

**Eaton County Substance Abuse
Advisory Group
February 13, 2007
10:00 – Noon
Eaton Intermediate School District
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Anne Barna, Barry Eaton Co. Health Dept.
Nancy Bernthal, Eaton ISD
Polly Brainerd, Eaton ISD
Gail Duncan, Eaton County United Way
Sara Lurie, Eaton ISD
Ellen Rinck, City of Grand Ledge Title V Office
Eric Pessell, Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Ronda Rucker, Early Childhood Connections
Kim Walton, Barry/Eaton Conservation Districts

The meeting started at 10:15 a.m., chaired by Eric Pessell. Introductions were done around the table. Nancy Bernthal announced that several of our members are attending the Drug Court Conference today and unable to attend our meeting.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was reviewed and Nancy asked for the addition of Marijuana Month Information and Sara asked to add the open letters to parents on marijuana to new business. Ronda Rucker made the motion to approve the agenda with the additions and Kim Walton seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Minutes were reviewed. Anne Barna made the motion to approve the minutes. Ronda Rucker seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Old Business

None noted

New Business

Marijuana Data in Action! Report

Anne reviewed the recent report she created with input from Data Sub-Committee. The following points were discussed:

- Noted that perceived no risk of harm increases for marijuana as youth get older, while perceived risk of harm stays the same for tobacco. This suggests that youth see tobacco as harmful, even though they still may increase use, but they perceive marijuana as less harmful as they get older.
- Discussion of why perception of no risk and harm increases as youth get older, several ideas were raised such as youth receiving mixed messages about the harmfulness of marijuana (ie, medical uses, natural etc.) while tobacco messages are consistently clear that tobacco causes harm. Some thought that youth may smoke much smaller amounts of marijuana versus a pack of cigarettes and see that as less harmful.
- Court data showed that the highest age group arrested for marijuana is 19-20 year olds
- Questions were raised related to treatment data, why there was such an increase in treatment for alcohol in 2002 and then a decline. We were also surprised by Sparrow Hospital data showing that 48 Eaton County residents were treated in the emergency room due to marijuana abuse from 2003-2005

Marijuana Awareness Month

Nancy provided information to everyone on ordering educational materials for March Marijuana Awareness Month through the Michigan Resource Center.

Open Letter to Parents on Marijuana

The two examples of Open Letters to Parents produced by the Office of National Drug Control Policy in meeting packets were reviewed. One was titled Marijuana Could Threaten Your Teen's Success and the other is Marijuana and Your Teen's Mental Health.

The following action plan was identified:

- Approach school superintendents about using the Teen Success letter in their newsletters and websites
- Due to the expense of ad's in local papers, use information from open letters and our local data to prepare an article for submission to the newspaper.

Ronda Rucker made a motion that we take action on this plan, Kim Walton seconded the motion, **Motion Carried** PPS/EISD Staff will follow-up on action plan items.

Updates and announcements

Mid-South Regional Epidemiological Meeting Review

Anne also reported on the first MSSAC Regional Epi meeting. She explained MSSAC vision of developing a regional data set that they could collect on behalf of the 10 county region. They are working with MSU to develop a web-based system. In the meeting they also took us through an exercise related to the SPF-SIG (Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant). Funds will be allocated to coordinating agencies sometime in the future to apply to reduction of alcohol related fatalities. One purpose of the regional epi group will be to determine the area of highest need in the region.

Update on Anne Barna's position

Anne shared with us that she had planned on leaving BEDHD to take a position at the State of Michigan. Due to the uncertainty of funding at the state, she rescinded her resignation and will be staying on. She indicated that she is happy to be able to continue to work with ECSAAG. Everyone expressed appreciation for the contributions Anne has made to ECSAAG and our delight that she will be staying on.

Data Sub-Committee

First drafts of the GIS maps were completed by Eaton County in coordination with our ECSAAG Data Sub-committee. We reviewed the updated Methamphetamine map as compared to our previous map from 2005 and the newly created alcohol map and offered suggestions for improvement:

Alcohol Map

- If possible identify the people in each jurisdiction per capita compared to the population
- If available, map where offenses took place
- Create a blow-up of Grand Ledge and Eaton Rapids for use by local c prevention groups
- Change title to Alcohol Related Activity
- Make the year the map was created more prominent

Meth Map

- Change the title to Meth related activity
- Add arrest/possession data
- Add fire data if available
- Take addresses off of Meth Labs and identify only by push pin symbol

Anne made a motion that we explore making the identified changes to the maps. Eric seconded the motion **Motion Carried** Polly Brainerd will follow up with Eaton GIS to explore changes.

Alcohol

Sara reported that Olivet College representative Martha O'Dell from the Olivet College Wellness Center attended the MSSAC College training and is planning to attend future ECSAAG meetings. She was very excited about the prospect of implementing a student survey in the future and may invite us to present to the Olivet Administrative Group.

Alcohol Vendor Education is underway with help from Grand Ledge CMCA Group and Eaton Rapids ERASE members. Nancy, Sara and Harriett will be returning to the Police Chief's Meeting on March 6th to finalize details regarding the compliance checks.

Ellen Rinck shared information on Grand Ledge CMCA and the Parents Who Host Lose the Most campaign that they are developing in Grand Ledge, this campaign will also be promoted through the Tri-County Safe Prom initiative along with a hotline that parents can call to report on underage drinking activities during this season.

Eaton Rapids ERASE Group will be presenting to Eaton Rapids City Council on February 26th and receiving a proclamation of support from the Mayor.

Tobacco

Eric Pessell explained that there are currently indoor air bills in the senate that include smoking restrictions in bars and restaurants. There is also a food law amendments group working on amendments to food law that will make it easier for restaurants to go to smoke free environments.

Meth

Polly reported that the statewide training of 1st responders on Drug Endangered Children Protocols will be held at Eaton ISD. We are producing an easy reference on protocols for 1st responders to carry with them.

March 29th the Agriculture Commission will issue recommendations for securing Anhydrous Ammonia. We will be promoting them locally.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 13th and will include lunch. We will use the meeting to hold a brief business meeting, review our successes, and celebrate member's contributions, and present formal letters of commendation to Lt. Tim Gill, Sheriff Raines and Jeff Sauter for their contributions in the reduction of Meth related activity in Eaton County.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55