

Methamphetamine Prevention Network
Leadership Council Meeting
Minutes
November 14, 2007
Santa Ynez Valley Marriott 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Members In attendance:

Carrick Adam (Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back) Kenneth Bambrick (Santa Barbara Regional Narcotic Task Force), Pat Brady (Lompoc Valley Recovery Task Force), Lois Craig (Santa Ynez Valley Coalition) Georgina Duran-Conn (Santa Barbara Probation), Kathy Gallagher (Santa Barbara County Social Services Department), Nancy Gottlieb (Santa Barbara County ADHMS), Eric Hanson (Santa Barbara Fighting Back), Susan Klein-Rothschild (Santa Barbara County Public Health Department), Teresa Menchaca (Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back), Steven Powell (Carpinteria Cares for Youth), Cynder Sinclair (Santa Barbara Fighting Back), Kevin Smith (Lompoc Recovery Task Force), Carolyn Wood (Carpinteria Cares for Youth).

Guests:

Merith Cosden (UCSB), Sandy Fahey (Santa Barbara County ADHMS), Lisa Gilbert (Santa Barbara County ADHMS), Dr. Harold Ginsberg (Retired Psychiatrist, Santa Barbara County ADHMS), Sue Marta (Santa Barbara Fighting Back/CADA), Daniel Milei (Santa Barbara County IT Dept), Freya Schultz (Child Welfare/Data Group), Tracy Taylor (Lompoc Housing & Community Dept Corp), Susan Warnstrom (4th District Office).

Staff:

Thom Allena (Consultant), Heather Gardner (Santa Barbara County Social Services Department), Lisa Garrison (Santa Barbara County Social Services Department), Bob Montgomery (Consultant), Rosie Rodriguez (Santa Barbara County ADHMS), Nancy Vasquez (Consultant).

I. Introductions/Announcements:

Kathy Gallagher opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Introductions were done by the Leadership Council members, guests and staff.

II. Old Business:

A. Co-chair Teresa Menchaca recognized the new Leadership Council members who needed to be voted in.

Nancy Gottlieb motion to vote in new members; Dr. Carrick Adam, Pat Brady, Lois Craig, Cynder Sinclair, Steven Powell and Georgina Duran-Conn. The motion was seconded by Eric Hanson and carried unanimously.

B. Approval of the September 12, 2007 minutes

Susan Klein-Rothchild motioned to approve minutes. The motion was seconded by Kathy Gallagher and carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment:

Thom Allena announced that time was allotted on the agenda to allow for any comments from the public. No comments were made by the public.

IV. New Business:

A. Discussion & Action Items

1. Timeline, Meeting Schedule & Agendas:

Nancy Vasquez presented the timeline, meeting schedule and draft agendas for all the future meetings of the Leadership Council (LC). She stated that the project will finish in October

2008 and that the schedule of the Council was changed to every other month to give each task force time to develop their action plans. She stated that attendance by LC members is critical in order to complete the action plans by October 2008.

2. Action Plan Template & Review Process:

Nancy Vasquez presented the Action Plan Template being used by the task forces for each of the strategies. She shared that each of the task forces are attempting to implement one of their strategies within 60-90 days, whereas the goal of the other strategies is to develop a plan for how the strategy could be implemented during the next phase of this project, the implementation phase. She explained that at each of the LC meetings, Council's role will be to hear the action plan and answer the following questions:

What do you need clarification on?

What is really appreciated in the strategy and action plan?

What changes or tweaking would make this action plan better?

3. Report of the Meth Free Individuals, Children & Families Task Force:

Nancy Gottlieb reported that the MFIC&F TF is made up of approximately 10 members, has met twice, and meets every fourth Monday of the month at 4pm after CORE meetings. She shared that their strategies are:

1. Develop a Meth Response Team to address individuals, children and families utilizing a timely, multidisciplinary approach to service delivery.
2. Establish a Legislative Liaison or Committee which would seek legislative changes to remove barriers to services and fiscal resources that help individuals obtain and maintain a meth free lifestyle.
3. Establish a one-stop transitional Housing Recovery Program to ensure that the services and supports needed to obtain and maintain recovery are present where the individuals and families need it most-*where they live*.

Nancy stated the 60-90 day action plan will focus on legislative issues as those bills are being introduced currently at state and Federal level. The task force is also interested in working with the Justice System as another short term goal. Kevin Smith spoke about the third strategy by introducing the potential collaboration with Lompoc Housing Department.

Kathy Gallagher suggested that the Council look at what other counties are doing regarding legislation so we can partner. It was suggested that the Council research CADPAAC or other State level programs that will allow this project to come together with other entities.

Susan Klein-Rothchild asked what specific legislation piece is in connection to housing? Nancy clarified that the legislation piece is not in connection to housing but rather a list of legislative ideas.

Regarding the strategy of educational materials to judges, Georgina Duran-Conn suggested providing examples of certain programs and indicators of success so that judges get a better understanding overall.

4. Report of the Educated Communities and Professionals Task Force:

Lois Craig reported they meet the second Friday of the month at Rabo Bank in Solvang from 11am-1:30pm. The first meeting focused on the strategies and how to accomplish them, prioritization of strategies and the short term strategy. She shared that one short term strategy will be a media campaign because of the regional coalitions that can get involved. The next meetings will include presentations from each the coalitions to understand what's occurring, meth population and specifics from each community.

Kathy suggested involving Sheila Kearns from the Kearns Group in the media strategy.

5. Report of the Outcomes & Evaluation Task Force:

Susan Klein-Rothchild reported that this task force is developing a clear purpose regarding data and evaluation, including the development of indicators to measure the Meth Project and helping have measurable action plans. The task force is reviewing key data elements currently available thru county departments and they have assigned representatives from the O&E Task force to attend each of the other task forces to help support the development of measurable indicators for each of the action plans.

Daniel Milei from Santa Barbara County IT spoke about a pilot database project that the Meth Prevention Network may possibly be part of. The project includes developing a database that will allow viewing and merging of different departmental information from which the MPN can obtain concrete data. Kathy Gallagher shared that the “data repository” will allow us to monitor the results of this project and could be built to include other organizations (i.e. law enforcement) as well as all substance abuse issues allow us to address broader issues.

6. Report of the Safe Neighborhoods Task Force:

Ken Bambrick reported that they have met twice and are still recruiting members. He reported that the task force determined that most of their original strategies were being implemented through other organizations. He asked the Leadership Council to allow the task force to move on to other strategies.

Ken Bambrick motioned to suspend 3 of the four current strategies, including: 1. Establish a grant coordinator to pursue and manage grants; 2. Continue the efforts of the Jail Overcrowding Task Force to identify and implement alternatives to jail; and 3. Pursue the State Prisoner Re-Entry program proposed for North County.

The motion was seconded by Nancy Gottlieb and carried unanimously.

Ken presented new/revised strategies for Council consideration:

1. Create interdisciplinary regional action teams based on a community policing structure that include agencies such as DSS, law, fire, building and zoning, community groups to provide sweeps in local parks and in truancy and probation compliances cases
2. Conduct a series of community meetings to disseminate information and build strategic partnership with communities
3. Partner with local business and media to disseminate information by conducting compliance checks and educating selected businesses including pharmacies, feed stores and beauty supply business and motels
4. Expand Drug Endangered Children (DEC) education to include all mandated reporters such as CWS, police, probation, teachers and others.

Ken made a motion to revise the Safe Neighborhoods strategies to those presented (above). Susan made a second with friendly amendments by herself and Nancy Gottlieb. The amendment included:

Strategy #3-Include ranchers and farmers, agricultural community

Strategy #4-Include hospital/medical/healthcare professionals

Strategy #3 and #4-“and others” to be determined by the TF and to collaborate with Educated Communities and Professionals TF

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Strategy Overview:

This agenda item was postponed.

8. Funding:

Thom Allena opened a discussion regarding funding. Kathy Gallagher explained that the county was preparing for budget reductions given the current economic situation. She said that it is imperative to have strategies that reflect realistic numbers that government and private/nonprofits can fund. She suggested the creation of a Funding or Finance Task Force to decide if we want to hire a grant coordinator and pursue other funding.

Georgina Duran-Conn motioned to create a Finance Task Force to address the financial needs of the strategies previously discussed. Nancy Gottlieb seconded and, motion passed unanimously.

B. Hot Off the Press – New Things Learned:

1. Price of Meth - Ken Bambrick stated that a little over a pound of meth goes for about \$15,000-\$17,000; the same amount in Hawaii is going for about \$45,000. A kilo of cocaine is going for about the same price. Meth is still the drug of choice here in Santa Barbara. A reason for the price increase is the crack down of labs from law enforcement. Most labs are in central valley or in Mexico, Tijuana mainly. Ken shared that law enforcement is starting to see more cocaine on the street, possibly due to the increase in the price of meth.
2. Strawberry Flavored Meth - Nancy Vasquez informed the Council of strawberry flavored meth found locally here in the schools. Ken adds the flavored meth is a targeting ploy to entice the younger kinds.
3. Media Campaign - Nancy Gottlieb informed the Council of the media campaign that the office of Drug Control Policy is conducting in Santa Barbara County. Full page ads are running in the Santa Barbara Independent and the Santa Maria Sun as well as radio and tv ads. The ads have a call in number that directs them to Access or 211 in our county. Eight states were selected, one being California, and three metropolitan areas: Bakersfield, Redding and Santa Barbara. It is a 6 month campaign, with no cost to our county. Free media resources are available on their website at methresources.gov.

C. Informational Items:

1. National Meth Awareness - Teresa Menchaca informed the Council that November is National Meth Awareness month. She shared that SMV Fighting Back will conduct parent support groups in English and Spanish as well as a candle light vigil at the Santa Maria Hall to provide awareness. Classes are also being held at their United Way to inform about meth and other drugs as well as teen violence related to drug abuse. She invited the other coalitions to organize a vigil or activity to promote awareness and the fight towards alcohol and drug abuse.

V. Next Steps & Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.