

**Rice County Chemical Health Coalition
Provider & Enforcement Teams
Joint Meeting**



Wednesday, August 17, 2011
Northfield Community Resource Center
(1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield)
Room SS106
Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting: Dan Collins (Faribault Police Department), Shelly Cole (Fountain Centers), Kathy Cooper (Rice County Safe Communities), Mallory Deschamp (Youth Advisory Board – Rice County Chemical Health Coalition), Troy Dunn (Rice County Sheriff's Office), Jeff Eckhoff (Northfield High School), Becky Ford (Faribault Drug-Free Communities grant), Deb Haan (parent), Kim Hedenstrom (Rice County Community Corrections), Dorothee Ischler (Center for Human Resources), Elly Kuhlman (So How are the Children?), Beth Lawrence (Fountain Centers), Yvette Marthaler (Rice County Social Services), Kris Matson (Family Health Clinic), Kathleen Meier (Northfield Hospital), Megan Moreau (Rice County Community Corrections), Michelle Murphy (nurse), Dave Osborne (Morristown Police Department), Mel Poehler (Dakota Treatment), Neal Pederson (Faribault Police Department), Zach Pruitt (Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Kathy Sandberg (Rice County Family Services Collaborative), Kari Schmidt (St. Paul Treatment), Jim Severson (Discovery Public School), Dave Stensrud (Rice County Sheriff's Office), Tori Stewart (Rice County Attorney's Office), Mark Taylor (Northfield Police Department), Marnie Thompson (Northfield High School), Tranh Van Vu (Dakota County Receiving Center); Chuck Walerius (Northfield Police Department), Sandy Wetzel (Northfield Grief Coalition), Jessica Wolf (Project Home), Andy Yurek (Northfield Hospital)

1. Introductions

- Jessica reported that Project Home has experienced 22% in budget cuts. Jessica also took a new position and they are looking for a new director.
- Bethani reported that Fountain Centers is investigating the start of an adolescent treatment program in Faribault.
- Sandy reported that the Northfield Grief Coalition has done and will continue to do workshops on grief.
- Tranh talked about the new treatment services at Dakota County Receiving.

2. Implications of final state budget on treatment and enforcement efforts

Yvette noted that the state budget has resulted in changes that might impact the work of the Provider Team and the Enforcement Team. She also reported that the Consolidated

Treatment fund now requires the County to be responsible for 22% (up from 15%) of residential placement costs. The level of need for admission to residential treatment has also increased.

3. Information and idea sharing among the Enforcement and Provider Teams

- Brief recaps of the work and accomplishments of the Provider Team and the Enforcement Team in recent years
 - Troy provided the report from the Enforcement Team.
 - Shelly provided the report from the Provider Team.
 - See appendices to these minutes for a list of these recent activities and accomplishments.

- What emerging trends or areas of concern are you seeing with regards to substance use in Rice County?
 - There was a question about inpatient treatment programs that accept patients on Suboxone. Fountain Centers now accepts patients on Suboxone – either starting that treatment or maintaining it. HealthEast, Fairview also accepts these patients.
 - Transportation remains a big issue for people in all segments of intervention and treatment.

4. Future directions

- HealthFinders collaboration: Kathy described the work to date on providing substance abuse services at the HealthFinders Clinic. The hope is to identify enough providers to offer services one evening per week at this free clinic for the uninsured.
- Drug Courts: Tori reported on the visit to the Blue Earth County Drug Court to see the program in action. It is a time- and resource-intensive program, but seems to produce positive results. The multi-disciplinary Drug Court Board meets on a regular basis just prior to court sessions. Probation officers meet specifically with participants frequently and help to monitor their compliance with requirements and expectations. There have been discussions about implementing some kind of Drug Court in Rice County with some consideration of partnering with Steele County. Funding will be challenging to find. The group talked about various advantages to having a Drug Court, including: providing a way out of the cycle of drug addiction; the aspect of having multiple systems involved and holding the individual accountable and supported from all those systems; accountability is more immediate; and support is more available.
- Youth Advisory Board (YAB): The group just completed its first year, comprised of young people ranging in ages from middle school to college from across the county. This summer, three representatives of the YAB attended the National Youth Leadership Initiative (NYLI) and learned about the work of coalitions. Mallory (one of the youth) talked to the group about her experiences at NYLI.

She reported that there was a lot of focus on leadership and strategies for working together to accomplish common goals. They also learned about how to approach problems and effective ways to implement solutions. The three young people who attended the conference will be passing on some of their learning and helping to lead the work of the YAB. YAB will also be looking for more of a connection between the adults involved in the Coalition and the youth.

- Recovery Month: Plans include distribution of Recovery Rocks pins (thanks to Becky for ordering and getting the pins ready), proclamations at Faribault/Northfield City Councils and the county board, and local media coverage. We are looking for nominations of individuals who have been champions of prevention and recovery so that those people can be recognized during Recovery Month.
- Drug Paraphernalia Ordinances: Mark Taylor talked about the recent opening of two new tobacco shops in Northfield. In the licensing process, having drug paraphernalia available at these shops has emerged as an issue. The City of Northfield will be considering some ordinances related to the sale of paraphernalia and also looking at some of the alcohol ordinances. They are looking at sample ordinances from other communities as models for local ordinances. There was also discussion about the availability and dangers of tobacco.

5. Other projects and initiatives

- Andy Yurek explained the Opiate Agonist Therapy (OAT) Clinic at Northfield Hospital was set up to respond to opiate use locally. Northfield Hospital secured a grant from the Office of Rural Health to provide education about opiate use and abuse to physicians, students, teachers and community members. There was also work done on hospital protocols regarding medication-seeking patients, treating patients using Buprenorphine, and other issues. The efforts also included tracking various kinds of drug use. The effort also supported the Take It to The Box program, helping to promote that throughout the county.

6. Meeting adjourned

Recent Activities:
Provider Team of the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition

- Co-sponsored a Designer Drugs education session with Fountain Centers. Nearly 200 people attended the event this past spring
- The Team supported the opening of the Halfway House in Northfield, assisting with community education efforts. This facility is a new site for West Hills Lodge and is available to serve 6 women in recovery from substance use addiction.
- The Team is looking for ways to get more information about the substance abuse needs of newcomer groups in the county and to find ways to address those needs. The group is attempting to work with HealthFinders with volunteers providing some services on a trial basis.
- September is National Drug and Alcohol Abuse Recovery Month. The Provider Team coordinates a few efforts each year to help our communities understand that “treatment works” and that recovering people make positive contributions to our communities.
 - Proclamations will be declared by Faribault and Northfield City Councils and by the Rice County Board of Commissioners.
 - “Recovery Rocks” pins will once again be distributed by those in recovery to individuals who have supported them in their recovery efforts.
 - Local media outlets will also be used.
- Developed and maintain an online resource directory in English and Spanish of local chemical health treatment and support programs.
- Have worked on physician education over the years. The Provider Team has coordinated training on medication seeking behaviors, understanding addiction, and local chemical health resources.

Recent Activities:
Enforcement Team of the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition

- The Team's most recent effort is the work on Social Host Ordinances. This type of ordinance holds accountable people who knowingly host gatherings where underage drinking takes place. Individuals need not have provided the alcohol. Both adults and minors may be charged under this ordinance.
 - Ordinances have been adopted in Faribault, Northfield and Rice County. Dundas, Lonsdale and Morristown have not yet passed a Social Host Ordinance, but are considering doing so.
 - The Team is continuing efforts to educate youth, parents and other community members about this ordinance: mailings, giveaways, a table at the Rice County Fair, digital billboard, etc.
- Continuing with medication collection efforts through the Take It to The Box effort. Total collected since the program began in September 2009 is now over 4,000 pounds. In addition, more than 25 other communities have contacted Rice County about replicating the Take It to The Box program in their communities.
- Communicating with Rice County judges. Met with the local judges to discuss enforcement efforts, including ZAP and Social Host. Also discussed telephonic warrants and alternative sentencing options
- Continued efforts around training of licensed alcohol sellers and servers in cooperation with South Central College. Have trained nearly 400 people since the training program began. Also continue to monitor underage sales through compliance checks at both city and county levels.
- Continuing to work with schools by supplying speakers; coordinating proactive efforts such as drug dogs
- Monitor trends in sales and use of drugs through the work of the Rice County Drug Task Force.
- Exploring drug court with local partners