

**PARENTS  
MATTER**



**Coalition  
of Pierre  
Fort Pierre**

**Let's make a difference**

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Parents Matter Coalition Meeting was held Wednesday, at Noon on May 8, 2013 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Avera St. Mary's Hospital. Members in attendance: Ruby L. Douglas, (Project Director), Jill Janecke (Guest), Whitney Jandreau (Oahe Child Development), Jessica Paxton (Guest/SDUIH), Barb Rohrbach, (Parent), Cheryl Arguello (Lakota Chapel/Faith Based), Amy Fowler (SD Dept. of Education). Melinda Olson (SE Prevention Resource Center) Dawn Tassler (Fiscal Officer), Rob Coverdale (Riggs High School Principal) and Larry Weiss (Chair of Parents Matter).

Larry called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Consent Calendar was addressed. Larry asked for a motion to accept both minutes of the March and April meetings. Dawn so moved that the minutes be accepted followed by a second from Cheryl Arguello. Larry called for discussion and there being none, asked for the passage of the motion be signified by: "Aye". The motion was unanimously carried.

Barb Rohrbach gave a brief overview of the Parents Matter Alcohol Policy booklet which is currently being printed. The Guide is expected to be available to the public in May. Members were requested to help distribute the Guides throughout the communities to Parents/Guardians/Caregivers .

Larry reported that he had received very positive feedback on the message that was recorded for the "Parent Outreach" program. Rob also said that the Prom was a great dance and everything went well. Ruby asked Larry if he would consider doing this type of outreach again for Graduation. She will call Cindy in regards to a Graduation message to be recorded and aired.

Larry presented the distracted driving information that he had handed out last month for the Distracted Driving Awareness Month campaign. He mentioned several incidents where individuals had died in texting and driving accidents. He encouraged everyone to be mindful of texting and driving, "Please do not text and drive. We live in a fast paced world but, there is no need for texting a driving.. it is not worth the pace". He offered some clarification as to "careless" driving law can include the distracted driving but, there needs to be more of a focus on the texting activity itself.

In Elton's absence; Larry presented the April Arrest Report information. Based on past records; Larry's stated that he anticipated an increase in underage drinking violations/numbers as the weather becomes warmer, kids will be home from college and others out of school. Elton also had relayed information about their "Take Back

Day” on April 27, 2013. 30 pounds of prescription/medications to be disposed was brought in by 30 people to the drop off center.

Ruby reported that the “Voices for Children’ Briefing will be held Thursday, at Noon on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Chamber of Commerce. She passed around an invitation card and noted that Parents Matter will be providing coffee and water for all attendees. Ruby also requested those who were helping with the event be at the Chamber at 11:30 AM to set up chairs, etc.

She also gave a brief update on Parents Matter workplan and budget request for FY2014. There was no increase from last year in the Budgeted amount Ruby also stated that the Budget Request was awaiting approval and that the updating of the Work Plan was delayed for a few days.

Melinda spoke briefly about cultural competency training which could include Evidence Based Programs for Coalition Leaders and Members and explained that it basically was learning about other cultures and .their lifestyles, religions and the impact it has on coalition’s decisions and how to respond. “ In a larger sense America itself is changing and these changes will have an impact on the elections and how we do things”.

Other discussion included the distribution of funds in county budgets with the Law Enforcement and Judicial Systems receiving a greater portion of the funds. Whitney stated drug and alcohol were issues identified in their survey along with access to mental health services. It was noted by several in the group that maybe if more funding would be invested in these health areas, it would result in less of an expense in the enforcement area.

Melinda responded that there are several creative ways to help work with people in recovery and decrease the number of people in jails. Drug Courts seemed to be working and an effective means of helping people and their families.

Whitney stated that the Head Start and Early Headstart were taking applications for services noting that they provide services for the whole family. Their target audience is high risk or low income families but, they do have income guidelines for others.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruby L. Douglas, CPS  
Project Director

**Parents Matter Coalition Sector Member Representatives:** *Cheryl & Tito Arguello, Captain Elton Blemaster, Carmella Bourk, Amy Fowler, Dr.Kelly Glodt, Jeanne Kelle,yAndrea Klein, Janice Johnson,Tony Mangan, Diana Melvin, Denice Lee Moore, Barbara Rohrbach and Jeri Thomas*

*Next Meeting is at Noon , Wednesday, June 12, 2013, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room , Avera/St. Mary’s Hospital*