

Rice County Chemical Health Coalition Provider Team

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 – 12:00 to 1:30 pm

Present at the Meeting: Elizabeth Bade (Northfield Public Schools), Jasmin Boelter (Fountain Centers), Dante Hummel (Fountain Centers), Yvette Marthaler (Rice County Social Services – Rule 25 Assessor), Zach Pruitt (staff support, Rice County Chemical Health Coalition), Sarah Shippy (Omada Behavioral Health Services)

Introductions and Updates

Jasmin and Dante explained that Fountain Centers is planning to start an adolescent group in Faribault beginning in mid-January. More information will be distributed when it becomes available. The group would likely meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays and would be modeled after the program underway in Rochester.

Needs & Gaps

Sarah shared that she is concerned about the opiate use in the community. There is some concern, too, about the gang issues between Northfield and Faribault. Sarah shared that there is a group of 20-somethings who are using. There are also a number of high school students using. Some have gone to the Northfield Hospital's Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic and some have checked into inpatient treatment. However, there are still a number who have not yet surfaced.

All attendees noted that pill use remains a major concern across the county. Heroin use remains a concern in Northfield. Meth use remains a concern in Faribault.

Elizabeth shared that St. John's Church is planning a series of education sessions in late January/early February. Dr. Reznikoff will be speaking at one of the sessions. The other will include a panel of local experts in this area. The panels will be open to the public. **ELIZABETH** will share this information with the full Provider Team.

Sarah will be speaking with the Northfield Ministerial Association in December about chemical use in the community and the roles that faith communities can play in addressing use.

Yvette asked where the pills confiscated in the recent drug arrests came from. Was there an effort to trace these back to who prescribed them/how they were acquired?

YVETTE will attend the next meeting of the Enforcement Team to talk about ways to work together.

Elizabeth expressed concern about the dentists' prescribing practices and suggested doing education with that population.

YVETTE will ask the new physician at the OAT Clinic if she would be willing to do community education.

The group suggested that it would be helpful to do another round of education sessions in the local schools about opiate use.

State Grant Opportunity

Yvette and Zach shared information on a grant through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. A coalition from Rice County plans to apply. The grant would support substance abuse early intervention and recovery support services for Latino community members in Rice County.

The committee is conducting focus groups with local Latino residents to gain insights and programming ideas for inclusion in the grant.

Yvette shared that Rule 25 has very few Latino clients so she hopes that the grant would provide the opportunity to do additional outreach.

Sarah shared that a major gap she sees is in the availability of drug- and alcohol-free activities for community members (especially those in recovery) to participate in. Moreover, the presence of drugs and alcohol at dances and parties was cited as a concern.

Other suggested ideas include:

- Parent education sessions involving intake, referrals, and screening, potentially at HealthFinders
- Site-based activities, outreach, and education at the local home parks
- Contracting with a Spanish-speaking social worker who can do a screening
- Utilizing soccer to build enrichment/connections, possibly with Shattuck – **YVETTE** will look into this
- Sober activities
- Art connections with the Paradise Theatre – **YVETTE** will explore

Drug Courts:

Yvette shared that the local judges are interested in looking into developing a drug court model. Cost remains a concern. The new Rice County Community Corrections director is interested in exploring this and seeing whether it is possible for staff time to be freed up.

Although recognizing that everyone's schedules are very busy right now, Provider Team members expressed a willingness to meet together and help with screenings if that would be useful with moving the drug court model forward.

Recovery Month

The group reflected on the 2011 Recovery Month activities. The pins continue to be a big hit. The group is interested in replicating them again next year.

The group would like to do another event next year. Mark Lundholm was suggested as a potential comedian who talks about addiction. It was mentioned that although very funny, he might be considered offensive to those who do not have a lot of familiarity with recovery. **JASMIN** and **DANTE** agreed to research the costs of bringing him next September.

Future Activities:

The group supports the idea of offering another training/professional development opportunity in the spring. Finding a training topic and speaker is the next step. Suggestions included:

- * The latest in psychotropics with co-occurring addiction
- * Borderline personalities and addiction – **YVETTE** will look into the possibility of Mark Carlson.
- * How to integrate clients with low cognitive abilities into treatment programs

The group reviewed the new *Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth: A Practitioner's Guide*. All felt that it was a helpful resource. **ZACH** will get additional copies to Sarah Shippy, Yvette, and Elizabeth.

EVERYONE agreed to look at the online chemical health resource directory (<http://northfieldhci.org/resources/>). If there are additional programs/organizations that should be added, please let Zach know.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 – Noon-1:30 p.m.
Northfield Community Resource Center (1651 Jefferson Pkwy)