



Healthy Communities Coalition Minutes
Sept. 9, 2010
Mason Valley Boys and Girls Club, Yerington, Nevada

In Attendance: See attached sign in sheet

- I. Coalition Joined the FASD Awareness “Pack the Track” event at Yerington High School, where YHS principal read Yerington Mayor’s proclamation of Sept. 9 as FASD Awareness Day, and the entire student body, and many area officials and agency directors, including the school superintendent, Yerington Police Chief, Rotary Club, task force leaders, etc. walked for FASD awareness. Teen advocate for FASD awareness Amanda Oliver Blaine of the Yerington Task Force was instrumental in creating the walk and bringing more attention to the fact that the nine months of pregnancy require sobriety.

II. Introductions and Announcements

Helen Sturtevant, Yerington Case for Change, YPD, and Task Force: Mason Valley Boys and Girls Club THTC Keystone have organized a community suicide prevention walk called Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope, to be followed by a BBQ funded by the Task Force and special speaker Misty Allen of NV Office of Suicide Prevention on Sept. 9 at 9am, beginning at Veteran’s Park and concluding at Rocket Park

On September 25, the Yerington Police Department (YPD) will host a Prescription Drug Take-Back drop off point near the Teen Center.

Natalie Wood, Western Nevada Regional Youth Center (WNRYC) and from Military family: WNRYC has FYI prevention programs.

Terry Hess, Boys and Girls Club Teen Club Director: fun summer at Teen Club, new to Yerington Task Force.

Kathy McKnight: HCC, JOIN of Fernley: Lyon still has the highest unemployment rate

Charlie Lawson, Coast Guard veteran, running for Lyon Commission

Cheryl Bowles, State Rural Mental Health Director of Fernley clinic: now has more clinicians so there shouldn't be a waiting list.

Tamara Burnet, Community Chest, Inc (CCI): In and Out of School Youth Programs: still seeking 7 clients from Storey and Lyon, ages 14 to 21 who are not enrolled in school but would like to get their GEDs, acquire work skills, etc. Begins Oct. 1. During a trip to the Black Rock Canyon, Tamara and Darren will also take them on 4 day detox from caffeine, cell phones, and tobacco. Would like to create a dorm living atmosphere in the future for even more intensive lifeskills training in addition to job and academic training.

Quest Lakes: Silver City's community garden and community soup and salad dinners and intergeneration cooking classes have been very successful. The organic produce is integrated into both the dinners and cooking classes, and we hope to share the expertise of the gardeners there with other communities this year. Dayton Task Force's Resource Bank continues to be in demand and they will host fundraisers later this year. Mound House will host a series of community workshops on gardening and various prevention issues this year. Helen is here and updated us on Yerington Task Force. Silver Stage Task Force will help host potluck dinner socials for military families later this year. Dayton Valley Days is a fundraiser that will help raise funds for student assistance programs, among other community programs.

Mary Boettcher, Central Lyon Youth Connection and Healthy Communities Coalition: still needs volunteers for anti-bullying activity, 4C, at SSSHS on Sept. 14, Tuesday between 7:30am and 3:30pm. This will be part of a kick-off to increased anti-bullying awareness in area schools. This is a pilot program which may be brought to all the other high schools if it is successful.

Allen Veil, Lyon Sheriff and Healthy Communities Board: Jail will have an AA support group with help of McCandless family. State Police are enforcing traffic laws in Mound House, while Lyon officers are increasing patrols. Sept. 25 is National Prescription Take Back Day. Prescription drugs are among those most often abused by teens. The Lyon Sheriff's Dept. is working with Soroptimists of Tahoe and Dayton to bring 4th-6th graders "Fighting Chance" abduction prevention (if approved by schools, beginning in Dayton). Sheriff will be escorting the Dayton Valley Days parade on Sept. 18. Traffic Safety Task Force will recognize 3 deputies and coordinator for their work in making roads safer Oct. 20-22 .

Christy McGill, Healthy Communities Coalition Director: with Enforcing Underage Drinking (EUDL) funding, Mary Boettcher and Sheriff's Dept. have been offering alcohol laws and tobacco sales laws compliance training. Nevada has the lowest rate of tobacco ID violations in the country.

Mary McCandless, Yerington Case for Change, Task Force: Her daughter Amanda will be speaking at area high schools this year regarding FASD awareness. Mary is the mother of Eugene, who has served in Iraq for 3 tours and is not in Afghanistan. Eugene told her

that Army OneSource is a fantastic group and appreciates what they do. Also noted that the flowers for the Covenant Ceremony were donated by Michael's store.

Donald McCandless, Yerington Task Force and Case for change

John Alexander, member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) who has spent time as a scout leader in Dayton. VFW sponsors middle and high school essay contests such as "Voices of Democracy"

Christy noted that John stepped in last year and volunteered to work with JPO youths to cut wood to donate to families in need (those families reciprocated by stacking and cutting wood)

Freida Carbery, Nevada Prevention Fellow and Volunteer Coordinator at Dayton Food Pantry: only pantry in Lyon that is open Mon-Frid. Donations are down, and the Pantry is in need of other groups to lead food drives and benefits. In the Fellowship position, Frieda is coordinating a public health perspective with emergency preparedness. There will be a 3 day hazardous material training for health staff at the South Lyon Medical Center to train them to assist first responders. Freida is a veteran of the Air National Guard and a Blue Star Mother whose son works with bomb dogs in Korea, and served 3 tours in Iraq.

Ashle Overlock: Intern for Central Lyon Youth Connections and Healthy Communities Coalition: assisting Dayton Intermediate with technical details of implementing a new anti-bullying texting program.

Omar Mewborn: community outreach for military throughout region. Army OneSource now offers Behavioral Mental Health Support webinars on military PTSD and TBI.

Misty Allen, Office of Suicide Prevention: 8 communities are celebrating Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope Sept. 11, including Yerington, Reno, Douglas, Elko, Dixon, Lovelock, Winnemucca, and Hawthorne. Christy McGill noted that the Coalition and partners have been blessed with her response and expert advice for best practices on prevention.

Edrie La Voie, Lyon Human Services Director: noted that she gained a newfound respect for HCC and their compassion in work with community at their annual Board and staff retreat. Noted that Officer Sukup identified HCC as a big think tank.

New funding for foster care youth is available over the next 3 years. The funding will include youth still in foster care, and those in transition from foster care. Erin Carvel at 575-1703 of the Fernley Human Service office is the contact for these programs.

Bill Bruni, Sutro Elementary School Counselor: commented that the 2 day ASIST training by Office of Suicide Prevention was very good. The schools are working hard to make sure students and families are connected to community services.

Travis Crowder, Mason Valley Boys and Girls Club: thank you to schools and Coalition for helping Boys and Girls Club begin services in Dayton. The school district has been phenomenal in their support. There are now 300 kids enrolled in Dayton. The first fundraiser for Dayton will be a golf tourney and car show in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce.

Jana Patterson, State Mental Health, Yerington: Diabetic Behavioral Therapy now available. Includes ways to handle stress. The requests for services at the clinic is rising.

Misty Allen, Office of Suicide Prevention: Their new crisis texting program for teens is the first in the nation to be piloted. It was first piloted at Pyramid Lake. It can be tailored to local resources. At DIS, there will be a text bullying hotline that goes to the administrator's offices. Virginia City High will begin the suicide prevention text program soon also. Teens text to trained professionals at the Crisis Call Center who are trained in suicide prevention as well as texting lingo.

Ron Enerich, Nevada National Guard Family Program

Teri Trout, Mason Valley Boys and Girls Club: thanked Helen Sturtevant for all of her work with the Yerington Task Force and Case for Change and other community work.

Updates

I. Suicide Prevention: Christy thanked Office of Suicide Prevention for training hundreds in the Lyon area over the past 8 months. Lyon now has vastly increased capacity for new suicide prevention trainers. Noted that if any school wants the suicide prevention texting program, administrators can call Misty Allen for more information. Noted that the completed suicides in Lyon County in 2009 were by males and that alcohol was the common element, with some prescription drugs involved as well. Sheriff Veil noted that in 2008 there were roughly 10 suicides, while in 2009 there were 19 confirmed, but an unofficial number of about 25. Of the rural counties, Lyon had 50% of the mental health transports. The link between alcohol abuse and suicide might be added to EUDL alcohol law compliance training in future.. JOIN's Kathy McKnight will be working with Office of Suicide Prevention on training staff in suicide prevention/ referrals. Christy is still looking for a contact among State Unemployment staff to insert suicide prevention info for the unemployed and staff. Misty Allen cautioned that unemployment is not the cause, but one factor in a complex issue. At the Nov. 8 CAN Prevent conference at UNR, the "Means Matter" workshop on suicide prevention will stress that alcohol and firearms are lethal combinations.

Christy noted that she learned at the National Prevention Network Conference that more kids are now listing their reasons for using drugs as anxiety, depression, hopelessness, etc. rather than for "kicks". SAMHSA is looking for 'prevention prepared communities'. At the next HCC meeting, Christy will bring a power point to show the new funding streams and strategies for health care reform.

II. Military Community Covenant Ceremony:

Opening Comments by Omar Mewborn, Army OneSource Community Support Coordinator: Urged those present to show this level of support on a daily basis, and noted he would like to see many more of these ceremonies.

Comments by Christy McGill, Healthy Communities Coalition Director: explained that so many people in Lyon County already deliver so well on promises to veterans and military families. The ceremony makes that commitment more formal, and is a pledge to work together to do even better.

McGill highlighted a few of the people and groups who have been providing support in many different ways:

Leah Compston of Yerington has sent hundreds of care packages to local troops since 2003. When the local National Guard shipped out she made sure every service person was adopted by someone and sent Christmas packages.

In Dayton, Dorothy Wingard has led a similar campaign to support troops through “Hugs from Home”.

In Fernley, residents help keep the Veteran’s Cemetery spotless to honor military families.

An astonishing percentage of the graduating class of the small town of Silver Springs enlisted in the military last year. When military families there said they would like to have potluck dinner meetings to form friendships and to hear updates from military community support groups, Rod Sanchez, director of the Silver Springs Community Center and a member of the Silver Stage Task Force, responded to that need by pledging to open the Senior Center for monthly potluck meetings.

Area PTA and Booster Clubs have helped families connect when troops deploy.

McGill offered special thanks to Terry Hess, Helen Sturtevant, and the McCandless family for decorating the gym for the ceremony, and to Michael’s for the donation of flowers.

McGill then read the pledge, and officials and residents from throughout the region signed the pledge.

Community Covenant to Soldiers, Veterans and Their Families

In acknowledgment of the great gift local military personnel, veterans, and military family members give, local leaders from all walks of life will sign a community covenant pledging to work together towards the following:

Assist military members and all veterans with reintegration into our communities.

Provide assistance to soldiers and their families by advocating for local, state and federal benefits.

Work with community partners to connect soldiers and veterans to services and programs to ensure they are a vibrant, respected and a well-served community.

Connect military family members with both formal and informal community and governmental support throughout the deployment cycle.

Encourage and protect our returning military members by promoting fair and legal employment practices.

Strengthen federal, state, and local collaborations to improve and increase service options for veterans in the Lyon region.

Improve availability of education and training for VA and non-VA service providers in the Lyon region.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Thurs Oct. 14, 2010 at 9am at the Silver Springs Community Center in Silver Springs, Nevada.