

**PARENTS
MATTER**



**Coalition
of Pierre
Fort Pierre**

Let's make a difference

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Parents Matter Coalition Meeting was held on Wednesday, 11:30AM – 1:00 PM, December 12, 2012, 5th Floor Conference Room of St. Mary's Health Care Center. Attending: Teresa Schmidt,(St. Mary's Health – Parent) Dawn Tassler, (Fiscal Officer) Kristin Brueggeman,(Parent) Cindy Bahe,(PM Marketing) Laura Snow,(Office of Highway Safety-Coalition Member) Derek Seeley, (Court Service Officer) Mona Sharp,(Parent/Grandparent) Katie Tostenson,(SD Prevention Program) Pat Englehart, (Office of Highway Safety-Coalition Member) Joyce Glynn,(Guest-Project Director for Michael Glynn Memorial) Melinda Olson(PRC –Sioux Falls) Diane Inch,(Rural Health Care, Parent) Larry Lucas, (Senator-Guest)Whitney Jandreau,(Oahe Child Care Center) Jan Johnson, (Substance Abuse Counselor- SD Urban Indian Health)Ruby Douglas,(PM Project Director) Larry Weiss, (PM Chair) Elaine Scott (PM Administrative Assistant).

Larry W. – called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as amended and printed. Motion made and seconded to accept Consent Calendar.

At this time we had an unexpected "visitor". Santa Claus made an appearance to the thrill of everyone in the room. He gave a little greeting to each participant at the luncheon and was on his way to spread the Christmas "cheer". He is very busy this time of the year and had to do some double checking his list as Larry Weiss' status was noted as questionable.

"Fiscal Cliff" Larry W. reported from the Alcohol Justice News Letter just how many lives are affected and the cost to taxpayers. Since 1991, the Big Alcohol Lobby has cost taxpayers \$57 billion in revenue. An alcohol tax increase could fill nearly 12% of the President's revenue portion of the nation's ten-year deficit reduction goal. The fiscal catastrophe of alcohol-related harm will be reversed with a per-drink tax increase of 10 cents on spirits, 15 cents on beer, and 18 cents on wine. Alcohol is unlike other products because consuming it may cause great harm to public health and increases the government's health care costs. (Article from: Alcohol Justice News Letter formerly Marin Institute). Larry stated we as a group should be enlisting support to raise tax on alcohol in South Dakota. Melinda Olson, PRC commented that a group of Prevention people are exploring the topic and that Jerry Wright of Rapid City, is also currently engaging other groups throughout the State in discussions about the issue.

A draft of the Social Hosting Bill 35-9 was handed out. Rep. Larry Lucas was on hand to explain a little about the bill. Joyce Glynn was on hand to explain what she new about the bill and there was a lot of good discussion. Larry L explained that we must first show there is a problem. It is extra difficult to get things done because these are good upstanding citizens that are hosting. Larry L stated that in the Legislature it is believed that this is a parent/youth problem and it is very hard to get any legislation passed. Support will be needed from all persons when this legislation comes up. There was discussion on who parents can give alcohol to. In your own home parents may give alcohol to their own youth 16 or older. They can not

give to the friends of their youth. Be watching for this bill in this year's legislative session and be prepared to support the bill.

As the discussion became long; Chair Weiss stated to Joyce G that he was very glad that she has spoken out and that the deaths for underage drinking have gone down because of her commitment. But there is still much work to be done.

Ruby reported on the "Prime for Life under 21" alcohol and drug educational program that will be starting in January, 2013. The brochure was included in the packet for each member to look over. It is a great program and it was made known that parents can refer their youth as well as the court system and others. Please call: 224-3189 for registration details.

Cindy B. reported that her marketing campaign will start the end of December for the coming year.

Pride Surveys have been completed and the combined report will be available sometime in early January. This year's surveys included questions in regards to prescription drug use/abuse and also, perception of peer's use of substances.

The arrest report shows an improvement but we still have a lot of work to do. We are making progress but we have to keep working.

Larry reported that the tree at the Capital is another way of keeping us visible to the community. If you have not been to see the trees, please do so. Parents Matter Tree is on the third floor. The SE Pierre Community Center Busy Beeing after school program has made some decorations for the tree. The theme for Parents Matter's tree is "The Joyous Sounds of Christmas is Children".

Meeting adjourned.

Thanks to St. Mary's Hospital for providing a wonderful lunch and a Holiday atmosphere.
Next Meeting: January 9, 2013, Noon, St. Mary's Healthcare Center, 5th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Scott, Administrative Assistant
Parents Matter Coalition

HAPPY HOLIDAYS