



Parents Matter Coalition Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 5th Floor Conference Room of St. Mary's Health Care Center. Attending: Diane Inch, Kelly Shuman, Mitchell Kleinsasser, Lisa Grant, Derek Seeley, Amy Beshara, Dawn Tassler, Elton Blemaster, Sarah Vanneman, Danielle Anderson, Mark Venner, Denise Venner, Diana Melvin, Ruby Douglas, Elaine Scott and Michelle Majeres via SKYPE.

Ruby D. Project Director, Parents Matter Coalition, called the meeting to order in the absence of Larry Weiss.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as corrected:

It was approved that "*Strengthening Families*" was included in the budget for the coming year.

Introductions/Agenda – The Agenda was approved as printed.

Guest speaker, Diane Inch, PA Oahe Valley Rural Health Care – "***The Effects of Alcohol on the Developing Youth***". Diane introduced herself, she is from Central NY from a middle class family and went to Long Island and found out that she was really at the lower end of middle class. She came to Fort Thompson to work. She stated that alcoholism with youth does not change with wealth or poverty those from all classes get into the same kind of trouble. She said youth think alcohol makes them happy but alcohol is a depressant. There have been tests done on the effects of alcohol and youth from countries where drinking alcohol by youth is allowed and from the autopsies; it proved that youth who start drinking at an early age have 10% smaller brains than youth who did not. The research also indicated that youth may have irregular heart beats and alcohol makes the testicles smaller when youth drink at an early age. Hypertension and obesity are also linked to alcohol. Most of these problems cannot be reversed.

Discussion on what is happening in our communities with all of the incidents lately? The arrest report for April was handed out. Elton said that 90% of the arrests made are alcohol or drug related. There was some discussion to see if this arrest report and one from Fort Pierre could be included in the paper. Elton said he would check on this. There was discussion on what it costs each of us for persons in the system for alcohol incidents. The commercial on TV where the drunk asks someone for \$500 to pay for his alcohol violations expenses is reflective of the approximate costs.

Ruby went over the CMCA Survey Results. The results and the Outlet Density Map is posted on our website: parentsmattercsd.com Also posted is the Collective Responsibility Report Card that contains other data information/survey results.

Graduation: Elton will check to see if anything is being done to send home to parents, etc about underage drinking in the schools this spring.

Teen Court has put the Table Tents and Potty Presses (magnets) in the bathrooms stalls around town. Stickers on Pizza take outs and window clings have also been distributed in Pierre/Fort Pierre businesses as a reminder to parents/caregivers not to provide alcohol to youth.

“Take Back” program, Elton talked about this he stated there was approximately 23 people who brought prescription drugs in to be destroyed which resulted in about 23 pounds of waste material. They do this 3 or 4 times a year. So, if you have old prescription drugs that need to be destroyed this is an excellent program.

Parents Matter funding/workplan was handed out and Dawn explained this. Funding for the coming year has seen a slight increase over the present funding.

Facebook- Parents matter is now on facebook page thanks to some Riggs High students. These students are also doing some advertising scans in the Pierre area.

Other – Dawn stated Growing Up Together and Parents Matter is collaborating with Amy’s office to hold a meeting for parents/adults on texting and social media. This will be held on June 11, 2012, please watch for more information.

Diana M. – stated Kids Helping Kids has some funds for Summer Camp. You must sign up for the camp at the Discovery Center (no phone calls) Diana has also been given a small Equine Therapy Grant to help work with girls on self-esteem.

Meeting adjourned.

Classy’s Diner in the Mall provided sandwiches for lunch.

Door Prizes:

Names were drawn for two copies of the book by “*Parenting Isn’t For Cowards*”. The lucky winners were: Derek Seeley and Mitchell Kleinsasser.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Scott, Administrative Assistant
Parents Matter Coalition

Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2012. St. Mary’s Health Care Center, 5th Floor Conference Room. Pier 37 will be providing lunch. Michelle Majeres from the Volunteers of America-Dakotas Prevention Resource Center will be presenting information on Coalition Cultural Competency.