



Mission: " To educate, empower and engage parents and the community in educating their children in making responsible choices regarding alcohol, drugs, underage drinking, and healthy living."

"No Community has a bigger problem than they are willing to tolerate"- Unknown

Parents Matter Noon Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 in St. Mary's Health Care Center - 5th Floor Conference Room.

Larry Weiss, Chair of Parents Matter, called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and the agencies which they represented. The members in attendance of the meeting: Tito and Cheryl Arguello, Cindy Malsam, Melinda Olson (SE Prevention Resource Center, Sioux Falls), Roland Loudenburg (Mt. Plains Evaluation, Salem), Colleen Weiss, Gayle Stover, Amy Beshara, Kristen Tabbert, Dennis Pfrimmer, Lori Jacobson, Elton Blemaster, Denise Venner, Don Micheels and Ruby L. Douglas.

Larry presented the Consent Calendar and requested a motion for approval or corrections to the January agenda and minutes. There being no corrections to the minutes or the agenda; it was moved by Don Micheels to approve the minutes and agenda and seconded by Dennis Pfrimmer. Motion carried.

Chairman Weiss lead the discussion on the Verizon Anti-Cyberbullying event that was held on Friday, February 4th at Georgia Morse Middle School. The consensus was that the cyberbullying event did raise awareness of the issue. Larry also stated that Katherine Van Gerpen, Riggs Student Senate member, is also on the Safety Committee and had a legislative bill on hazing (another form of bullying) drafted and introduced. It was noted that the bill did not pass.

Denise Venner, Pierre Indian Learning Center Dorm Parent, thanked Parents Matter for the Cyberbullying (100) workbooks which their students worked through prior to the rally event and used after the event in their discussions about cyberbullying.

Additional comments from participants about the Anti-Cyberbullying event were that attendees felt that it was a successful event but, would have liked more discussion on the anti-bullying issue.

Ruby provided an update on the Needs Assessment Report to the members. The Progress Report was filed with the Division of Alcohol and Drug on January 31st and we are awaiting their comments, suggestions,etc. to move ahead in the SPF-SIG planning process.

Larry and Ruby had presented an overview to a community group the previous Monday. Roland suggested that the Coalition have an information dissemination plan and highlight the findings in the data collection report. Suggested venues for getting the information out to the public were: School newsletter, Head Start, Newspaper articles, Editorials, partnerships with school districts and School Board presentations, Mayors'/City Limits, Boys/Girls e-mail network. (The Pride Survey information administered by the Pierre/Fort Pierre Schools is on each of their websites and also, diskette copies are on file with their libraries and the Rawlins Library in Pierre).

Three weeks prior to the meeting; a Vision Statement worksheet was e-mailed out to everyone on the e-mail list along with a request to bring their thoughts and a draft of

their “vision” for the Parents Matter Coalition Meeting. During the meeting; a few minutes were taken for attendees to write down their Vision Statement. The papers were collected and Ruby stated that she would compile the statements (11) and send them out via e-mail asking the members to vote on the **one** that best fits for Parents Matter. The statements were e-mailed out with a request that the participants have their “vote” in by Thursday, February 10th. The Vision Statement is a working document that the Coalition will have on file to review and revisit as we move through the SPF-SIG process.

There will be a mandatory meeting for the SPF-SIG (26) recipients on February 22, 23 and 24th in Chamberlain. Melinda (Technical Assistant) reported that the agenda will include the Logic Model and the Strategic Plan for the late spring funding.

It was also reported that the funders are diligently working through the process to review plans and the applications as quickly as possible. A comment was made that the funding for Phase II may not be available until June or July.

Also noted was that the Division of Alcohol and Drug was moving from Human Services to the Department of Social Services. It is not known at this time how it will impact the process, contracts, etc. Roland mentioned that the due date for the applications is May 31st and that the grants are competitive and stressed that the Coalition not rush through their plan. It was recommended that the process for the Coalition be very deliberate and thorough so that we would end up with a solid plan..

Melinda also commented that the Project Director should guide the Coalition in setting up a realistic budget and have a strategic plan that would create change in the community through the use of evidence based programs.

It was also suggested that during these next few weeks several logic model work sessions be scheduled. Larry also suggested that all of us make the effort to get more people involved with Parents Matter and the process.

The King of Hearts Dance is scheduled for February 20th at the Georgia Morse Middle School. Larry will be writing an article once again reminding parents/youth to make safe and healthy choices.

The Boys and Girls dance was cancelled for February 11 as there was a conflict with the Middle School scheduling an event at the same time. The Boys and Girls dance has been rescheduled for March 11. Larry stated that it was requested that members (5-6) help with chaperoning the dance. Those people who are available; please contact Dennie Pfrimmer at Capital Area Counseling.

The following are the arrest reports (sent by Larry, 2/10 to enter into minutes) for January, 2011. There were 13 Drug arrests and 32 Alcohol Arrests (*13 underage drinking- lowest for an extended period) and Alcohol arrests were 29% of all arrests.

Other items: Ruby stated that the Drug Free Communities Grant applications were available on-line as of January 22nd. Ruby recommended that Parents Matter not make application for the grant as we are in the middle of the SPF-SIG Process and that the Coalition is not in a position to take on another project at this time. Melinda agreed that the timing was not the best as the due date for the application is March 18th when we would be in the midst of the SPF-SIG application process. Roland commented that perhaps another agency could take the lead on the Grant. Dennie Pfrimmer offered Capital Area Counseling would be willing to do so.

The next meeting date is scheduled for March 9th at Noon, 5th Floor Conference Room, St. Mary’s Health Care Center.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ruby L. Douglas, CPS, SPF-SIG Project Director

