



Parents Matter Coalition Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of St. Mary's Health Care Center. Attendees included: Marlene Knutson, Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Elton Blemaster, Amy Beshara, Melinda Olson, Tasha Almond, Kristin Tabbert, Larry Weiss, Elaine Scott, Ruby L. Douglas.

Larry Weiss, Chair of the Parents Matter Coalition, called the meeting to order and had Ruby introduce Elaine Scott, Administrative Assistant for Growing Up Together and Parents Matter Coalition. Elaine Started to work on April 21, 2011.

Dennis Pfrimmer was absent on the Drug Free Communities Grant was deferred until the May meeting.

Larry asked for input on how we can keep parents and youth informed of the problems caused by underage drinking especially at this time of year with all the end of the school year functions. Larry did an article for the chamber, Elaine wrote a letter to the editor, there has been many spot announcements on the radio stations.

Ruby has a short video clip "I Believe" the link on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTh4y6ix8HI>. To see the versions performed by students, select an option at <http://timothyshoemaker.com/videos>. The school friendly (non-youtube) link is <http://timothyshoemaker.com/school-friendly/> she would like the movie theaters to play this at intermission. Larry suggested she have it put on Oahe TV Channel 8. Ruby is contacting other outlets to see if she can get this video clip out to the public.

Larry suggested we keep doing the same as in the past to get the message out to the public. In the past the hotels have been checked on their policies in renting rooms to underage youth. Sometimes parents rent rooms for their youth to have these parties. When the river water is down and the island is available the kids will go over on the island to party. Parents need to be made aware of contributing to delinquency of minors when they purchase rooms or buy alcohol and have underage drinking.

Ruby gave an update of SPF-SIG Process/Planning – "next steps" for Implementation, she said she has 86 pages so far and still has not included the budget. Melinda reported that people sent their Selected Evidence based program for review on 4/15

and can begin to work on the shell modules. Tasha Almond, Evaluator, stated she would like the shell by May 15, 2011 for any revisions that will have to be made. The deadline is May 31, 2011.

After phase II starts, SPF-SIG Training is tentatively set for June, 28 – 30, 2011 in Pierre/Ft. Pierre.

Larry reported 30 arrests in March about the same as in February. 25% drugs, 13 underage, numbers go up in the spring when all the college kids come home and they are used to drinking in their dorms.

Elton Blemaster reported that the Police Department has a new computer program that calculates incidents instead of people in arrests and that is the reason there was such a jump in arrests from last year to this year. (example: a person might be arrested and have several violations in one arrest like drugs, alcohol, paraphernalia. In the old system this would have been one arrest in the new system it will be 3 arrests). It was reported that 95% of the crimes are committed by persons under the influence.

Larry asked for suggestions on how to use the media resources to counteract the underage use of alcohol in spring/early summer. Dakota Radio Group has been very helpful with their programming.

It was noted that the school system was very good about reporting incidents of alcohol use in the schools.

It was lifted up that tax on alcohol has not been increased since 1984.

There is lots of work to be done!

Lunch was served by St. Mary's Health Care Center. Drawing for the door prize was done by hanging posters on the wall. One poster had the door prize on the back each person received a poster and the winner of the door prize a book by Chris and Toren Volkmann "From Binge to Blackout" was won by Amy.

May 11, 2011 will be the next meeting (Elton Blemaster will be gone)  
There will be a meeting June 15, 2011 with no meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Scott, Administrative Assistant  
Parents Matter Coalition