



Happy St. Patty's Day!

Parents Matter Coalition Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 9, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of St. Mary's Health Care Center. Attendees included: Dodi Hardy, Dennis Pfrimmer, Dawn Tassler, Kristen Tabbert, Cheryl Arguello, Tito Arguello, Jeri Thomas, Tony Mangan, Larry Weiss, Tasha Almond, Amy Beshara, Elton Blemaster, Kandace Kritz, Becky Bowers, Norma Tibbs, Kelly Marnette, Karl Kroger, Kevin Mutchelknaus and Ruby L. Douglas. Michelle Majeres from VOA joined the meeting via "Skype".

Larry Weiss, Chair of the Parents Matter Coalition, called the meeting to order and requested a motion be made for the approval of the February minutes and the agenda. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and agenda.

Larry requested an update on the Verizon Grant. Ruby informed the group that Katherine was not available to attend the meeting to report. However, by all accounts, the event was successful and the grantors had indicated that they wished to fund the Coalition next year.

Larry requested an update on the SPF- SIG Grant/Process. Ruby directed the group to the "Draft" of the Community Report Card and encouraged the members to review and let her know if there are any questions, comments, concerns prior to the card going to print. (Report Card attached). Ruby explained that this was a way to get the data/information results, collected for the SPF-SIG, out to the public.

Ruby also explained that the Community Card had a dual purpose of rolling into the Logic Model for the SPF SIG. The Community Card reflects the core measures: 30 day use, parental disapproval, age of first use and perception of harm. The Card data correlates with the Logic Model and helps us develop strategies to address underage drinking in a comprehensive manner using research based materials.

Discussion was held in regards to evidence based programs/curriculums. An analogy was used of throwing spaghetti against the wall to test for doneness. A hit and miss process. Subsequently, someone came along and developed a recipe that if followed consistently, step by step, (fidelity) the outcomes would be measureable and success insured. The only way that the outcomes would not be accomplished is if the one skipped a step and left out a part of the recipe instructions--- like not using any water to cook the spaghetti. The outcomes would not produce the expected outcomes. Tasha Almond, Evaluator, who is one of the members on the Evidence Based Prevention Programs, explained the process

of selecting the programs. She strongly reinforced the evidence based programs as being measureable and consistent in application. (Fidelity).

Dawn passed out budget sheets to the coalition for their review. Funding was moved from a couple of categories. Money for rental space was moved from operations into the Printing and advertising accounts.

Ruby mentioned the Media Planner and activities and suggested that members might want to write an article for the newspaper, PSA's for the radio stations, etc. on underage drinking. It was mentioned that March was "Poisons and Toxins" Awareness Month and that articles could be submitted in the media. The "egg experiment" was referred to as an example of youth and alcohol poisoning and not being able to metabolize alcohol like adults. Adults develop alcoholism or alcohol related problems. Youth die from alcohol poisoning.

Discussion was held on the Drug Free Communities Grant. Larry made a motion to have CAC's apply for the Drug Free Communities Grant on behalf of Parent's Matter Coalition. Kristen seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-2.

Elton Blemaster reported that there were not any incidents, before or after, the King of Hearts event.

A request was made by Larry and CAC's for Chaperones for the Boys/Girls Club dance on March 11. Members were encouraged to contact Becky at the Boys and Girls Club if they wished to chaperone the dance.

Larry reported Arrests for the month of February. There were 13 underage drinking incidents. The average reported for the past year was estimated to be 15 per month. Overall alcohol arrests 6 DUI's , 3 ingesting, and 7 drug arrests.

Other items: Dawn Tassler reported the Kids Safe Saturday event would be held on April 16th. Also mentioned was the "Think and Drive" event by KGFX which will be held on March 22. No action was taken on the items.

The next meeting will be held on **April 20th**, at Noon, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, St. Mary's Health Care Center.

Work session dates selected for the strategic planning: Monday, March 21, Thursday, March 24, Monday, March 28th and Tuesday, March 29th. The time of the work sessions are tentatively planned to begin at 6:30 PM with the place to be announced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruby L. Douglas, CPS
SPF-SIG Project Director
Parents Matter Coalition