

METH TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES

June 11, 2009

Present: C. Aspergren, A. Bennett, L. Burgess, C. Dillion, L. Donahue, L. Pallun, P. Stark, J. Weaver, S. White

- Reviewed presentation evaluations from the AZ Emergency Medical Systems Conference held on May 29th in Mesa, AZ. Chief Weaver stated he was unable to attend but Dr. Walker presented. There were 225 registered attendees: EMTs, Paramedics, Fire Fighters, Flight Crews, and ER nurses in attendance. J. Weaver showed the manual from the conference with the meth section and Dr. Bennett brought the evaluations for those present to review which were very positive. Chief Weaver commented that this was to be expected as Dr. Walker always does a great job. The WMTF committee did note with some surprise that the Navajo nation medical person stated they had never treated a patient for meth use. The facilitator had to stop the Q&A session in order to keep the conference on schedule.
- The next presentation is scheduled for June 20th at Faith Bible Church for a Comprehensive Drug Lecture for their parishioners.
- Dr. Bennett presented the study she had completed for her doctorate degree on the Community Health Culture of the Willcox area. Her goal was to identify local health culture, assess local theme and community capacity, and compare this to nationwide rural nursing theories. Her most interesting finds came in identifying the Health culture for which she interviewed two groups. Her two groups consisted of members whom lived locally and used local health care services and the second that lived locally but went outside the local community for health services. The theme that emerged for defining one's health status in this community (like other rural/agricultural communities) is tied to functionality thus if you are able to work you deem yourself healthy. The majority of those interviewed expressed the feeling that health care starts at the individual level and that they were individually responsible for their own care, but that collectively we are all responsible for community health. A true sense of community and volunteerism was identified. While all groups interviewed stated that they had a responsibility to educate the community about health issues, only the Meth Task Force was identified, by the groups surveyed, as being actively involved in that mission. Those surveyed also felt that the WMTF was providing sufficiently for the community needs. Dr. Bennett's overall finding was that Willcox is capable of addressing its own health care needs and that the national findings on these issues hold true in our community.
- No new treatment options to discuss although there is a potential grant for Cochise County which would increase Meth Treatment availability for our area. Chief Weaver stated that he will be following up on this possibility and should have more to report at next month's meeting.
- Cochise County Coalition (CCSAC) awarded the WMTF \$1200 for the Sports Teams Signs and WASA received a \$1200 award for the Dump the Drugs Day.

- Balance sheet is reviewed by those present with a balance showing of \$1292.26. Little League & Softball signs have been paid which will be reimbursed by the CCSAC grant. Members agreed that balance sheet report for meetings can just show current year to prevent it from becoming too lengthy and full disclosure will be maintained at WASA office for anyone interested to check at any time.
- In exchange for the grant money, the CCSAC has requested their logo to be on the signs. Jim Sober's printer has yet to be fixed. He has agreed to place both the WMTF and CCSAC logo on the signs when the printer is fixed. He did fix the typo on the signs. WMTF will proceed with Football sign when the Quarterback Club is ready.
- Gratitude Letters for Poster Contest Prize Donations have been sent. D. Walker has the files of the posters and are thus available for any use. D. Walker will post the winning posters on the website. Group discussed that we had thought these would be used in the newspaper and Tag magazine for future ads. L. Burgess & L. Donahue suggested that Valley Telephone had the capability of enlarging them to any size we wanted for posters and would most likely do that as a public service.
- S. White provides WASA report and they continue to remain busy. Sally reported on the huge summer program that WASA is doing. WASA has 4 excellent youth employees helping the regular staff but could easily use 4 more if there was more funding. Dump the Drug Day planning continues to move forward. S. White and L. Donahue report they are waiting for Vanessa Estes to receive DEA approval for disposal plans. The tentative date is July 23rd at the Sulphur Springs Clinic, from 4-7 PM, in conjunction with their Health Fair.
- L. Pallun reports the Food Bank continues to do well and continues with their community service. C. Aspergren reported that all invoices for grants have been submitted to the County for payment. She also asked that WMTF activities be reported to Arturo at Cochise County MTF. Chief Weaver agreed to follow-up with past activities. Sally suggested that in the future we add Arturo to our mailing list and send him WMTF minutes. L. Pallun stated that she has been talking with Dr. Walker regarding the lack of support for families of addicted people as the nearest AL-ANON is in Safford. She would also like to see an ACOA started here. LaDonna agreed that there was a need for more support services but stressed that the MTF needs to stay focused. Chief Weaver agreed that while we would love to see more options for families in all the prevention areas, the focus of this committee is methamphetamines, which is where our primary efforts need to remain.
- Next meeting will be July 9th at 12 noon.