



Mission: "To educate, empower and engage parents and the community in educating their children in making responsible choices regarding alcohol, drugs, underage drinking, and healthy living."

Parents Matter Monthly Meeting was held on January 12, 2011 at Noon in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the St. Mary's Health Care Center.

Attendees included: Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Cindy Malsam, Robin Erz, Lori Jacobson, Elton Blemaster, Kristen Tabbert, Kelly Marnette, Gayle Stover, Denise Venner, Kandace Kritz, Becky Bowers, Dennis Pfrimmer, Amy Beshara and Dawn Tassler. Sharon Stroshein, NE Area Director for Senator Timothy Johnson, introduced herself and expressed her interest in working on the underage drinking issue with Parents Matter.

Larry Weiss, Chair of Parents Matter, was not available to meet with the group. However, he did extend apologies to all the members and guests, Sharon and Kelly, for his absence. Ruby L. Douglas, SPF-SIG Project Director for Parents Matter called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance. Each attendee introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

Prior to hearing from our scheduled speaker; a few housekeeping items were reviewed. Ruby pointed out informational websites that people may want to review: FACE Project's website: <http://www.faceproject.org/> for information about underage drinking. Their home page, on the left hand side, "How Does Alcohol Affect My Health Care Costs", directs viewers to follow the website: <http://www.alcoholcostcalculator.org> (for kids). The calculator will produce a customized report for the community which includes the number of youth who may have alcohol problems in that particular group of youth. It also includes the number of times of increased risks and costs associated with untreated alcohol problems. The Marin Institute Tax Revenue Calculator can be found on the website: <http://www.marininstitute.org/>. This calculator is a tool that can be used to estimate new annual revenue from an alcohol tax or fee increase for SD.

Ruby called for the adoption/amendments to the December minutes/activities. Dawn Tassler motioned that the minutes/activities be approved. Amy Beshara seconded the motion. Being there was no further discussion or opposition to the motion, motion carried.

Elton Blemaster gave the monthly (unofficial totals) of the arrests made in December and in year 2010. 47% of all the arrests were noted as alcohol related for December and 45% for the year. There was a brief discussion on the ages of underage consumption statistics and zero tolerance issues.

Sunday, February 20th, 2011 is when the Kings of Hearts event is scheduled. Question was posed to the group if Parents Matter would like to create non-use messages. A “skyping” meeting with the Sioux Falls personnel at Prevention Resource Center was scheduled for today’s meeting; however, the session was not available. What is hoped is that in the future; this technology will be used as a means for others being able to link in and attend the Parents Matter meetings from home, office, etc. In the meantime; meeting sessions have been videotaped and diskettes are available for review upon request. Please call Ruby: 222-0638 or 224-3189 or e-mail: parentsmatter@pie.midco.net.

Kelly Marnette, Hughes County States Attorney, was introduced and presented information, “Alcohol and the Teen Brain”. Kelly also spoke of the legal issues with underage drinking, Spice K2 Drug and Prescription Drug Abuse. Kelly invited questions and discussion about the information presented to the group. Again, the entire presentation, including questions and discussion, was videotaped and is on file with the Parents Matter CSD Coalition of Pierre/Fort Pierre.

Shawnie and Robin spoke briefly about the SPF-SIG Project and the process that the 26 funded coalitions, including Parents Matter, are working through in Phase I of the project.

Also, of note is that Parents Matter received the Verizon Grant to create public awareness about “Cyberbullying”. An evening event is being organized by Riggs Student Senate and will include youth and parent volunteers. The event will be held on Friday, February 4, 2011 in the Georgia Morse Middle School from 7:00 PM-11:00 PM... The project will include hosting the anti-cyberbullying event that will be educational as well as fun and entertaining for teens and their parents. Contact: Katherine for more information: KV3033@k12.sd.us or Ruby at: parentsmatter@pie.midco.net .

The next Parents Matter Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2011. Noon in the 5th Floor Conference Room of St. Mary’s Health Care Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ruby L. Douglas, CPS
SPF-SIG Project Director

“I am not home accepting things I cannot change; I am out trying to change those things I cannot accept.” - unknown

