

Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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Working Together...

Serving Families

...Improving Lives

Chemical Health Work Group

Meeting Minutes

1-3 PM, Friday, November 13, 2009

Dead Lake Room, Government Service Center, Fergus Falls

Present: Angie Schreader (Perham Schools- 95) Karmy Thompson (OTC Human Services); Alena Anderson (MSU Student); Pam Ness (Lakes Country Service Cooperative-4); David Hauser (OTC Attorney's Office – 4); Lynn Halmrast (Regional ATOD Coordinator-120); Marian Bogenrief (LACD); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. Pam Ness welcomed the group and introductions were made.
2. The group reviewed the information from the October presentation by Jay Jaffee. The following highlights were made:
 - Most people don't realize there are energy drinks with alcohol. This could be very deceiving for parents/others who think students are using only the energy drinks.
 - It is important to focus on one issue at a time to be impactful. The group reiterated their desire to focus on prescription drug use in order to have the most impact with limited budget and time constraints.
 - Other ideas for a speaker included Rick Moldenhauer from DHS. He will speak to up to 100 people for free. Rick talks specifically about prescription and over the counter drugs.
3. Jane shared a copy of a DVD that she received from the spring ATOD conference. The information is also available on-line. The group requested that the information be made available on-line via the Collaborative website.
4. Positive Community Norms campaign next steps:
 - Students – Angie and Karmy agreed to conduct a focus group session with some students at the Perham High School. Jane will draft a sample questionnaire to be used for the sessions. The results will be shared with the work group at their next meeting and the group will use the information to decide on one "key message" to target students.
 - Medical Community – the group decided to start with the Perham Community and try to set something up in Fergus once Perham is established. The group will request that Jay Jaffee do a session for the medical providers. Karmy

agreed to speak with folks at the Fergus Falls Clinic if we aren't able to set something up for both clinics through Jay. The group might want to consider doing an evening or lunch session and working through the MeritCare education department there. If a lunch session is doable, the group may want to consider providing lunch.

- Parents – the group would like to set something up with Rick Tholdenhauer from DHS for parents and other community members in Perham in April. Lynn will check with Rick to see if he is available to do this. The session should be about one hour max with time for questions/answers. The group will consider a second session based on how it goes in Perham. Angie will check on the availability of using the high school auditorium and see if we can host this in Perham. Alena has also developed a PowerPoint presentation that she will be presenting for service club organizations. The group also suggested that she connect with PTO organizations to look for opportunities to share the information with parents.
5. Task # 3 - Zero Adult Providers – David reported that the prosecution is having some difficulty prosecuting cases based on investigative techniques, etc. There may also be some challenges with law enforcement attitudes about the importance of this issue. Jane pointed out that the task requires that we assist with efforts of existing initiatives. It was also pointed out that the Fergus Falls Police Department continues to work on this initiative under a grant from the Minnesota Institute of Public Health. Jane will check with Steve to see how we can help impact this issue with limited or no funding. The group may wish to concentrate awareness efforts in early spring at the high schools and colleges when underage drinking is likely to be a problem. Ideas for concentrated efforts include:
- Reprint posters and/or postcards and distribute them at high schools
 - Letters to the editor
 - Newsletters and information to parents
 - Reminders about the social host ordinance.
6. Partner sharing:
- Karmy's position has been adjusted so she will be spending more time on the east side of the county. She made a request that she be allowed to participate in the meetings via ITV or conference call. Karmy will work with Angie to see if this can be arranged through the high school.
 - Marian offered to sponsor another billboard message about responsible drinking.
 - Lynn shared information about the DFC planning and implementation grants which will be due in March. Partners are encouraged to learn more about this opportunity and see if their agency would be willing/able to apply on behalf of the Collaborative/Work Group.
7. The meeting was adjourned by consensus. The next meeting of the Chemical Health Work Group will be held on Friday, January 8 from 1 – 3 at the Government Service Center in Fergus Falls.