

Navajo County Drug Project

Navajo County Coalition Against Drug Abuse



A Coalition of Concerned Navajo County Residents Joined Together to:

- EDUCATE the Community on the substance abuse crisis
 - REHABILITATE those who have fallen into the addiction
 - ENFORCE laws pertaining to the spread of substance abuse in our communities
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Steering Committee Meeting Minutes July 9, 2014

1. In Attendance: Gil Alvidrez, Debe Campbell, Aaron Grigg, Linda Morrow, Mary Jeanne Munroe, Michelle Pansulla, Alicia Phillips, Robert Pico
2. Program Report
 - a. DFC Update: Cooperating with the federal offices on budget revisions to move the fiscal agent responsibilities to Friends of the Coalition. The final aspects should be completed for moving forward in August.
 - b. Community youth education coalition & Yellow Jacket Youth Center update: a youth agencies alliance is being created to regenerate operation of the youth center. Once an agreement has been reached with the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, more details will be forthcoming
 - c. Refer to Event log for May-June (attached)
 - d. JLA Brief recap—Gil Alvidrez: In its 8th year, the academy had 3 units (BRUSD, SLUSD, Whiteriver) and about 75 completing students. Each satellite is unique to the individual community it serves. The program provides preventative tools, behavioral strategies, community participation, self-esteem and awareness, goal setting, etc. Significant positive parent feedback. Moving to focus on 4th and 5th graders for greatest impact with returning 6th graders as mentors.

Alicia Phillips raised the question of how many students participate for 3 years, to which Alvidrez noted that students are only invited back for a second year as mentors. Asked why we don't have the program for older kids, Linda Morrow commented that the developing youth alliance will be able to offer ongoing programming for post JLA with financial buy-in from parents. MJ Munroe noted evidence that older kids aren't that easily impacted as are 4th & 5th graders. Previous experience in year 1 with juvenile probationers grades 6-10 proved that their habits were already ingrained and not as easily influenced as younger youth.

Munroe said there is adequate room for an older youth program with structures and it might be community based. Morrow added that the 4-H might be able to train leaders from JLA in its mentoring program.

Munroe also noted that she has submitted a state nomination for recognition of JLA as an out of school program. Also, Heber-Overgaard, Joseph City and Holbrook have expressed interest in JLA but want "us" to deliver a "canned" program. Munroe and Morrow emphasized that this is a grassroots community program that must be homegrown. Aaron Griggs suggests McNary as a new JLA unit and passed along contacts Robin McKuen and Brad Beam from Apache Behavioral Health.

3. Upcoming events: July 23 mini-golf tournament, shoe fund raiser through Oct 30. Due to computer crash, revised fliers for both will be posted on our website and sent to steering committee this weekend.

4. *Approve Revision/simplification of mission & vision: suggested to send to Steve Campbell for final wordsmithing.*
 - a. **Vision:** Community alliance working toward a healthy, substance free environment for youth.
 - b. **Mission:** Engage the community to respond to substance abuse issues by implementing strategies that transform community attitudes, perceptions and policies.
5. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Hospital Report—Aaron Griggs: quiet 4th of July weekend. Ongoing ED overdoses, However the majority are adults. Usual spike in teen summer ODs and drug problems has not been evident this year. Substance exposed newborns have not occurred in the past month. For 2 month straight there were swamped with meth babies from the rez and the mountain. There are more marijuana exposed newborns but that is not as dangerous as meth.
6. Michelle Pansulla, First Things First: Needs & Assets report has been completed and will be presented at a future coalition meeting. FTF open house Aug 8, Invitation attached.
7. Alicia Phillips: BRUSD will host

Coalition meeting schedule 2014—Location: Lakeside Fire Department

- August 13, 9:30 am start
- September 17, 10:30 start
- October TBA
- November 12 —Annual Planning

***Mission:** To mobilize a diverse community representation to respond to substance abuse problems unique to our different communities; to develop and implement a community focused plan that identifies and implements strategies to affect community beliefs, attitudes, perceptions and practices around substance abuse issues.*

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