

**PARENTS
MATTER**



**Coalition
of Pierre
Fort Pierre**

Let's make a difference

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Parents Matter Coalition of Pierre/Fort Pierre Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 – Noon
Avera/St. Mary's Hospital
Cafeteria Conference Room

Attendance: Pat Callhan, Oahe TV – Videotaping, Katie Tostenson (DSS Prevention), Bonnie Nickels (Health Care Rep.), Amy Beshara Fowler (Volunteer Rep.), Melanie Urich (Parent), Jeri Thomas (Media Rep.), Cheryl Arguello (Religious/Fraternal Rep.) Tito Arguello (Religious/Fraternal Rep.), Diane Inch (CNP –Rural Health Care), Val Boe (Parent), Kevin Mutchelknaus (School Rep.), Brenda Binegar (Parent), Cari Liedholt (Parent/School Board Member), Tina Titze (Parent/School Board Member), Denice Moore (Other Rep.) Barb Rorhbach (Parent Rep.), Laura White (Food Pantry Ex. Dir.), Colleen Weiss (Parent/Grandparent/Community Volunteer), Andrea Klein (Youth Serving Rep.), Suzanne Geppert (Regional Extension Office), Kat Haarstad (Mental Health Agency), Therese Heyer (Mental Health Agency), Kristin Bruggeman (Mental Health Agency) Tony Mangan (Media Rep.), Marty Jackley (SD Attorney General – Presenter) Ruby L. Douglas, PM Project Director, Kevin Mutchelknaus (Pierre School Principal), Jan Johnson, (CDC III, Clinical Supervisor, SD Urban Indian Health-Substance Abuse Rep.) and Elton Blemaster (Law Enforcement Rep.)

Absent: Larry Weiss, Chair of Parents Matter.

Elton Blemaster facilitated the Coalition meeting in the absence of Chair, Larry Weiss. Introductions were made and Elton called for a motion to approve the January minutes and the meeting agenda as submitted. Colleen so moved for minutes/agenda be approved and were seconded by Diane. Motion passed.

Elton provided a brief biography prior to introducing South Dakota's Attorney General, Marty Jackley.

Pat Callahan from Oahe TV videotaped Mr. Jackley's informal presentation on the alcohol and synthetic drugs sweeping across the Nation. Mr. Jackley stated that SD has been very proactive in addressing the synthetic drug problem.

Mr. Jackley passed around a photograph and examples of misleading packets with contents labeled as: "Night Lites" – a sex drug and, "Bath Salts" -chemical combination injected or snorted into the system. He estimated that the distributor/manufacturer makes approximately \$56,000 a month on synthetic drug production. "Smiles" or "NBombs" are a synthetic form of LSD "ingested" through use of eye droppers or candy.

“It is a public safety issue and a public health issue”.(Attorney General) “The FDA has testing and safeguards to protect the public against harmful substances. This is done through dosage monitoring, etc. This can not be done with the illegal drugs. There is no way to determine dosage that will not be addicting, symptoms expected, etc.”

Chemicals that were sold over the counter in making synthetic drugs were a misdemeanor. It became illegal for businesses to sell the ingredients over the counter and proprietors eventually took them off the shelves. Chemists repackaged the products and it became a felony. Operators were shut down with the introduction and passage of legislation.

The nine families of chemicals that make up synthetic drugs have been changed a little bit making it challenging to do field testing. The Attorney General's Office/Law Enforcement have more formal testing completed by a lab in California. Raw testing can be done here by the Health Lab.

Drug analogue statutes are being developed. It reportedly identifies similar characteristics of substance in the synthetic drug families. If there is a presence; the person can be prosecuted. It is a 10 year felony charge. Substances that are bought in stores to make synthetic drugs are a felony. Law Enforcement monitors the sales of substances purchased over the Internet. Drugs are being sold over the Internet illegally with many coming from out of state.

Current Legislation regarding the Analogue tier of synthetic drugs Is an Emergency clause on a drug. Mr. Jackley stated that the power/decisions should be made jointly amongst the health department and law enforcement and the Attorney General's Office. Senate Bill 70 endorses States Attorney's initiative, “**Smart on Crime**”.

Felony charges usually carry a blanket of 10 years in prison. Manufacturing charges carries the same penalty. The issue is accountability for possession as opposed to manufacturing. The belief is that the person using a drug can be helped and rehabilitated. A person who is manufacturing or distributing drugs would be charged with a felony ,15 years prison sentence and it would act as more of a deterrent.

SD Attorney General Jackley opened the discussion up for questions from the audience.

Elton gave a brief update on the arrest reports, legislation and other agenda items. Ruby referred the group to their folders and stated that the additional items were included in their packets to be read/reviewed at their leisure.

Special Notes: The video tape link will be sent out separately from the minutes. When it becomes available; it will also be posted on our website: parentsmattercsd.com

Parents Matter Coalition March Meeting will be at Noon, Wednesday, March 13, 2013, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, Avera/St. Mary's Hospital. Lunch will be provided.

There being no additional discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruby L. Douglas, CPS
Project Director – Parents Matter Coalition of Pierre/Fort Pierre