

## Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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*Working Together...  
Serving Families  
...Improving Lives*

## Chemical Health Work Group Meeting

### Meeting Notes

1 – 3 p.m., December 16 2011

Government Service Center, Fergus Falls

Present: Tria Mann (DWI Court-3); Mary Matteson (Fergus Falls Community Education-3); Kristin Erickson (OTC Public Health); Chad Campion (Lakeland Mental Health/SBMH Fergus Falls-3); Lynn Halmrast (ATOD Coordinator-110); Marian Bogenreif (CARE-5); Angie Schreder (Perham High School – 130); David Hauser (OTC Attorney-3); Bill Klein (Lakeland Mental Health Center-6); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. Jane Patrick began the meeting with a welcome and a round of introductions. Tria Mann joined the group today as the Coordinator for the DWI and Family Court Dependency Programs. Welcome Tria!
2. Marian is working on a suggestion to add a family group component for local families on Saturdays at C.A.R.E. The group discussed what the need is around here for this. It was suggested that she talked to Margaret at the County to find out what their needs are.
3. Grant updates:
  - SIPFSIG –we were likely not funded based on the fact that we haven't received a notification letter. No names have yet been released but they will be released once everyone has signed acceptance letters. Lynn noted we had a wonderful application and a good grant writer. 17 applications received but they decided to fund only eight applications. They have since reported that they chose applications from the highest need communities.
  - UCare – Jane shared that Last Leg Shuttle has submitted paperwork to provide services within the city of Fergus Falls. This is a positive step for the expansion of the safe ride program. Local businesses that support the work of the chemical health work group were recently recognized at a luncheon in conjunction with the Safe Communities Coalition.
  - Other potential opportunities discussed include the "Bill Gates" grant opportunity which Tria will send to me. Also, the Drug Free Communities grant is coming out again in late winter and Lynn encouraged us to reapply.
4. Discussion items:
  - Update on Parkers Prairie event earlier this week – David did a speaking engagement there and it was well received. Trooper Jesse Grabow also presented on the Forever Young video. David spoke on drugs and alcohol and why/how it gets you in trouble. Students were given the County Attorney Brochure and there were lots of good questions from students.
  - Jane shared a concern submitted by a teacher from Underwood School. The group felt they would need more information in order to help identify options for them to consider. General ideas included: a) meet with them individually; b) meet with them as a group and try to identify what their intentions are with this group and why they have a group; c) engage the counselor Julie Carlson as a resource; d) pull in the parents and have individual meetings with parents about the issue; e) look at research-based strategies that are shown to change the behavior of "users"; f) contact Margaret Williams as the county assessment specialist to see what resources they could offer; g) utilize Lakeland Chemical Dependency Counselors (Chad Campion). Basically the group felt that we truly need more information from Sue to find

out exactly what these students are really doing. A suggestion was also made to see if the school would allow us to do a focus group with these students to learn from them.

- How to keep the momentum going in schools without funding- continue to use resources available (David's office could commit to one presentation annually at each middle/high school); identify resources to continue Youth Health Day; encourage and support activities such as the Pelican Rapids SADD conference held in December; develop a speakers bureau including but not limited to: David Hauser; Jesse Grabow; Lakeland; Det. Sonstebo; Probation (Melanie Cole); local police departments liaisons; Marian Bogenreif (CARE); DWI Court Alumni telling personal stories. Ask each speaker to fill out a short survey form indicating what specific topics they could speak about. With regard to the DWI Court Alumni, Tria will check with them to see if they would do this. The group also suggested that Jane email Sheila Nesbit from MIPH to find out more about sustainability.

5. Task # 2 was discussed. Ideas for promotional messages included:

- Media campaign and monthly planning calendar:  
January – Snowball coronation; sporting events hand out to parents (See It Say It handouts);  
February - website, newsletter insert; articles about Social Host Ordinance implementation; ask students to participate in a calendar contest with messages winners get their pictures in the calendar and on a billboard, posters, etc.  
March- Youth Health Day and Backstrom family evening session; ask Kelly Felton about parent event where parents go through a “mock student bedroom” to see where drugs/paraphernalia might be stored (Chad and Tria agreed to help with this)  
April – note to all prom parents and graduating seniors; mock crashes  
May- school report card mailings of letter from David Hauser's office (“Do the Right Thing”)  
June- Lake Region Electric mailing;  
July- promotion of social host ordinance passage;  
August- back to school mailings  
September- Homecoming coronation; mock crashes  
October-  
November-  
December-  
• Youth Health Day updates- March 5<sup>th</sup> (Parent Event); March 6<sup>th</sup> student event; Chad, Jane and Tria to work on the mock bedroom demonstration; can't charge a fee; volunteers to help with the event included – Jane, Chad, David and Tria.

6. Task #3 was discussed regarding the Social Host Ordinance for Otter Tail County. Many thanks to David Hauser, Diane Thorson and Brian Schlueter for bringing this to the County Board in November. The county board agreed to have David's office draft preliminary language, and they agreed to hear more information about this. Four of six city police departments are already on board, including the City of Fergus Falls who passed the ordinance a year or so ago.

7. 2012 –

- Doing great on our existing work plan but do not need to meet every month because we didn't get the grant we applied for.
- How can we expand on recovery options for youth as well as family programs for youth and families;
- Create or locate a resources on AA, support groups, recovery processes and what a “quality recovery” programs and what to look for – how to make the community more accepting of recovery; highlighting professionals in the community.

8. **Future meeting schedule for Chemical Health Work Group** –from 1 – 3 p.m. on February 17, April 20 and May 18. NO January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.