

The Solution



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Message From The Chair

As of this writing, I am pleased to inform our community that we have been successful in securing a federal Drug Free Communities grant to sustain many of our initiatives for the next five years. In addition, we soon will be conducting a community fund-raising campaign led by Gary Harris to provide the necessary infrastructure to sustain the Coalition. We will be reaching out to foundations and individuals to launch this important endeavor during the coming months.



In this edition, you will find reports from our committee chairmen who have worked throughout the year to lead the various initiatives for the Coalition. It is important to note that our work is collaborative in nature and execution. This simply means that our members work in tandem with other agency representatives and individuals who provide thousands of hours each year to effect change in our community. Such collaboration includes treatment, education and prevention service providers, schools, faith based community, law enforcement, health care providers, parents, community leaders, youth and others. But all collaborative efforts are centered on our goals to reduce underage drinking and illegal and other drug use and to promote recovery.

During the past fiscal year, our members have collectively contributed almost 2,000 hours of service to the coalition. We have one full time Coordinator, Andie Anselmi, whose function is to coordinate all committees and functions and keep us informed on opportunities & information from local, state and national levels. It's a huge task and she performs it with good cheer and sustained diligence.

Since August of 2004, I have served as the Chairperson of the Coalition succeeding Karen Simon who served as interim chair during the initial five months of operation. Dr. Paul Friday has been elected as incoming Chairman commencing in October. Assistant Public Defender Bob Ward will serve as Vice-Chair and Captain Bruce Bellamy from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department will serve as Treasurer. Next year I will serve as Immediate Past Chair.

The reports contained in this newsletter serve as the first public record of our efforts. They are intended to be brief with only highlights noted due to space considerations. But do know their work is in large part what the CMDFC is all about. I wish to thank each of our the members for supporting us the organization and serving with me as we witnessed remarkable growth from a grass roots organization to well over a hundred members. It's been a rewarding experience for me and an amazing opportunity for our community.

Mary H. Howerton, Ph. D.
Chairperson
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Training Committee

Chair: Tony Beatty

The Training Committee collaborated with the Addiction Recovery Institute to provide training on Best Practices in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. The training took place over a period of several months with a variety of presenters doing all day sessions.



The committee also maintains and distributes an ongoing list of training that is local, regional and statewide. The listing is sent out quarterly to coalition members.

FASD Committee

Chair: Sandra Woosley

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Committee has worked hard over the past months and has found success in the following:

- Completed a brochure with the facts on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in October 2006 and distributed over 300 copies.
- Designed and distributed a written survey to over 200 pediatrician and obstetric/gynecologic practices asking physicians their current practices in addressing alcohol use with pregnant women or in addressing pediatric issues resulting from fetal alcohol exposure.

Results of the returned surveys will be utilized in the coming fiscal year to focus Committee efforts and assistance.

Membership Committee

Chair: Steve Newman

The membership committee has been busy over the last few months. Some of their accomplishments include:

- Requested the Coalition's input for nomination of new officers.
- Developed a slate of candidates for the office of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer.
- Presented the slate of candidates to the Executive Committee who accepted them.
- Presented the slate of candidates to the Coalition who voted for the new officers.

Evaluation Committee

Chair: Susan Long-Marin

The Evaluation Committee, whose purpose is to determine the Coalition's data needs and to design and implement relevant research projects, has seen many accomplishments this year.

The team has:

- Conducted an Alcohol Purchase Survey and visited 163 sites.
- Processed the SPIDA Environmental Study.
- Processed data for the Indicators Report which will be drafted and published in the fall.
- Worked on the Youth Drug Survey in Mecklenburg County.

This next year the Evaluation Team will be working toward publishing their findings.



Parent Centered Prevention Committee

Chair: Steve Newman

The Parent Centered Prevention Committee has:

- Received a \$5,000 grant from the North Caroling Parent/Teacher/Student Association to support middle and high school parents in designing and delivering parent centered prevention programs in their children's schools.
- Increased the number of parents and schools who have joined the Committee. Schools currently represented include Charlotte Latin, Providence High School, Ardrey Kell High School, Charlotte Country Day School and Hopewell High School. Parents designed and delivered 4 parent centered prevention events.

This committee aims to:

- Expand the participation of parents in a broader range of schools, support them with the grant from the state PTSA, and support an increase in the number of parent centered prevention programs that are implemented in their schools.

Underage Drinking Initiative Committee

Chair: Alice McGinley

The Underage Drinking Committee designed and distributed refrigerator magnets with law enforcement phone numbers in which to contact to report plans for alcohol use at an underage party and held two parent forums—one at the North County Regional Library that was covered by three television stations and one on West Boulevard in conjunction with Fighting Back's Alcohol Awareness Month activities.

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Organizational Structure Task Force

Chair: Susan Long-Marin

The Organizational Structure Task Force:

- Recommended that the Coalition establish a Designated Fund with the Foundation For The Carolinas for receiving and managing monies raised during the 2007 and future Funding Campaigns.
- Recommended that Substance Abuse Prevention Services (SAPS), through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Coalition, would, in turn, act as the fiscal agent for receiving and distributing money from the Foundation for the Carolinas Fund.

This Task Force hopes to continue the discussion of what our organization needs to look like in order to carryout it's mission and achieve it's vision, including issues like liability and the pros and cons of incorporating with or without tax free status.

SPIDA

(Students Preventing and Informing on Drugs and Alcohol)

SPIDA has done a number of things over the last few months. They have:

- Conducted an assessment of alcohol marketing at 100 retail establishments and collaborated with merchants to promote alternatives to alcohol advertising.
- Provided a youth voice at community-wide events such as town hall meetings on underage drinking, youth panels and adult leader trainings.
- Created and aired 3 public service announcements for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.



This group has set goals to:

- Increase membership and recruitment of new members
- Create and implement a peer education training to be made available to school and community groups.
- Continue to create media messages targeted towards teens

Best Practices Committee

Chair: Dennis Knasel

The Best Practices Committee:

- Used its previous gap analysis and a priority setting process to make a recommendation to the LME that any additional State funding should be used to initiate two dual diagnosis service continuums for adults, one being gender specific.
- Agreed that all adult treatment providers would use the same measurement tool, the Outcome and Session Rating Scales, to assess consumer progress in treatment. The tool is designed to assess change in three areas: individual functioning, interpersonal relationships, and social role performance.
- Established a set of Core Values that will govern how the Committee and it's subcommittees will problem solve and make decisions.

Marketing Committee

Chair: Christine Hubbard

The Marketing Committee is a newly established committee of the Drug Free Coalition and has made the recommendation to the executive committee to be in charge of updating and hosting the website for the coalition.

This committee aims to

- Identify Media Partners in each medium and utilize this network to effectively educate the public by promoting awareness, action and advocacy thus reducing the impact of alcohol and drug abuse and addiction on youth, family and community.
- Plan Event Marketing for Fundraising and Recruitment of new Coalition members and Partners.

Public Policy Committee

Chair: Bob Ward

At the recommendation of the committee, the Coalition adopted the "10 Drug and Alcohol Policies That Will Save Lives" developed by Join Together and its partners as a framework for the Coalitions public policy initiatives.

Pursuant to our new policies, the Executive Committee and other members of the Coalition participated in meetings with other North Carolina coalitions and submitted letters of support on behalf of several legislative efforts in Raleigh.

The Policy committee is seeking to find out the actual Underage Drinking Laws that apply in Mecklenburg County. The information will be used to educate ourselves, the public, officials and agencies about how best to follow the law and where it could and should be changed.

Faith Based Committee

Chair: Joanne Jenkins

The Faith Based Committee is newly formed and met for the first time on August 15th, 2007.

Anyone who is interested in participating is asked to contact Joanne Jenkins Stevenson.

Media Committee

Chair: Andrea Anker

The Media Committee coordinated the September 21st Drug Free Communities (DFC) Press Conference.

This committee aims to:

- Plan and produce future media events and products.

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Do the Write Thing Challenge



Executive Committee

Chairperson

Dr. Mary Howerton

Chairperson Elect

Dr. Paul Friday

Vice Chairperson Elect

Bob Ward

Treasurer Elect

Captain Bruce Bellamy

Members

Tony Beatty

John Basilice

Winona Chestnut

Sandy DuPuy

Dennis Knasel

Susan Long-Marin

Cindy Murphy

Steve Newman

Charles Odell

Kristi Roe

Karen Simon

Jan Thompson

Patrick Vaca

Fiscal Sponsor

Substance Abuse
Prevention Services

Newsletter Committee

Chair: Tonda Wilde

Andrea Anselmi

Mary Ward

Mary Howerton

Cindy Murphy

Sandy Dupuy

Patrick Vaca

Becca Timerson

Terrence Elliot

The National Campaign to Stop Violence sponsored the Do the Write Thing Challenge to engage middle school students in an opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives. Through an essay, youth articulated how they would initiate violence reduction efforts or volunteer in existing ones.

Winners of the essay contest were honored in July in Washington D.C. and participated in an award ceremony hosted by the founding sponsor, the Kuwait-American Foundation. During the recognition week, finalists presented their views on youth violence to such national leaders as the Secretary of Education, the U.S. Attorney General, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Members of Congress. Also, their writings were published and placed in the Library of Congress.

Here are some excerpts of two essays from our area:

“...an 11 year old is told if he joined a gang he would be cool, respected and looked up to. So the kid joined the gang. About a week later, the sound of a bullet reached the air, so did the 11 year old’s screams and he laid there on the ground dead...we need to let kids know they are better than what people think about them...”

–Christopher Cookhorne, 7th grader, Davidson IB Middle School

“...If parents let their children run freely and have whatever they want, then soon our future world will be a complete disaster of violence. I hope that parents, teachers, bus drivers and musicians will be more cautious of what they are doing that affects our fellow children...”

–Tanner Hallgren, 7th grader, Southwest Middle

Join the Solution...

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