

Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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Working Together...

Serving Families

...Improving Lives

Chemical Health Work Group

Meeting Minutes

1-3PM September 11, 2009

Dead Lake Room – Government Service Center

Present: Mary Matteson (FF Community Education-3); Angie Schreder (Perham Schools- 95) Marian Bogenreif (LADC-5); Marion Kershner & Student Nursing Guest (OTC Public Health); Pam Ness (Lakes Country Service Cooperative-4); Karmy Thompson (OTC Human Services); Lynn Halmrast (Regional ATOD Coordinator-120); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. Pam Ness welcomed the group and introductions were made. Pam and Marion co-facilitated the meeting until Jane was able to arrive at 2:30.
2. David Hauser was not available to provide updates on the DWI Court initiative. However, there was a graduation ceremony for the first participant in September and a second is planned for October.
3. Partner sharing and opportunities for collaboration were discussed.
4. Updates:
 - Pam updated the group on the SAMHSA Grant and explained that unfortunately it was not funded. The group very much appreciated Pam's efforts in preparing and submitted the application on their behalf.
 - The Youth AA Program in Fergus Falls has had no developments and it is likely that this plan will have to be aborted due to lack of interest.
 - The Zero Adult Provider Grant was closed out as of June 30th. The program was able to expend all of the \$5,000 allocated. The ZAP Grant for Pelican Rapids was submitted, but unfortunately was not funded.
5. The group discussed sharing information with parents and teens about substance abuse at their team sports meetings in the fall. Karmy attended the presented at the meeting which was held in Henning and Kurt Mortensen from the OTC Attorney's Office presented at the meeting in Fergus Falls. There were several hundred parents in attendance. The "Monkey See Monkey Do" magnets and the brain development information were given out to all families. Several other schools expressed interest in hosting the information, but did not respond prior to the time

when their parent meetings were scheduled to be held. The group will explore options for hosting other parent sessions in the schools throughout the year.

6. The group discussed Work Plan Task # 1 to develop a positive community norms campaign. The group was lead through a process to identify what area of substance abuse they would like to focus on for FY10. Three main areas for their process including: 1) additional education and information for the Chemical Health Group to learn about trends and misperceptions; 2) develop a message for students depending on what is learned; 3) develop an educational component to educate parents. The group discussed current trends, including: a) alcohol use is still the most prevalent problem among youth; b) marijuana and other drugs are also a problem; c) prescription drug abuse is becoming more and more common among youth and adults.

After considerable discussion the group determined that they would like to learn more about prescription drug use issues and how to deal with them. The group felt that this topic might be the one area they would like to target for the most impact during FY10.

In order to accomplish the three steps above, the group determined they would:

First, invite Jay Jaffee to their October meeting. Each of the work group members would also make personal invitations to those within their agencies or community that might benefit from hearing Jay's presentation.

Next, they would use what they have learned to create messages to students on the dangers of prescription drug use, long term health problems, and mixing drugs and alcohol. The group will try to create messages that focus on the positive, such as reinforcing good choices and common sense.

Finally, they would identify options for developing a parent education session to help educate parents on the issues of prescription drug use and abuse by youth. Parents need to be made aware of such things as students are able to get prescription drugs from medicine cabinets at home or at friend's homes, when they are babysitting, when visiting grandparents, etc. Angie shared information that students host "pharm" parties where a variety of prescription drugs and alcohol are mixed and consumed by students. The group determined they would like to request that Jay Jaffee give the parent presentation since he may already have such a presentation developed.

7. The meeting was adjourned by consensus. The next meeting of the Chemical Health Work Group will be held when it can be arranged with Jay Jaffee from the Minnesota Department of Health.