



Alliance for Healthy Communities

November 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes

AHC 1st Tuesdays

12657 Fee Fee Rd. Rm A
St. Louis, MO 63146



Alliance Vision: To create a community empowered to make positive choices through knowledge, skills and resources.

Alliance Mission: Engage the community to reduce youth substance abuse and risks of suicide by raising awareness and changing community norms.

For More Information Contact
Ken McManus, Director
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Attendance: Mark Whitson, Lori Krueger, Mary Riney, Jesse walls, Jamie Hedman, Molly Reid, Monyee Wright, Kim Dressel, Jason Kozdron, David McVey, Jim Grothe, Grace Lee, Mike Brennan, Chuck Boschert, Kevin Scott, Chelsea Watson, Brian McGinnis, Ron Ramspott, Ken Eigenberg, Mimi Holder, Barb Vendt, Annette Polzin, Amy Weiland, Anica Jankowski, Charlie Milano, Jim Meyer

3:35 AHC Receives Positive Evaluation and Guidance In October Funder Site Visit Ken McManus, Coalition Director

The Missouri Foundation for Health conducted a first site visit on Monday, October 14, 2013. The two MFH staff conducting the visit were Michael Renner, Program Officer and Donna Schoff, Grants Manager. Ken McManus, AHC Director, Jesse Walls, AHC Evaluator, Sgt. Anica Jankowski, Ron Ramspott and Spring Schmidt represented AHC. The site visit was a positive and informative experience. MFH expressed satisfaction with AHC progress to date and encouraged us to use what we have learned in our first year to make adaptations to our original project plan. AHC's first fiscal year ends November 30, 2013. Thus, the encouragement of project plan amendments, including budget reallocations, is timely for our year end report and corresponding strategic planning. December's AHC met-

3:50 AHC Law Enforcement Activity Summary: Retailer Compliance Checks, Saturation Patrols and Medication Take-Back Capt. Chuck Boschert, St. Louis County Police

Capt. Boschert provided a summary of AHC law enforcement partner activity pertaining to the recent homecoming season and the national medication take-back program on October 26, 2013.

Medication Take-Back: The Metro St. Louis area accounted for 11,482 lbs. of MO's total of 117,809 lbs. of collected medication. Over a 6 state region, Missouri consistently collects 2-3X's more medications. Capt. Kevin Scott of the Ballwin P.D. indicated that **Ballwin alone had over 500 lbs.** of medications collected. AHC participating partners were Ballwin P.D., Chesterfield P.D., Creve Coeur P.D., Maryland Heights P.D., St. Louis County P.D. and Town and Country P.D.

*AHC members discussed providing area pharmacies with cards for distribution to customers indicting the locations of 24 hour medication drop boxes. Area pharmacies have expressed the need for this information as a consequence of frequent inquiries from customers.

Saturation Patrols: During the recent homecoming season the Des Peres and Manchester P.D.'s conducted neighborhood saturation patrols, resulting in three minor in possession charges and the dispersal of 3 parties.

Retailer Compliance Checks: During the 2013 home coming season alcohol retailer compliance checks were conducted at 14 area locations, resulting in 2 arrests.

4:05 AHC Members Have Opportunity to Meet With State Legislators Lori Krueger, Prevention Specialist, NCADA-EMRSC

On December 5, 2013, a legislative forum will be held at Des Peres Hospital from 1-3 PM in community room 2. Thus far 7 state legislators have agreed to participate in this unique opportunity for community members to interact with law makers about important issues pertinent to substance abuse. For more information about this inaugural event, contact Lori Krueger at NCADA (314-962-3456).

Next Meeting: December 3, 2013



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4:20 **Confronting the Risk of Affluence**

AHC members broke into small groups and sustained in-depth discussion of a causal factor common to communities like Parkway: intense competitive pressures and minimal community supports for upper-middle class and affluent youth. Reports from each of the small groups ratified that the competitive pressures on Parkway area youth, while not new, are taking an intensive toll on the health and well being of many. Across the groups it was identified that every area of kids' lives are scrutinized and subject to competitive comparison. This cultural dynamic is ubiquitous and unrelenting and, as cited in a most recent issue of Psychology Today, nationally fueling high risk behavior.

Groups were also charged with attempting to identify potential strategies that AHC might engage to impact this community condition. Implementing strategies that can educate and influence parents, particularly younger parents, towards raising their children with a consciousness about a better balance of priorities in their children's lives was a suggestion shared by several groups. Additionally, strategies that can increase children's knowledge, and use, of coping and resiliency skills were identified, along with the possibility of social norming projects aimed at multiple audience groups. Further, it was discussed that providing better support and/or safety nets during predictable transition times, e.g. 8th to 9th grade, or during stressful testing periods, e.g. finals, AP tests, SAT and ACT could mitigate the toxicity of these pressures.

It was agreed that this topic will merit ongoing AHC attention, particularly after completion of our community assessment in 2014, after which we will have more insight into Parkway specific expressions of the toxic effects of this causal factor.

5:00 **ADJOURN**

Thank You for Your Participation and Support

For More Information Contact
Ken McManus, Director
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