

Youth Alcohol and Drug Program

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 11, 2007

4:00-5:30pm

Human Services, Inc.

Attendance: Jean Streetar, Julie Neitzel Carr, Mark Mischke, Paul Jennings, Becca Wilson, Mike Ptacek, Kate Flynn, Natalie Fedie, Pat Zanko, Sheri Vrieze, Rick Wippler

Agenda

1. Paul Jennings called the meeting to order. It was unanimously passed to accept the minutes of our last meeting.
2. Purpose of the Forum on the 23rd was reviewed. Initially the idea was to present to the public our suggestions on how to move forward with programming to address the concern of youth chemical use. It now appears to have evolved more into getting input from the community and parents into what they perceive as the needs that need to be addressed in this area. We plan to do this by putting specific questions out there to stimulate a discussion, thereby giving the community (parents) more investment and a voice in the process, rather than just presenting how it is going to be done without the opportunity to really have them engaged in this course of action as well. The ideas taken out of the feedback gathered in this forum will then be reviewed and a course of action alternatives will then be presented at the next community meeting.

Natalie Fedie discussed an event at the high school last evening that had a tremendous turnout. The event was a speaker on sexuality hosted by the Life Care Center. This event was run through community churches and was required as a kick off to religious education classes, although it was open to all community members. It was a great example of how planning for future events can incorporate many different channels or partner with already existing resources. Rick Wippler also stated that if our future meetings can parrot a school function, and if we are cognizant of time, meeting perhaps for 45 minutes vs. 2 hours, our resulting turnout would have to potential to be much greater.

3. Publicity for the Forum will be handled through Rotary member Bob Rupp, who did all of the publicity work for the Symposium. His email is rupp@boutwellslanding.com, phone is 651-275-5409 for anyone who wishes to contribute ideas. Mark Mischke, Rick Wippler and Kate Flynn will speak with Bob regarding a key quote for the media release that will draw attention to it; discussion included using statistics from the Mn Student Survey.

Paul Jennings presented the resolution passed by the Chamber yesterday that is a call to action surrounding the issues of youth chemical use, and sale of alcohol to minors. This resolution will be released to the press tomorrow. Copies of the

resolution will be handed out at the Forum. It is our hope that the next resolution put forth would come from the City Council. Jean Streetar said she will take the resolution and run it by the State Department of Health to see if they know of other communities that have done something similar.

A press release for the Forum will be done through email, community newspapers and radio venues. Rick Wippler will also make sure it is on the e-lists through the schools and will talk to Don Schuld about district wide distribution.

We are missing a key contributor to our efforts through lack of representation of faith communities. Paul Jennings did talk with youth pastor Kris Huntley (cell number 276-3728) who is willing to spearhead communication with other youth pastors in the community. He will also follow up with talking to pastor Larry Forsberg to try to elicit participation from this faction.

Natalie Fedie offered to contact the Valley Press and Stillwater Living to alert them to the community forum and the work of the committee.

Rick Wippler identified that it might be beneficial to invite local press to attend organizational meetings as we move through this process. Paul Jennings will do a press invite.

Natalie Fedie also mentioned that it would be important to provide an email address to the community in which to respond if they wish to be involved but can not attend this forum. At this point, there is no web address for the CHAC, but respondents could email the rotary: <http://www.stillwatersunriserotary.org>. This should be included in the e-vite. This may also be a great idea for a future project, to develop a web site for information/resources in our community to address our project concerns.

Becca Wilson brought up the need to have persons present at the Forum who can answer questions that may arise. It is generally felt that there will be enough school representation and community/county agency representation present to answer questions, however, we need to also let the audience know that questions will be directed to the appropriate resource if none is available at that time. It was decided to list the steering committee names, numbers, and emails on the program.

4. Refreshments – Kate Flynn volunteered that Prairie St. Johns will pay for refreshments of bottled water and cookies. She will work with Rick Wippler to pick up and store the refreshments for that date.
5. Program – Discussion was held on having a printed program. It was decided that we will use the same format as the Symposium program and Sheri Vrieze along with Jean Streetar volunteered to develop this. The program will contain information on how to get involved, information on the Collaborative and will

summarize the questions that will be presented at the forum. It will clearly identify that we wish to solicit information from the community and parents on the issues around youth chemical use – problems and solutions.

Becca Wilson suggested that we need to make it clear during the forum that we are in the formative process, that our committee is new and we want to encourage others to get involved.

The rotary will provide signage for the Forum.

Jean Streetar and Sheri Vrieze will review the questions being presented to key stakeholders through the Collaborative's Environmental Supports Committee, and will revise them to be used at the Forum to provide a format to have a guided discussion. These will be email out to all committee members. It was suggested that these questions also be printed for attendees to answer in writing during the forum, especially for those who would not wish to stand and speak. The four action points - the Chemical Health Prevention Specialist position, adult mentoring, structured activities, and supporting curriculum in the schools - will be included in the questions. This allows us to get feedback on how the community perceives these needs as well as allows them to identify their own areas.

6. Recorder – It was decided that with printed questions, it would not be necessary to have a recorder for the event. Attendees could leave their written responses for collection at the end.
7. There were concerns expressed in the committee about how this forum overlaps with sensitivity to levy issues that are being faced at this time, and whether or not this forum could have an impact on the levy vote. Paul Jennings pointed out that while we want to be aware of these concerns, the problems with youth chemical use are not suspended. Those issues are ongoing and need to be a continued focus no matter what else is happening in the community.

8. Our next organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday October 16th from 4-5:30 at HSI in Stillwater.