



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee 1/11/06, 3:30, CCBC



Mission: The GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee addresses health and social issues in the Greater Attleboro/Taunton communities resulting from substance abuse.

Vision: This is accomplished by coordinating with existing community resources to heighten public awareness and to develop programs to prevent, reduce and treat substance abuse.

Attendees: Douglas Barbour (North Cottage), Deborah Brown (TPS), Arlene Dickinson (Southbay Mental Health), Annie Gallagher (CPI), Kathy Lalor (CPI), Kelley Mann (CCBC), Michael Meleedy (CCBC), Lorraine Rosa (Staff), Bill Rutherford (TPD), Dora Treacy (TPD)

Discussion Highlights:

Community Crisis Intervention Team – Next training will be held May 9, 10 and 11. 20 have already registered, and includes Brockton and Attleboro police, DSS and the PACT team at CCBC.

Recent Trend – Unsupervised after prom parties have been taking place in hotel rooms. Parents see this as a harm reduction approach, but in fact parents condoning this as a social norm, and allowing children to participate leads to unhealthy consequences. There is a need to raise awareness of this danger. Suggestions include an awareness campaign to contact hotels about the issue and their liability, and contact local newspapers, television stations, PTOs, SADD, etc. for parents, grandparents, and others who care about youth to take a stand against underage alcohol. A letter from the PTO or SADD would be effective, as may a discussion on the “Pathways to Hope” local radio show. Youth need safer ways to have fun without alcohol, such as at school sponsored after prom parties.

Drug Policy – A local school is working on revising its alcohol and drug policy which will include the use of a breathalyzer for admission to dances/proms and available to the administration during the school day. The breathalyzer was introduced in response to students who first brought the issue to the adults’ attention. They recommended alcohol testing because they want a safe environment. The draft is due by March 1.

Guiding Good Choices – The following individuals have been trained to offer the parenting program: Maria Mojica-Mosquea (THA), Nancy Lambert (CCBC), Mary Usdan (CCBC), Sabrina Strong (CCBC), James Ridlen (DSS), Tim Velho (RAPPP Dartmouth), Claudia Mills (RAPPP Dartmouth), as well as Deb Brown (who was trained in the previous version of preparing for the Drug Free Years).

Project YELL and Youth Mini-Grants

- In March, seed money funding of \$1,000 will be available for a social norms project. The DOE Safe Schools/Healthy Students discretionary grants will be out at the end of January.
- Project YELL SAHMSA grant scoring was received.
- SADD submitted a \$1,400 DPH tobacco prevention grant, *Get The Word Out* in December and funding was awarded this week.
- A \$1,000 National Highway Safety grant will be applied for by SADD to do a peer leader/teen topics and parent awareness programs in addition to the seatbelt awareness campaigns required by the grant.

Coalition Building - Marilyn Belmonte trains school staff, parents and law enforcement in reducing drug abuse through recognition and community awareness. She also does coalition building. More information may be found at www.DrugAbuseRecognition.com. The Western Massachusetts consultant’s fees are cost prohibitive.

Chief Probation Officer Bill McAndrew has retired. Joe Dooley is now the Chief Probation Officer for the Taunton District Court.

Fact Sheet: From Policy Impact Communications

Helping Kids Avoid Binge Drinking (Opinion) – Parents are encouraged to talk to their kids to watch out for their friends if they think their child is drinking or hanging out with others who drink. Kids who feel concerned for a friend could talk to their friend voicing concern and care with a simple message, sticking to the issues, using “I”

instead of “you” statements and offering specific help including where to go for help. If the situation seems too difficult for a young person to handle, an adult should offer to help. (Bedford Minuteman)

Editorial: Facing Up to Teen Drinking – Newspapers are criticized for printing the role of alcohol in crashes that involve young people who are no longer around to defend their reputations, saying the families have suffered enough. The editorial suggests that covering up the truth makes it impossible to teach a sad lesson to young people who continue to risk everything by drinking and driving, and people should worry less about teenagers’ reputations and more about saving their lives (Norton Mirror)

Next Steps:

- ☐ Contact Marilyn Belmonte about Coalition building (Lorraine)
- ☐ Create a parent letter citing the concern of unsupervised youth renting hotel rooms after prom (Deb, SADD)
- ☐ Continue outreach to Attleboro (Arlene)
- ☐ Look for \$10,000 funding to bring Teen Topics back to Taunton middle schools (Lorraine)
- ☐ Look into funding from MADD or other resource for an awareness campaign about the trend towards after prom parties in hotel rooms. (Lorraine)

Next Meeting: **2/8/05**, 3:30, CCBC Family Conference Room, Mill River Professional Center, 1 Washington St.

Contact Persons:

Arlene Dickinson, **508-223-4691**, Lorraine Rosa, **508-823-4822**.



GATHER/GTHHSC Substance Abuse Committee

AGENDA

2/8/06, 3:30, CCBC, 1 Washington St., Mill River Place



- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Attleboro + Taunton Area Updates and Trends
- III. Project YELL and Grants
- IV. Coalition Building and Technical Assistance
- V. Discussion Topic: After Prom Parties in Hotel Rooms – Changing a “Norm” – What steps do we take?
- VI. Discussion Topic: The Role of the Police on the SAC
- VI. Safe Neighborhood Initiative “Treatment and Prevention” Committee
 - SNI Point Person
 - 2006 Goals (Addressing parents, raising awareness, reduce availability of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to underage youth, SA school policy, parent programs)
 - 2005 Accomplishments
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. February Agenda (To reflect both Attleboro and Taunton Areas) and Meeting Date/Place

Notes:
