



President and Chair: *Larry Weiss*
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Parents Matter Coalition of Pierre/Ft. Pierre

**Avera St. Mary's Hospital
5th floor conference room, Pierre, SD**

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2014

●Opening

The regular meeting of the Parents Matter Coalition of Pierre/Ft. Pierre was called to order at 12:00 on August 13, 2014 in Pierre, SD by Larry Weiss.

●Present

Larry Weiss,(President//Chair) Sue Burgard, Norma Tibbs,(Fraternal Sector Member) Denice Moore,(Vice President) Jeff Monroe,(Senator -34) Laura White, Carol Erickson, Ruby Douglas,(Project Director) Carmella Bourke,(Health Sector) Diane Inch, Colleen Weiss, Barb Rohrbach(Secretary/Parent Sector)

●Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved. Motion to accept was made by Colleen and Denice seconded.

●Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of 501 c 3 IRS Letter of Approval

The Letter of Approval was unanimously approved. Laura White told the group that Parents Matter should become Tax Exempt as it assists the organization when purchasing items.

New Business

Laura White, PARS, gave a report on the CMCA responses. Laura and her staff interviewed the PARS clients. They completed approximately 100 surveys and covered a wide variety of people. This is a group that isn't normally reached. Kudos to Laura and her staff! The following points were discussed:

Clients weren't asked if they wanted to answer these questions, they weren't given a choice. Some became angry when asked about their alcohol use, they weren't required to complete.

Some clients were in denial and weren't aware that their money was going to alcohol when it could be going towards something for their family.

Some were listening intently and were heartfelt and knew they were passing their alcohol use on to generations.

Youth are getting alcohol from family and older friends. Did they realize this is against the law?

Drinking is an escape – they don't have money for entertainment such as; movies, going out to eat and they don't budget.

Budgeting Classes are now being held to learn how to budget and where their money could go if they didn't spend it on alcohol. It could go towards a tank of gas. When they hold these classes they get more people when they provide babysitting, transportation and food. Their budgeting classes went from two people to 28.

Alot of the parents want the information from Parents Matter – how can we get it to them.

Big problem reported with METH and surrounding areas. Drugs are an issue.

The working poor feel that they aren't safe where they live due to the alcohol and drug problems. They asked how they could make it safer. The police come to the apartments due to selling of drugs, fighting etc.

PARS has approximately 250 people each month. They are an excellent resource to get information out to the community.

How can we change the culture?

More parenting classes are needed.

Laura has added to their questionnaires: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY? Many couldn't think of anything...so she would tell ask them “if they had given a smile to someone?” Towards the end of the interviewing some would say that they had given ideas for the Parents Matter questionnaires.

The Thursday night banquet is an excellent place to distribute information.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES training was discussed. It is a great communication tool to use with parents and their youth. 6th graders will be the target age. They start each session off with a meal. This training is hopefully going to take place starting in October for 7 weeks on Tuesday evenings. Andrea, 4-H Coordinator, will provide: background checks (\$20/person), 4H building, Kits, and Handouts. Ruby wrote a grant to Avera for the meals and babysitting. The coalition wants to move forward with this training. The recommendation was made that churches are a great resource to hold trainings as they make the meals, provide babysitting.

Ruby provided the social hosting law brochure and outcomes report to the schools for the parents of 6th and 9th graders during their registration at Pierre and Ft. Pierre schools.

Norma Tibbs, ND/SD Moose Youth Scholarship Congress, discussed her preventative program. All 9th - 12th graders are asked to participate. Students wishing to participate MUST attend a “congress” which is held October 18th, 2014. This is where they will provide them with the necessary materials and forms to start delivering their talks to 4 to 9 year olds. Pastries, lunch, snacks and refreshments will be provided. All forms to Norma Tibbs at 26986 Bad River Road, Fort Pierre, SD 57532 by October 16, 2014. Scholarship amounts: 1st place \$12,000; 2nd place \$8,000; 3rd place \$5,000; 4th place \$3,000; 5th place \$2,000.

A one day SAPTs training was held last week. This was a very good overview of the federal money and prevention. There may be a week long training in the near future depending upon funding availability.

June/July Arrest Report – Larry Weiss. It was noted that 28 arrests were made for underage consumption of alcohol. 73 arrests were made overall regarding drug/alcohol arrests of those 45 were alcohol and 28 drugs. In July, 21 underage arrests were made. Out of 53 drug and alcohol arrests – 32 were alcohol, DUI and open container and 21 were drug arrests. So approximately 50 drug arrests was ingesting and marijuana. It is evident we have a drug problem in our communities.

Sue Burgaard, 21st Century, DOE, attended our meeting. They have been given a federal grant to focus on FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. They have a regional director based out of Kansas, Missouri.

● **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm by Denice and seconded by Barb. The next general meeting will be a September 10, 2014, at noon, in Pierre, SD.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Rohrbach Approved by: Ruby L. Douglas

Sector Member Representatives: *Cheryl Arguello, Captain Elton Blemaster, Carmella Bourk, Amy Fowler, Dr. Kelly Glodt, Andrea Klein-Knox, Michelle Bowman, Cindy Bahe, Diana Melvin, Barbara Rohrbach, Norma Tibbs and Cassidy Fosheim*