



Linn County Partnership Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2008

Call to Order

Members were invited to participate in a poll as they entered the meeting. Dani Lind called to order the regular meeting of the Linn County Partnership on Substance Abuse at 3:40pm on July 24, 2008 in the St. Luke's Chemical Dependency Conference Room. In attendance: Dani Lind, Stephanie Neff, Meredith Slaymaker, Lynelle Henricksen, Chuck Mincks, Christie Hamblin, Chad Loes, Kim Kudej, Art Staed, Lorna Richards, Amy Smith, Jennifer Husmann, Dorothy deSouzaGuedes, Sarah Elliott. The following were excused via RSVP: Heather Armstrong

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

After a brief overview of the agenda to identify the format changes, introductions were made. Attendees introduced themselves and their sector. No changes or corrections were requested for the May minutes. The minutes stand approved as posted.

ASAC Report on Substance Abuse

Guest Presenter Meredith Slaymaker, presented research compiled by ASAC regarding the potential effect of the disaster on the local community and the risks for increased substance abuse. The report included Studies performed after major events including Hurricanes Katrina and Hugo, The Oklahoma City Bombing and 911.

Some key Points Included:

- Studies have shown significant increases in drug and alcohol use not just in the short term but as long as a year after a disaster. Studies also show the increase is found for dislocated people as well as people in the community who are affected in different ways.
- Community issues and needs include: Assistance to affected individuals to get aid; Recognizing signs of substance abuse is critical; Event may be a tipping point for individuals who might not otherwise abuse; People in recovery may be negatively affected; Short term choices (people not seeking services) may impact long term ability to serve future needs.

Meredith's presentation is available on the LCPSA website and further discusses how prevention services and community efforts are needed to address the post-disaster behaviors in Linn County.

Additional discussion uncovered several suggestions for the LCPSA to take action:

- Dorothy: VISTA volunteers uncover that many people need someone to talk to. Take "We're here to listen" approach. Consider offering a debriefing similar to the program offered VISTA volunteers for people supporting flood victims.



- Chuck: Contract workers here for the flood may stay and some have their own issues (language barriers, etc.)
- Lynelle: Keeping families intact is key and young people will have to adapt to new surroundings (moves, schools, etc.)
- Melissa: Suggests a committee for coalition to coordinate activities to support
- Stephanie: Healthy Linn will contact School District to see what is currently in place and how we can offer support. Training for teachers, Buddy system for students, Risk factors affecting students.
- Chuck & Christy: Law Enforcement (police/fire depts.) will work to organize neighborhood parties and coordinate efforts with Aug. 5th National Night Out (neighborhood parties) Cedar Rapids website announces neighborhood meetings.
- Lorna: Will contact the ISU extension office to see what resources are needed.
- Meredith: Aug 9: "BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY" For all students affected by floods. Free school supplies. Looking for volunteers to help with a booth for LCPSA (Meredith will get more info) to provide info to parents and students (prevention)

ASAC Contract Overview

Melissa Walker presented a summary of services currently provided by ASAC in accordance with the current contract. The list identified changes in their level of support if the contract with LCPSA were terminated. Termination (or reduction) of the contract as part of the 5 year plan is based on the coalition reaching sustainability. Members must consider their willingness to assume responsibility for these committees and tasks and a determination will be made in the September meeting whether to continue, change or end the contract with ASAC. Availability of services is contingent on ASAC receiving and administering a Drug-Free Communities Grant for Jones County. If they are awarded the grant there will be little change in the services they currently provide for the community. They hope to have confirmation by September. Dorothy suggested that one area to reduce the dollars but retain the investment is to involve ASAC in a role in teaching coalition members more about how to organize and run projects they have done in the past.

Strategic Planning

Stephanie led the first of three parts for creating the logic model that will be the basis for coalition planning beginning in year three. Identifying local conditions and the first tier of the plan ("But why here") was accomplished with two topics: Peer ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs) and Availability/Use of Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in neighborhood. Stephanie will be posting the results (model) as constructed by coalition members and will also share the ideas generated at the CADCA training. Once constructed, the logic model (based on the identified local conditions and indicators) will be presented to the Assessment Committee to back each proposed hypothesis with measurable findings. The August meeting will be important to attend as we will work to develop the next phase of this model.



Committee Reports

A summary of the following committee reports will be posted to the LCPSA website:

- Underage Drinking (author Erin Gavin)
- CMCA (author Jennifer Husmann)
- Marijuana (author Lorna Richards)
- VISTA/Weed & Seed/Brighten (author Lori Warden)

Assessment Committee: Lorna Richards

Lorna reported that they have had over 400 responses to the survey. The data will be compiled at the end of the month. Surveys were mailed and an article in the Gazette mentioned the LCPSA survey.

The assessment committee will organize focus groups (after the survey data is compiled) to identify the best way to reach parents. If anyone has marketing experience or any member agencies have marketing expertise we can use to develop messages please contact Stephanie.

Open Agenda Items

Amy Smith notified of the upcoming Breathe Easy Conference October 1st at Kirkwood. They are working with young people to become advocates and ambassadors in their schools to influence peers. She has already submitted a proposal that will be reviewed before the next coalition meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

***Next Meeting: Thursday, August 28, 2008
3:30 – 5:30 pm***