

# Behavioral Health Strategic Planning Work Group and Pharmaceutical Diversion Investigative Unit Joint Meeting

## Summary

April 7, 2010

- Detective Don Kennard opened the meeting with introductions of the members in attendance.
- Dr. Andy Gross, a local Pain Physician, presented his medical perspective on prescription drug misuse in the community. He shared what his practice does on a local level, as well as state and federal initiatives from the medical community.
  - Dr. Lasalle questioned how to talk to doctors to start bringing about change in their prescribing methods. Dr. Gross suggested that the medical field must work to prevent patients from becoming chronic pain patients from the beginning. Doctors need to offer alternatives so patients do not become overly dependent on pain pills. Specific suggestions were: responsible script writing, responsible monitoring, referring out to specialists when the pain is out of the scope of the general practitioner, treating patients without pain medication as much as possible, and using physical therapy as an alternative.
  - James McCloud questioned the addictive nature of some pharmaceuticals and how to keep individuals from becoming addicted to medicines that seem created for that purpose. Dr. Gross explained that the historical use and nature of pain medications are not for individuals to become addicted. Genetics and individual differences account for some personalities being more predisposed to addiction whether it is medicines, academics, athletics, etc. It is important to recognize addictive patterns in patients and establish behavior plans to help combat the addictive cycle.
- Detective Kennard provided the **Pharmaceutical Diversion Investigative Unit (PDIU)** update. The PDIU is in contact with the Collier County Sheriff's Department for guidance in securing a permanent prescription drop off location in Sarasota. Detective Kennard also shared recent local success around Pharmaceutical Diversion arrests. He explained that these individuals are smart people, who are educated and schooled in diversion making it an in depth law enforcement process.
- Detective Kennard announced current planning for a May Community Prescription Drug Forum sponsored by Coastal Behavioral Healthcare and First Step of Sarasota. Anyone with ideas or venue options can contact Detective Kennard at [dkennard@scgov.net](mailto:dkennard@scgov.net).
- Brooke Baker provided an update on the Substance Abuse Response Guide (SARG) process for Priority 1: Prescription Drug Misuse. She reviewed the Prescription Drug Community Action Plan draft.
- Brooke provided an update on the SARG process for Priority 2: Underage Alcohol Use. She shared drafts of worksheets 2-4, as well as a draft of the logic model. She also reminded the group of the next phase, Phase 2: Capacity and Resource Assessment. She reviewed the brief summary handout about what the group will be working on next. She will send out an electronic version of the Resource Assessment

form following the meeting for group members to complete based on underage alcohol prevention strategies in the community.

- Lieutenant Tim Enos presented Sarasota County School data to help strengthen the Underage Alcohol Use focus. Currently the schools are not seeing a lot of alcohol related offenses on campus. That does not mean youth are not drinking, just that they are not getting in trouble with alcohol between school hours on school property. He shared Communities That Care and Youth Risk Behavior survey data and explained most numbers are slightly lower or relatively consistent from previous years. He also shared they are doing compliance checks from North Port to University Parkway. He approximated that there are 274 retailers in the county with around 35-55% of facilities they check failing compliance checks. They do 4-5 compliance operations a year around prom, spring break, Thanksgiving, etc. The most recent check yielded 6 out of 40 retailers as failing.
  - James McCloud questioned the priority of the substance abuse issues the group is addressing. More specifically, he shared that in the areas he works he sees marijuana as a more serious issue than alcohol use. He questioned why the community is planning around underage alcohol use when the data does not seem as strong.
  - Brooke explained that underage alcohol use is a state wide initiative due to the overwhelming cost of the issue. Many other communities have already started implementing strategies for underage alcohol use and Sarasota County will join these efforts. Brooke also reminded that the data shows the priority still exists. Even though youth may not be getting in trouble at school, they still report the highest 30 day and lifetime prevalence of alcohol use.
  - Pam Meunier shared that data drives the community priorities. When the group completes the action plans for prescription drug misuse and underage alcohol use and move to priority 3, it can address additional behavioral health issues from the community that are supported by data.
- Hillary Woodcum shared that the Sarasota County Town Hall Meeting will be April 21 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be a panel discussion at the Sarasota Military Academy. The event will discuss early intervention, Drug Free Youth, drug testing, laws and ordinances, and alcohol as a gateway drug among other topics. Hillary provided fliers for the event and will send an electronic copy to Brooke for additional distribution.
- Amy Samsal shared information about the **Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCoSA) Project AIM**. Project AIM offers free Responsible Vendor Training throughout the community to bars and restaurants. Its goal is to have more participation over the summer and to eventually have convenience stores and gas stations more involved.
- Tom Davie reminded the group about the **North Port Drug Free Youth (DFY) Summit** on April 14 at North Port High School. He shared that the DFY program is student driven and adult supported to show local youth that not everyone is drinking and doing drugs.
- Brooke closed the meeting with a reminder of the next Behavioral Health Strategic Planning Work Group meeting May 3 at 1:30 pm.

**The next meeting of the Behavioral Health Strategic Planning Work Group will be held May 3 @ 1:30 at Sarasota County Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226.**