



Alliance for Healthy Communities

May 6, 2014 Meeting Summary

AHC 1st Tuesdays

12657 Fee Fee Rd.
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.

Attendance: Lt. Dan West (Manchester P.D.), Mark Norwine (CHADS Coalition), Capt. Kevin Scott (Ballwin P.D.), Jared Opsal (NCADA), Dr. Mike Brennan (Barat Academy), Kim Dressel (PSD) Ken Eigenberg (Parkway parent), Tim Amato (SSM Healthcare) Mimi Holder (PSWMS), Dr. David McVey (Mercy Clinic), Jim Meyer (Clarkson Valley City Council), Jean Sokora (Preferred Family Healthcare), Officer Jim Grotha (St. Louis County P.D.), Earl Barge (CAPY), Dr. Becky Warren (Fernridge High School), Joseph Hayes (Fernridge student), Karen Wood (PNH), Ivy Cleveland (St. Louis University), Sue Kennedy (STAR Enterprises), Lori Krueger (NCADA), Ken McManus (AHC Director)

3:35 Announcements Ken McManus

- THANK YOU to AHC membership for distributing the medication take-back flyers and the 24-hour drop-box cards during the month of April. The April 26 medication take-back was the most successful to date for the St. Louis region. The approximate totals for the AHC service area were in excess of 2000 lbs. of medications collected.
- Next AHC meeting will be June 3. Focus will be on readiness assessment, so feel free to bring your friends & colleagues
- Ron Ramspott: Safe & Drug-free celebration at Busch Stadium will be June 1. Parkway discounted price is \$25/ticket, & there are 100 left to sell in two weeks. Attendees receive voucher for free hot dog & soda, kids under 48" get free admission to Six Flags. Order tickets at tinyurl.com/sadfcelebration

3:45 Marijuana Prevention Tour Kick-off Event Summary Ken McManus

- May 5, Dr. Christian Thurstone *Science of Adolescent Addiction*
- Professional education event: 65 in attendance, with 28 agencies & 18 professional disciplines represented. In aggregate, the scope of participants reaches all age and demographic groups in a 9-county, bi-state region.
- Shared facts re: marijuana pharmacokinetics, i.e. length of time to effect (Tmax) of marijuana use: 30 minutes for smoking, 2-hours for "edibles". Longer Tmax for edibles leads to frequent "overdoses" and ER admissions
- Discussed how marijuana use affects development & consequences of adolescent use
- Dangers of synthetic cannabis, i.e. up to 100 x's tighter "bind" to neurological cannabinoid receptor sites, resulting in more unpredictable side effects and health risks.
- Colorado Experiment: issues with legalization, i.e. increases in 30-day use among youth from 2004 @ 7.44% to 2012 @ 19% and increases in DUID cases tested positive for MJ 2008 @ 791 to 2012 @ 2099.
- Community norms & coalitions: doctors rarely know more than general public about marijuana effects
- 40% increase in drug related suspensions since legalization (an era in which school administrators are under pressure to reduce suspension rates).

For More Information Contact

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Next Meeting: June 3, 2014



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- 4:00 **Viewing *Out of Reach* and Discussion** Jared Opsal, NCADA
- Presented by Jared of Nat'l Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse
 - Documentary created by teen filmmaker examines problem of prescription drug abuse by teens
 - Drugs are easily accessible from parents' medicine cabinets
 - Targeted to parents in hopes it will spur them to discuss medicine abuse with their kids
 - Documentary is important community education tool: very viewer friendly and intelligently provocative.
- 4:40 **AHC Community Assessment Progress report** Ken McManus, AHC Director
- Nearly 3000 student surveys have been administered, collected and sent to Search Institute for scoring and analysis. These surveys involved all PSD secondary schools and two non-public schools. Also, a focus group for school counselors and social workers was completed on April 30.
- 4:45 **AHC Task Force Work Sessions** Task Force Leaders
- Ron Ramspott facilitated a discussion of priorities and next steps for the Communications and recruitment task Force.
 - Ken McManus facilitated a discussion regarding furthering community education about the risks of prescription drug abuse using the *Out of Reach* documentary.
- 5:00 **Adjourn– THANK YOU** for your attendance and support!

Next Meeting: June 3, 2014