



November 2, 2009

Parents and Community Members,

For some time, we have been sharing our concerns with you about alcohol and drug use by Faribault youth. We know that addressing this topic can sometimes be confusing and even scary. As parents, we all hope that what we have done to prepare our kids will be enough. As community members, we hope that the systems in place will promote and protect our youth. But, everyday, for lots of different reasons, young people in our community try alcohol or other drugs for the first time. Often, this happens in spite of our best efforts to keep youth drug free. As you know, those who experiment at a young age are much more likely to get caught up in dangerous and/or addictive behaviors. It seems that the more we can do together; using the partnerships we have in our community, the more we can accomplish.

We originally talked with of you about beginning some community-based work in conjunction with our city’s leaders. Although we’ve had some contact and a couple of conversations, an extended dialogue about this matter has not materialized yet. In order to avoid further delays, we would like to invite you to a meeting where we might begin to discuss this issue together and to make some plans. Perhaps those plans would include working with the Mayor/City administration, the City Council, or even the School District. But, we would like to start with you.....parents and concerned residents of Faribault. Our Chief of Police, Dan Collins, has offered to host this meeting at the new law enforcement center and is eager to talk to us about alcohol and other drug use in Faribault. He is willing to share what his department knows and his concerns for our young people. Will you join us on November 19th at 7:00 pm?

Attending this meeting does not commit you to any long term obligation. We merely invite you to come, listen to Chief Collins, talk with us and each other and see where we go from here. In order to make sure we have sufficient space, materials and refreshments, we would appreciate knowing if you plan to come.

**Community/Grass Roots Gathering
Thursday, November 19th
Faribault Police Department, 2nd Floor
25 4th St. NW
7:00 p.m.
Please RSVP to Kathy or Becky by Wednesday, Nov. 18**

Sincerely,

Kathy Sandberg & Becky Ford

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Rice County Family Services Collaborative
Rice County Chemical Health Coalition