



**Eaton County Substance Abuse
Advisory Group
October 14, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Eaton Intermediate School District
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Cherie Anderson, Grand Ledge Police Department
Anne Barna, Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Nancy Bernthal, Eaton ISD
Polly Brainerd, Eaton ISD
Gail Duncan, Community Member
Dur Efav, Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Amy Etzel, Eaton County Family Court
Jim Falk, Charlotte Police Department
Connie Fast, General Federation of Women's Clubs
Deb Frost, Eaton Substance Abuse Program
Bill Kennedy, Eaton County Family Court
Sara Lurie, Eaton ISD
Alison Nix, American Lung Association
Gary Owen, Eaton ISD
Christine Richardson, Grand Ledge YES Center and Restorative Justice
Heather Sanders, Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Debra Somervil, Eaton Counseling Center
Debra Williamson, Early Childhood Connections
Jeanne Pearl-Wright, County Commissioner

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and facilitated introductions. New participants included Jim Falk from Charlotte Police Department, Chris Richardson explained her new role as YES Center Director and Restorative Justice Facilitator in Grand Ledge, Connie Fast is chairman of the committee in General Federation of the Women's Group. State focus is prevention of teen prescription and over the counter drug abuse. Debra Williamson is representing Early Childhood Connections and will be alternating with Ronda Rucker.

Agenda addition of Elections to new business, and a tobacco update under Updates and announcements. Deb Frost noted an error in the minutes that were incomplete regarding Nancy Bernthals report on Michigan Substance Abuse Conference. Anne Barna moved approval of minutes as written and Cherie Anderson seconded motion **Motion Carried**

OLD BUSINESS

Life of an Athlete

74 registered participants with great representation of Athletic Directors, Administrators, Coaches and Law Enforcement personnel along with prevention professionals. We have been following up with districts that sent representatives to the training to decide next steps. Cherie attended and feels that we should support any district in beginning to implement the program in Eaton County. Gary indicated that the coaches that he sat with commented on the complexity of issues they have to deal with. Gary indicated that through involvement in the Choices Program he sees the variety of approaches that is taken by schools across the county, he feels countywide consistency would be very beneficial. Staff will continue to follow-up with Eaton County Schools to provide assistance in moving towards implementation.

Tobacco Checks

Gail Duncan our ECSAAG Tobacco Compliance Facilitator completed compliance checks of nearly 25% of our vendors in September in cooperation with Grand Ledge and Eaton Rapid Police Departments. 3 of 11 sold in Grand Ledge and 0 of 9 sold in Eaton Rapids. It was a cooperative arrangement with PAL programs for youth decoys and police officers in Grand Ledge and Eaton Rapids. Gail noted that many of the vendors did not have the proper signage despite the fact that we delivered the signage to 40% of the vendors during vendor education visits in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Gambling Prevention

Sara presented the action plan that includes the ideas that were generated through discussion at our previous ECSAAG meeting. Bill Kennedy made a motion to accepted proposed action plan. Heather Sanders seconded. **Motion Carried**

Medical Marijuana

Wendy asked people to share their learnings having researched the topic. Anne indicated her review showed that there is not a large impact on youth use rates, but it does not necessarily make for a good law. Jeanne asked if Wendy knew why smoking it was preferable to taking the pill or liquid form of the active ingredient. Wendy could not find research to support it, but wonders if those who prefer to smoke it have been previous marijuana smokers. Connie Fast shared that smoking marijuana similar to smoking crack, creates a more rapid and stronger response. Sara expressed concern that legalization of marijuana will not help us in efforts to reduce youth use in our county, particularly since our data shows that youth perceptions of risk and harm decrease for marijuana as they get older. Debra suggested taking a different view on marijuana may help youth view it differently. Heather wondered why people would need to grow it at home and why they don't have to pick it up at a drug store where it could be more regulated.

Anne suggested that we could point out the ballot proposal details and problems; describe the stance of other reputable agencies, AMA and SAMSHA, CADCA. Debra W. made a motion that we send out a press release that raises all of the concerns that we have brought to the table today. Deb S. seconded the motion. Discussion-Wendy suggested that we take a stronger stance against the ballot proposal. Connie Fast agreed with this. Deb Frost thinks we should take a stance against this proposal. Anne suggested we take a factual approach. Deb W and Deb S withdrew their motion. Gary made a motion that we take a stand against the proposal and use factual evidence about the proposal to support it. Bill K. abstained. **Motion Carried.** Staff will write a letter to the editor on behalf of ECSAAG and submit it to community newspapers and Lansing State Journal.

Data Report

Anne handed out our county Data in Action report and reviewed each section. Next year we will be returning to separate Data in Action Reports. We discussed increase in Eaton County District Court Alcohol Charges and potential reasons such as increased law enforcement, younger police force that is more aggressive about enforcing this issue. Jim Falk indicates that they see twice as many MIP than Drunk Driving citations; he reflects that the message about designated driver has gotten out. Gary agreed with this in his experience as a Marine Law Enforcement officer in Kalkaska County. Cherie asked if it were appropriate to give this data to students. Anne suggested if students use the data developing a social norm message may be more appropriate with a focus on Most of Us don't do it. New MIPHY data will provide an opportunity to take this approach.

Elections

Sara nominated Jeanne Wright for Chair-Elect and Dur Efav seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.** Cherie Anderson will be moving up to our Chair position next month and Jeanne will become our Chair-elect.

Mid-South Update

Congratulations to Joel on the birth of his son Nicolas on October 1st just in time for the new fiscal year.

Legislative Advocacy

Smoke free Workplace bill did not pass the House, but may be up for a revote in the near future. Wendy passed out a letter to the editor regarding Rick Jones lack of support for this bill.

MDCH Tobacco Update

Health Department will receive funds to work on smoke free environments. Heather will provide training to health dept staff on cessation, they will also be doing smoke free advocacy and inspectors will work with restaurants and bars on protecting their customers from smoke or if there is a law by then on implementing the law. BEDHD will keep ECSAAG engaged in this project.

Next Meeting and Veterans Day

It was recognized that some members will not be in attendance at our next meeting due to Veterans Day Observance.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m. at EISD.