

**PARENTS
MATTER**



**Coalition
of Pierre
Fort Pierre**

Let's make a difference

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Parents Matter Coalition Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 5th Floor Conference Room of St. Mary's Health Care Center. Attending: Bonnie Nickels, Carmella Bourk, Katie Tostenson, Teresa Schmidt, Jan Johnson, Dawn Tassler, Elaine Scott, Derek Seeley, Rob Coverdale, Mike Stroup, Diane Inch, Colleen Weiss, Ruby Douglas, Elton Blemaster, Kellie Shuman, Amy Beshara, Larry Weiss, Michele Majeres via Skype.

Ruby D. Project Director, Parents Matter Coalition, called the meeting to order (Larry had other commitments and was late).

Minutes from the June meeting were approved.

Introductions/Agenda – The Agenda was approved as printed.

Project Success – Ruby will be attending this meeting in Chamberlain August 9 & 10th.

Ruby and Diane Inch discussed the Strengthening Families meeting that they and Denise V. attended in Chamberlain.

E-CHUG (E-Check Up To Go) is an individualized, online alcohol education, intervention and personalized feedback tool for high school students, community members and businesses. Ruby explained that a 30 day trial period is available and would like to use the program in the Community. When the community piece is completed then; the program can be introduced to the high schools in the Spring during alcohol awareness month. The questionnaire can be completed in approximately 5-6 minutes and provides an instantaneous report with personalized feedback. Each person is assigned a number and the entire process is completely confidential. More information will be forthcoming as we progress. For more information, please go to the website: <https://interwork.sdsu.edu/echeckup/usa/alc/hs/reference.php>

SOPT(Science of the Positive)Training – Ruby reported this is using the positive instead of negative attitudes, we always focus on how many underage consumptions we have but we do not stress that most of our youth are not drinking and doing drugs.

Larry arrived at the meeting and discussed/explained the Report Card results. It was noted that we do the compliance checks to keep convenience stores in compliance, which is a good thing, but the Report Card shows that this is not necessarily where teens are getting their alcohol. Parents must be educated!

We just had another death of one of our young people in the community. Discussion was held about this.

Mike S. – questioned the 83.5% number that reported that their child had not used alcohol. He thought and the others agreed that this number is probably higher but parents just do not know what their teens are doing.

There were stories shared about youth and drinking, we all have youth or know youth that are involved in not so nice outcomes of underage drinking.

It was suggested that there be some kind of reward for kids that do not drink. We honor them for good grades why not for good behavior?

The Report Card has been mailed to over 400 Chamber of Commerce Businesses and media for public access. It has also been disseminated through e-mail contacts, various agencies, newsletters, sponsors, etc.

Amy – stated the schools do want to help but they are so bogged down with so many things to do, but they are positive about keeping our youth alcohol and drug free. Larry – stated that this is not a one entity involvement it takes everyone schools, parents, organizations, etc to get involved to educate parents.

Christina Klinger from May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP was updating the booklet “A Student’s Guide to Local Laws Associated with Alcohol Use”. Thomas Reynolds has completed checking all the laws and updating information. There needs to be a name for our booklet and Jan suggested a group of students should work on the booklet and a name. Be watching for this. The intent is to distribute the booklet as a resource for parents and youth.

Pierre Homecoming is September 10-14 and Stanley Counties is September 21. School activities coming up were discussed and Parents Matter will be partnering with other organizations as to what to do in the Homecoming Parade. Some were suggesting we lift up the Parents Who Host Loose the most in the parade.

Mike S. – reported that there is no longer a dance after the homecoming game; instead youth are invited to a party of bowling and prizes. That seems to keep the kids out of trouble.

Elton- stated there are no longer the big house parties that there used to be and that has cut down on arrests. He said the PD does try to find out where youth are getting their alcohol but it is hard no one will give up the name of their supplier. Elton provided the arrest report for June/July. It was noted that there were 15 underage consumptions in June and there were 14 in July. The report also included 1 arrest for Zero Tolerance in June and none in July.

Meeting adjourned.

Pizza Ranch provided pizza and a relish tray was provided for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Scott, Administrative Assistant
Parents Matter Coalition