

Oscoda County Drug Free Communities Taskforce
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2010

Members Present: Natasha Young, Deb Nurse, Allison Meyer, Sonja Handrich, Sheriff Kevin Grace, Michelle Kalafut, Andrew Wallace, Ashley Marsh

Introductions were done as there were a few new people to the coalition.

New Business

Communication/Roles/Responsibilities

Michelle gave an update on the status of the Drug Free Communities Support Funding and informed the group that the coalition was not eligible to reapply for funding. She also talked about the importance of having a sustainable coalition. Michelle stated that her goal for the next 6 months or so is to establish a sustainable group that will carry on in her absence.

Michelle also talked to the coalition about the importance of just picking two or three projects to focus on throughout the year and do them really well. Sheriff Grace agreed. Deb Nurse talked about the success that they had with Red Ribbon Week and how all of the students were really involved. This is something that the school will want to continue with. There may other events that come up during the school year that take minimal effort or time, however, the large events should be kept to a minimum as to not overwhelm committee members. Michelle communicated that she wanted the coalition to be a relaxed and fun environment. In order for the coalition to be successful, it will take every member to pitch in and help with activities.

Kick Butts Day

Deb talked about her interest in wanting to do some activities for Kick Butts Day as well. She asked Sonja to register in Fairview so that we could get another manual. The manual contains activities and other ideas for things to implement on March 24th, which is Kick Butts Day this year.

Membership

The group gave some ideas as to who they thought could be contacted for inclusion in the coalition. Please remember to submit contact information to Michelle so that she can mail those individuals the recruitment letter. If there are any suggested changes to the letter, please let Michelle know by the end of the week, as they will be mailed out the beginning of next week.

Town Hall Meetings

Because our coalition is funded through the Drug Free Communities Support program, SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) is offering grantees the opportunity to host Town Hall Meetings and will give a \$500.00 check for each event that is held. The purpose is to promote awareness of underage drinking and other substance use/abuse issues that are happening in a particular community. It was decided that the coalition will host a Town Hall Meeting in Fairview the end of March or the beginning of April and it will occur the same day as the TOFU day, but in the evening hours. The exact format is yet to be determined, however, it was suggested that the youth do an opening skit or presentation on what activities happened during TOFU day.

Future Meetings

It was decided by the coalition that the meetings would rotate between Fairview and Mio so that students can be involved at both schools. Deb Nurse stated that they have alternated the locations with other meetings and it has worked pretty well for them so far. The coalition will try this and see how it works.

Old Business

MiPHY

Mio completed the MiPHY Survey in November 2009. Ashley Marsh shared copies of their survey with Michelle so that she can include their data in the report that she has to report to the funding source for the Drug Free Communities Grant.

Michelle will call the counselor at Fairview Schools, Rick Handrich, to inquire about Fairview's plans for administering the survey.

Trainings and Conferences

Michelle extended the invitation to coalition members to participate in a webcast on February 9th from 3:15-4:30 at District Health Dept #2 in West Branch. This is a program sponsored by the CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America). They are trying to create a Prescription Drug Awareness Tool Kit and are hosting a focus group with other communities around the United States. I do need to RSVP so if you would like to attend, please let Michelle know.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Fairview Schools in the conference room/media center.

END