

**Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council's (GSSAC'S)
Community Coalition Meeting**

*A Gathering of Those Working to Reduce Substance Abuse and Violence
Through Community Mobilization and Drug Free Communities*

Tuesday, February 24th, 2009

MINUTES

Location: Meeting held at the Spokane Regional Health District
1101 W. College Spokane, WA 99201
12:00pm–1:30 pm

Attendees: Gunthild Sondhi, GSSAC Evaluator; Diane Jackson, East Central Community Center; Craig Hirt, VOA Crosswalk; Sarah Page, Spokane County Community Services; Rick Scott, S.C.O.P.E with Spokane County Sheriff's Office; Chris Mullin, Lakeside Recovery Center; Shayna Tulley, NATIVE Project; Allison Sattin, GSSAC Drug Free Communities Coordinator; Linda Thompson, GSSAC Executive Director; David Egly, NATIVE Project; Shelby Hughes, GSSAC Educational Programs Administrative Coordinator; Jennifer Hansen, Spokane Regional Health District; Tricia Hughes, ESD 101/GSSAC Board of Directors Member; Christina Heller, GSSAC Intern/Spokane Falls Community College Student; Annette Ingham, Prosecutor's Office; Tom Lloyd, GSSAC's Prevention Center Board of Directors Member; Diana Somerville, Neighborhood Watch; Eileen Mayfield, Transitions; Chris Obringer, Washington State Liquor Control Board; Rick Harris, West Central Community Center; Courtney Meador, Models for Change-Juvenile Court;

Welcome: Tricia Hughes-ESD 101/GSSAC's Prevention Center Board of Directors Member

Introductions: All of those in attendance introduced themselves and shared the organization which they were representing. Individuals were also allotted some time to share any new developments or upcoming events at their organizations. Those who shared were encouraged to address the negatives but to also focus on the positive things going on with their organizations.

Partner Sharing: **Tricia Hughes, Educational School Districts**—Hughes shared that ESD 101 has several upcoming trainings that are open to the public. On March 19th they will be holding a Policy Training, April 22nd will be a Healthy Youth Survey training/unveiling and on June 4th there will be a Community Collaboration Training. For further information, please contact ESD 101 at 509-789-3800.

Diana Somerville, Spokane Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch—Somerville shared details about the yearly Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch event Tuesday, March 10th. People are welcome to have a booth or attend some of the many offered classes. She passed out Neighborhood Watch Newspapers with registration forms. Somerville also shared that the Sheriff's Office and GSSAC have partnered to provide scholarships for a few people if they cannot afford to pay the registration fee.

Craig Hirt, Volunteers of America/Crosswalk—Hirt shared that although they are riding the budget roller coaster there are positive things happening at his organization. Good news was received just prior to the meeting that their Chemical Dependency Counselor will be funded for another year.

Annette Ingham, Prosecutors Office—Ingham shared that the Prosecutor's Office will be holding a Victims of Crime Vigil on April 30th; this will be the culminating event honoring April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Linda Thompson, GSSAC's Prevention Center—Thompson shared with the group her experiences in Olympia over the past month. She provided a handout with a list of bills that are being presented to the legislators. One of these bills, HB 1408 revolves around statewide DUI Victim Impact Panels. If passed, it would allow judges to waive the defendant's fee. This is of concern to the Coalition for several reasons. One being that the fees are what fund the program and two being that if an individual can afford to go out and drink then they can afford to pay a fee for the program. Another bill of concern is HB 1177; this has been a topic of discussion among the coalition as well as the Board of Directors for several months now. This bill would decriminalize marijuana possession for those over 18. Thompson then stressed the importance of the coalition continuing to be active in talking with our legislators about these issues.

On a more positive note, Thompson shared an inspiring story about an encounter she had with a local bar owner. He was going through one of GSSAC's programs where Thompson was a speaker and there was a discussion about community norms. Thompson used an example from Hoopfest last year where an establishment put up a giant beer bottle as advertisement, right in front of the youth courts. It was learned that this particular bar owner whom was attending the program, was the one whom had done this and he admitted to not even realizing the impact that it could have on our youth. He vowed

to think before advertising and wanted GSSAC to communicate with him should a situation like this ever arise again. It was a great moment for prevention in our community because it proved that our work really does make a difference.

Allison Sattin, GSSAC's Prevention Center—Sattin shared with the group her experiences at the recent Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conference in Washington D.C. Some of the things she learned will aid in the expansion of the coalition and increasing effectiveness. Sattin also asked that if coalition members had not already done so, that they fill out a coalition member form as this will help Sattin organize contact information for the group more efficiently.

Sarah Page, Spokane County Community Services—Page shared information on the Spokane County Community Services Strengthening Families Program. Page distributed registration flyers for the March through May class.

Chris Mullin, Lakeside Recovery—Mullin shared that due to the flailing economy Lakeside Recovery is looking into other acceptable methods of payment to better accommodate those in need of treatment who cannot afford to pay for it. Mullin also promoted that the 3rd Saturday of every month Lakeside Recovery holds a “Family and Significant Other Education Group.” It is open to the public, is free and no referral is needed to attend.

Chris Obringer, Washington State Liquor Control Board—Obringer shared the Liquor Control Board is busy conducting compliance checks and that they appreciate any tips or information that coalition members may see when out in the community.

Rick Harris, West Central Community Center—Harris was excited to share a new program at the community center that will help push kids towards positive activities through sports development. By working with youth on the different fundamentals of different sports, it can lead to healthy choices, living strong and possibly even college scholarships.

Jennifer Hansen, Spokane Regional Health District—Hansen shared that she is currently working on a few projects including an assessment on cessation smoking. Currently the Health District has the “Quit and Win” Program but this does not seem to produce effective long-term results. Hansen is looking to speak with smokers to receive feedback as to what would help them quit smoking. She is asking for any Coalition Members who have access to smokers to contact her. The

Health District is also working to outlaw smoking in parks. It causes second hand smoke and sets a poor example for our youth. Hansen asks that you help support this movement by emailing comments to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Courtney Meador, Models for Change: Juvenile Court—

Meador shared that currently, Washington State is one of the few states that locks up youth status offenders. This causes those who are being penalized for minor disciplinary incidents to be detained with youth whom have committed more serious offenses. As the new Models for Change Coordinator, Meador is taking a look at juvenile justice reform in our community. The Models for Change initiative is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice system reform through targeted investments in key states. With long-term funding and support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Models for Change seeks to accelerate progress toward a more rational, fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice system.

David Egly, NATIVE Project—Egly shared some of the NATIVE Project's successes in the last couple of months. This included their Wellness Program which is currently running smoothly and has already surpassed last year's numbers. Egly also shared that their rescheduled Pow-Wow was a huge success. There were 600 people in attendance and people came from all parts of the community. Currently the NATIVE Project is trying to find a more accurate idea of whom they are serving; they plan to do this via the zip codes of those who attended the Pow-Wow.

Group Discussion: Community Needs and Resources

Following partner sharing the group worked together in creating a list of positives currently going on in our community. With a flailing economy and so many budget cuts it is important to remember all the positive work we have been able to do and the successes we have been able to achieve through community collaboration.

Items on the list included: 23 Washington Drug Free Youth clubs in our local schools, 600 people attending the NATIVE Project Pow-Wow, trainings offered from numerous different organizations around the community, 1260 participants in the NATIVE Project Wellness Program, over 100 women being served per day at Transitions, over 100 letters written to Legislators from women at Transitions regarding continued funding, Educational School District is providing more

resources to youth then ever, and Mentoring Children of Promise has had excellent mentor numbers in their first year of the program.

The Coalition could have spent hours adding to the list but they were only allotted a certain amount of time to work on this.

“Call to Action”

During the “Call to Action” portion of the meeting GSSAC Staff shared flyers surrounding different upcoming trainings.

Trainings included: From Hurt to Hope, October 20th–21st in Wenatchee, WA; Prescription Drugs Training sponsored by the Kalispel Tribal Court, March 17th and 18th; and the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference will be held September 22nd–24th in Spokane, WA.

For additional information on any of these trainings you may contact Lee Lingard at GSSAC’s Prevention Center 509-922-8383.

Next on the “Call to Action” agenda Our Kids Our Business was discussed and a calendar of April’s events was handed out. For details on how you or your organization may get involved contact Mary Ann Murphy with Partners with Families and Children at 509-473-4827 or email her at murphym@inhs.org.

Lastly, Sattin shared that the early planning stages of Drug Free Spokane Month October 2009 are underway and that she is looking for ideas from the coalition as to how we can build on last year’s events. Sattin may be contacted at the Prevention Center 509-922-8383.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

****NEXT MEETING – March 24th, 2009 –12:00pm****
Spokane Regional Health District
1101 W. College**
Rm. Auditorium

Submitted by: Allison R. Sattin