



**Eaton County Substance Abuse
Advisory Group
November 11th, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Eaton Intermediate School District
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Martha Adams, UAW/General Motors
Cherie Anderson, Grand Ledge Police Department
Nancy Bernthal, Eaton ISD
Polly Brainerd, Eaton ISD
Gail Duncan, Community Member
Connie Fast, General Federation of Women's Clubs
Sara Lurie, Eaton ISD
Gary Owen, Eaton ISD
Christine Richardson, Grand Ledge YES Center and Restorative Justice
Ronda Rucker, Early Childhood Connections
Jeanne Pearl-Wright, County Commissioner

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and facilitated introductions. We noted that due to the Veterans Day Holiday, many of our members were absent.

No additions were made to the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Life of an Athlete and Next Steps

Three of our Eaton County School Districts have expressed interest in further exploration of implementation of Life of an Athlete, however they are at various stages of readiness. Sara has scheduled a meeting for December 4th with Van Buren County Prevention Staff who have been working on implementation in the surrounding athletic conference over the past two years. E.J. McAndrew and Tracy Johnson have also been trained as trainers at the American Athletic Institute. This will be an opportunity to learn from their experiences and to obtain their input in identifying next steps. Any coalition members interested in attending this meeting can contact Sara at 517-541-8711 or slurie@eaton.k12.mi.us

Tobacco Checks/YAT Report

Gail Duncan and Nancy Bernthal reviewed the completed yearly Youth Access Tobacco Report for 2007-2008 that was included in the packet.

Medical Marijuana Follow-up

Sara apologized for difficulties in getting our ECSAAG editorial published. Eaton County Community Newspapers had a very early election deadline that we missed. Our ECSAAG viewpoint was not accepted by Lansing State Journal, with no explanation given. By the time LSJ rejected it, we had also missed the LSJ election related letters to the editor deadline. Now that it has passed we are awaiting Michigan Department of Community Health plan for registering patients and caregivers. We discussed the likelihood that the young voter turnout contributed to the passing of this proposal. We also discussed that we need better methods of reaching youth and young adults about important issues through internet social networking venues such as FACEBOOK or other sites. The need for development an ECSAAG Media committee and media plan was suggested for further exploration.

Gambling Action Plan

Sara reviewed the final action plan that was submitted to Mid-South based. The Action Plan was based on previous input gathered at ECSAAG meetings. The plan includes focus groups and internet based surveys to obtain additional information on youth gambling and adult perceptions of youth gambling in Eaton County.

ECSAAG Coalition Evaluation

Polly presented the completed ECSAAG Process Evaluation that was included in the packet. This evaluation tracked progress in meeting 2007-2008 objectives listed under their corresponding strategic plan goals. The report provides a visual of ECSAAG progress in initiating and completing objectives through the use of a pie chart for each area. Overall most objectives in 2007-2008 were either completed or in progress.

NEW BUSINESS

TIP Evaluation Report

Polly reviewed outcome data collected through the Truancy Intervention Program that showed positive changes in student attendance and grade point averages as a result of TIP participation. Polly explained that TIP services have evolved to provide more school based early intervention with truant students and their families prior to filing a petition through the juvenile court. This practice has greatly reduced the number of petitions filed, reducing costs to the county.

ATOD School Policy Report

Gary provided an overview of his findings after reviewing all Eaton County School Substance Abuse Policies and comparing them to best practice models. In general, he found that improvements are needed in areas such as clarifying parental notification, clarifying law enforcement involvement, utilizing early intervention opportunities and having a separate, distinct athletic policy. Gary's analysis and general recommendations will be shared with county school districts. We will also look for opportunities to work directly with school districts in reviewing and improving their own policies.

Mid-South Update

Mid-South is hosting an orientation to Mid-South and the Strategic Prevention Framework on Monday, November 24th at Hershey's Steak and Seafood in East Lansing. Interested coalition members can contact Cara Denuccio at 337-4406, ext. 103 if they are interested in attending. Gary Owen is planning on attending.

Legislative Advocacy

Smoke free Workplace bill did not pass the House, but may be up for a revote in the lame duck session. Nancy handed out post cards that ECSAAG member can use if they would like to write a note to their representatives.

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.

Drug Free Community Grant Conference Call

Sara thanked the Data Committee for their participation in the last DFCG Conference call held on October 31st. We reviewed coalition progress in implementation and evaluation of efforts. It seemed to go well, but we have not received any formal feedback as of yet.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. to sub committees. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th at 9:30 a.m. at EISD.