

Youth Alcohol and Drug Program

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 3, 2007

4:00-5:30pm

Human Services, Inc.

Attendance: Katherine Schneider, Mark Mischke, Arba-Della Beck, Paul Jennings, Becca Wilson, Mike Ptacek, Kate Flynn, Natalie Fedie, Pat Zanko, Sheri Vrieze

Agenda

1. Committee leadership – Paul Jennings was elected to chair this subcommittee and Sheri Vrieze was elected as secretary. Both wish to hold these positions temporarily until the project is off the ground and more firmly established. We will then look to establish other leadership.
2. Committee membership - Member recruitment- We will continue to look at the recruitment list to ensure representation by all community factions. Specifically we wish to enlist youth – potentially through the High School SADD members and with youth who are in recovery. Mr. Dusty Dennis is the teacher who coordinates this group and we will add him to our email list. Mark Mischke will discuss this with him. We also wish to focus on more faith community involvement and would like to find a pastor willing to take a lead position and coordinate with other clergy in the community. We will also explore representation from Community Education Resources. Natalie Fedie volunteered to speak with other youth athletic associations.
3. October 23 meeting – Officially called the “Community Kick-Off Forum for the Youth Alcohol and Drug Program”
 - a. Moderator – Natalie Fedie offered to contact Randy Meier to see if he would be willing to moderate this event. It would be a bonus if we could have “celebrity” involvement.
 - b. Publicity – Paul Jennings will speak with Bob Rupp about this as he did a fabulous job with the symposium.
 - c. The discussion of having refreshments and a minute taker for the event will be on the next meeting’s agenda.
4. Kick-Off Forum Agenda - There was much discussion over the format of the October 23rd meeting. Sheri Vrieze showed a brief 15 minute video entitled “This Place” that would potentially be a good introductory piece as it is about motivating communities to take action around youth chemical use. Mark Mischke also discussed using testimonials from youth in recovery as a running backdrop

throughout the meeting as enlisting youth speakers in this short of a time frame would be very difficult.

- a. What do we want to have accomplished at the end of the 10/23 meeting? What do we want in place? There was much discussion in this area. The environmental supports committee of the Chemical Health Collaborative which we are installed under as a sub-committee, has already identified goals that are much aligned with the focus of this project and Sheri Vrieze will send these out to everyone to review and discuss at the next meeting. The committee is also in the process of doing structured interviews with identified stakeholders, one of which is the business community, and this may have potential as a focus for the forum as well.
- b. Discuss four part program as a starting place. Three areas were identified as a focus 1 – Chemical Health Prevention Specialist Position in the schools, 2 – After school structured activities and barriers to access, 3 – Mentorship for youth such as the “Strive” program.
- c. Inventory of resources available for programming this year - tabled
- d. Choose possible action items to focus on for this year - tabled
- e. Increase attendance at these meetings to include parents, others - tabled

5. Our next organizational meeting will be held on Thursday October 11th from 4-5:30 at HSI in Stillwater.

6. An additional note - Katherine Schneider brought our awareness to a gathering that will be held at St. Croix Valley United Methodist Church in Lakeland on October 20th called “Little Church of Hope” Speakers at this event will include men from Christ Recovery sharing their stories.