

Mahanoy Area Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2011

Attendees: Andrea Caulfield, Kate Orsulak, Cathy Stone, Diane Rowland, Lisa Broomell, Trinna Delia and Jennifer Kern.

Updates/Year in Review:

Diane Rowland and Kate Orsulak were able to have a speaker for the 9th grade class to talk about the dangers of drugs and alcohol from a real life experience. It was held in a small group setting in order to have more of an impact on the students.

Diane Rowland and the group discussed the prescription drug give back program. The local Coalitions partnered with their local police force and were Mahanoy, North Schuylkill, Minersville, and Pottsville. The DEA selected 4/30/11. The school sent flyers home and posters were hung around the community. The drop off for our area was the Mahanoy City Borough Hall on April 30, 2011 from 10am to 2pm. Diane had stopped by the Mahanoy drop off site. The newspaper happened to be present and there was media coverage as well as a picture in the Pottsville Republican Newspaper on May 1, 2011.

The prescription drug program for the 7th and 8th graders was held during their Mentoring time in the auditorium on April 20, 2011 from 8:00am to 9:00am. The students were shown a video during mentoring in the auditorium and high school SADD club members facilitated group discussions. The 9-12 grades had done the Mentoring Program during the month of March.

Cathy Stone gave updates regarding the SADD Lock-In Activities which were held on 4/15/11. Mickey Holland and Zach Merook were the guest speakers from 6:30-7pm. There was a DJ and Dance for grades 7-12. The 7th and 8th graders stayed until 10:00pm and then grades 9-12 stayed overnight. Some activities that were held were the pool party (with lifeguards), quiz bowl, DJ, Karaoke, Movies, Obstacle Course, Balloon Bounce, snacks, pizza, and breakfast. The Prevention Partnership has given us a grant in order to provide the many activities. The budget was completed and submitted to Susan Farnsworth. They were able to get some prizes donated such as a class ring, free tux rental, and many others. She and her SADD club have worked very hard. Great job, Cathy! It was a huge success. There were many students and it is the most attended SADD Lock-In ever! Cathy reported that there were 43 Middle School Students and 83 High School students for a total of 126. Students loved all the activities and the night flew by.

The parent informational night regarding prescription drugs was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6:00pm at the Mahanoy Area School Auditorium. Light refreshments were provided by the school and paid for by the Prevention Partnership Program. We distributed flyers at the drug drop off centers, to all the students in the school, TV, Radio, and the Connect Ed. Including Kate and I there were five people in attendance, seven if you included the speakers. The one speaker is a pharmacist from CVS and was very informative regarding prescription drugs and he was asked many questions. This was very valuable information that was provided for free and it is unfortunate that many did not take advantage of this opportunity.

Lisa Broomell reported that the fourth grade students created poetry with a positive message and placed it on beautiful paper and made scrolls for the seniors attending the

prom. The fourth grade loved making the poems for the seniors. Lisa stated that the seniors loved the poems and those attending the prom made sure not to forget their scrolls. Lisa had worked with the fourth grade last year with this as well. Since it is a great success she stated that she will continue with this new tradition. The fourth grade also participated in "Keep a Clear Mind". This program entailed parental participation in four activities. The completion rate for the entire program was 50%.

Some other activities held this past year included Red Ribbon Week Activities, Diane Rowland's Anti-Tobacco presentations to grades 5-8, sponsoring a table at the Safe Trick or Treat, and the Shield 7 Program which will be held on May 19 which is presented by the District Attorney's office and local law enforcement.

Next Year Activities: (Please think about ideas in these areas):

Discussed the idea of having public service announcements at school sporting events such as the football games, basketball, and other such events such as "furnishing alcohol to minors is a crime", "hosting parties at your home can cost you" etc. If anyone has any that they would like to email me you can do so at acaulfield@mabears.net . We talked about checking with the attorney general to find out what free programs are available to students. There will be money with prevention partnership to host another alternative activity for high school students and host some sort of fun night. At the safe Trick or Treat have promotional items there such as candy/giveaways/information for parents and youth. There are many good ideas for next year so we look forward to seeing you at future meetings. This is our 2nd year of the Mahanoy Area Drug and Alcohol Coalition and wanted to give a special thanks to Diane Rowland for providing great ideas, support, and funding. Thank you to all who have helped over this past year!

Next Meeting Date: Looking forward to seeing you at the Next Meeting, Monday, September 12, 2011 at 2:45pm. Have a Great Summer!