faribault and Warsaw areas. Mark commented that there is always new information on drug activity coming into local law enforcement and the Rice County Drug Task Force. Tori commented from the county attorney's perspective, there are a steady amount of drug-related arrests each week.

### **Prescription Drug Disposal Update**

The "Take It to the Box" campaign has kicked off at the Rice County Fair, alerting the community that the medication disposal program will begin September 22, 2009. The boxes will be located at the Northfield Safety Center and the new Faribault Police Department 24 hours/day and 7 days/week. Zach reported that HCI has received several phone calls each day since the latest Rice County newsletter went out. He said people seem excited and that Rice will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> county in Minnesota to have an ongoing, 24/7 program for medication disposal.

### **Compliance Checks**

County was waiting for the resorts to be up and running. Will be completed soon. Northfield's are done. Faribault's are also done.

### **Social Host Ordinance**

The group revisited the possibility of a county-wide social host ordinance that would hold people accountable who allow underage drinking parties in their homes or on their property. Meredith suggested that for this ordinance to be successful, all municipalities in the county would need to be supportive of the law. She also pointed out that usually elected officials, such as city councils or county boards, determine this kind of ordinance and social host laws don't usually pass unless

being directed by elected officials. Kathy announced that there is money in the Safe Communities Coalition budget to pay for staff time to do research and other activities to help pass an ordinance. Dave suggested that the Zero Alcohol Providers strategy is already accomplishing much of what a social host ordinance aims to do by holding adults accountable. Mark cautioned that the wording of such an ordinance would have to be carefully crafted. In a college community like Northfield, there are a lot of landlords and the burden of proof would need to be on law enforcement to prove whether or not a “host” had reasonable knowledge of the underage drinking activity. There was sentiment among the group that the ordinance be fair to all involved.

Further comments included that the social host ordinance would address those situations where adults have allowed underage drinking, but did not provide the alcohol. Also, it was noted that we may have a public policy hurdle and it might not be time well spent trying to get this passed now. Gary suggested that a central agency collect data on all the cases that could have been prosecuted under a social host ordinance and let the results determine the group’s pursuit of this law. Bob agreed to keep collecting all the data involving underage drinking in the county and track those instances where a social host ordinance could be applied separately. The group agreed to revisit this issue in 12-18 months.

### **Weed and Seed Grant**

Zach reported 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. It seems that previous outstanding work of the Drug Task Force has left a favorable impression on the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Zach reiterated that there are 4 core areas that the group would need to develop a plan for – 1. Law Enforcement, 2. Community Policing, 3. Prevention/Intervention, 4. Neighborhood Restoration.

Zach commented that this is the kind of grant that cannot be applied for in isolation and that many people already committed to the work of the Enforcement Team would need to spend time developing a plan for this grant. He also mentioned that it is highly competitive.

The group agreed to go ahead and start on the Pre-Award steps, including gathering data and identifying goals, objectives and meaningful implementation strategies. The next Enforcement Team meeting can be devoted to some of these tasks.

### **Presentation**

Dave and Bob were presented with certificates of appreciation for their leadership of the Enforcement Team over the last few years.

**Next Meeting Date:**

***Wednesday, August 19, 2009  
Rice County Gov. Services Building – Room 3A  
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.***