

TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL

December 3, 2008 9:00 AM

Medford Area School District Office

Members Present: David R. Clements, Hope Hospice; Karen Jacobson & Craig Alwin, Taylor County Human Services Department; Jean Nuernberger, Taylor County Circuit Court; Tammy Dahl & Nicole Sidenbender, ICAA Head Start; LeeAnn Raab, Taylor County Victim/Witness; Theresa Valenti & Sharon Ludwig, Stepping Stones; George Southworth & Mary K. Bix, Taylor County Board of Supervisors; Patty Krug, Taylor County Health Department; Rachel Emery, Marshfield Clinic Americorps; Peggy Nordgren, UW-Extension; Joseph Greget, Medford Area Public Schools.

Call To Order: Chair Peggy Nordgren called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Introductions & Announcements: Hope Hospice will be moving into a new building on Highway 64 near the intersection with Gibson Street. LeeAnn Raab and Theresa Valenti have recently been elected to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Head Start now has 34 students with several children on the waiting list. The Taylor County Board recently passed an ordinance prohibiting smoking within 25' of any entrance to any County building. Michelle Grimm is the new 4H agent with UW-Extension.

Review Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the September 24, 2008 meeting were approved by acclamation.

Committee Report: Safe & Stable Families: The Safe & Stable Families sub-committee oversees programs in family support (prevention), family preservation, and family reunification. Title IV-E funds have been cut dramatically for the upcoming year, and funding will cover only programs already running. Title IV-E funds will be totally eliminated in 2010. Nordgren handed out material on all the programs overseen by the Safe & Stable Families sub-committee.

Committee Report: Early Childhood: Greget reported that the Early Childhood sub-committee met six times in 2008. He then handed out a synopsis of the sub-committee's agencies, training, updates, and accomplishments for the year.

Committee Report: ATOD & Tobacco Coalition: Patty Krug reported that a flyer is going out in The Shopper requesting input from the public regarding smoke-free environments at either the state or county level. For 2009, the Tobacco Coalition has provided \$20,000 toward the achievement of tobacco smoking ban in public. The First Breath program will be folded into the Smokers' Quit Line as of January 1, 2009. The first meeting for 2009 of the ATOD sub-committee will be January 12.

Committee Report: Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence: This sub-committee does not actually exist. See the section "Discussion about Committee Structure" below.

Update on Homeless Issue: Indianhead Community Action Agency is supposedly working on the shelter concept at this time. The initial idea would be to work on prevention; a physical shelter would be a last resort. Most sheltering is now done through local motels. If nothing happens by March or April, the Salvation Army is ready to begin work on the project.

Continuation of Directory: There are only about 200-300 copies of the Directory left. Discussion was held on whether to produce another directory in view of the 211 program introduction. Nordgren will check on costs. It was felt that a two-year cycle for the directory would be best and that the dates should be on the front of the directory. If it is

decided to do a new directory, Nordgren, Valenti, Bix, and Schreiber will work on it. The idea of publishing a directory in Spanish was also raised.

Discussion about Committee Structure: No actual Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence sub-committee currently exists. In the future, no reports concerning this topic will be made as part of the sub-committee reports. Instead announcements will be made in the same manner as other entities involved in the Prevention Council.

Next Year's Discussion Topics/Upcoming Issues: Patty Krug of the Taylor County Health Department will make a presentation on the Community Health Plan at January's Prevention Council meeting. Other concerns for 2009 will involve how to keep the public informed of the Council's activities and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle during an economic downturn.

Any Other Business: Nordgren distributed an organizational chart for the Prevention Council. Statistics on W-2, Foodshare, Medicaid (CARES) and Medicaid (EDS) caseloads was also distributed.

Confirm Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Taylor County Prevention Council will be Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL

September 24, 2008 - 9:00 AM

Medford Area Public School District Office

Members Present: LuAnn Raab, Victim-Witness Coordinator with the District Attorney's Office; Susan Courtney, Memorial Health Center; Linda Heinkel, Parent Resource Center; Monelle Johnson, Restorative Justice; Kathy Alexander, Rib Lake Schools; Tammy Dahl, Head Start; Stacey Oelrich, United Way's 2-1-1; Shannon Kraucyk, Probation & Parole; Karen Jacobson, Taylor County Human Services ATOD; Steven W. Bowers & Harlan Schwartz, Taylor County Sheriff's Office; Joseph A. Greget, Medford Area Public Schools; Kelly Jensen, Sand Box; David R. Clements, Hope Hospice; Rachel Emery, Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps; Peggy Nordgren, UW-EX; Theresa Valenti, Stepping Stones, Inc.; Dawn Randle, Gilman High School; Mary K. Bix, Taylor County Board of Supervisors.

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Peggy Nordgren called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce himself or herself and make any pertinent announcements. Theresa Valenti reported that Stepping Stones, Inc. is having its 30th anniversary. Mary Bix reported that Taylor County passed an ordinance banning tobacco use within 25 feet of any entrance to Taylor County buildings. Parent Resource Center has an independent living class for older foster kids. Head Start has 34 children enrolled with seven on the waiting list. Developmental screening through the Birth-to-3 program is now being done at Sand Box.

Presentation: Alcohol & Other Drug Issues in Taylor County by Detectives Harlan Schwartz & Steven W. Bowers: Detective Schwartz reported that the Department is not catching as many juveniles drinking because the new tactic is for smaller groups to drink at private residences. They then spend the night, so there are no problems with drunken conduct to draw the attention of law enforcement. Drugs in Taylor County are generally following a downward trend. Tobacco use is also generally down, but this year is up a bit. Truancy is also down with most incidences being of a one-time nature. Marijuana is the drug of choice in Taylor County, although the drugs used are imported from outside the county. Our overall statistics on drug usage may be lower because this a rural county. Detective Bowers stated that all meth-related drug usage in the county involves adults, not youths. He also stated that adult statistics are remaining level. Schwartz stated that the major problem with youth and drugs appears to be when they take their parents' prescription drugs. He feels the Department is catching only a small proportion of the actual drug incidents in county.

Review of Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Committee Reports: Safe & Stable Families: There have been significant funding cuts, especially from the federal government to Title IV-E programs. The Committee is working on how to handle these cuts.

Early Childhood: Greget reported that the Early Childhood Committee recently met, and anyone wishing to get the minutes should contact him. There are now 13 organizations represented on this committee.

Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence: Valenti reported that there is a definite increase in domestic violent and sexual attacks lately. She feels the situation is exacerbated by alcohol. There also appears to be a correlation between domestic violence and economic status.

ATOD Committee: Rachel Emery shared some plans for re-energizing this committee. Suggesting community survey on alcohol and drug issues, sharing information with newsletters, online meetings or list servs. Anyone who is interested in this committee

dealing with ATOD community issues with adults and youth, contact Rachel Emery at the UW-Extension Office, 748-3327.

Next meeting will be after Thanksgiving on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. Committees will be giving end of year reports and discuss emerging issues. Bring ideas for issues you want more information on at next year's meetings.

TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL

July 23, 2008

Medford Area Public School District Office

Members Present: Sally Toepfer and Karen Jacobson, Taylor County Human Services; Sharon Ludwig and Theresa Valenti, Stepping Stones, Inc.; Joseph Greget, Medford School District; Bethany O'Day and Randy Oaklief, Northcentral Technical College; Linda Heinkel; Parent Resource Center; George Southworth, Taylor County Board of Supervisors and Medford Board of Education; JoAnn Slaga, CEP, Inc.; Peggy Nordgren, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Toepfer called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Introductions

Presentations on Helping Unemployed/Dislocated Workers in Taylor County: Slaga reported good collaboration among agencies to serve consumers at the Job Center. Medford's Job Center has several services under one roof; Job Service and JobNet, CEP, NTC, DVR. Proposed changes are delayed, so Job Center will remain as is for now. Oaklief presented overview of Northcentral Technical College (NTC) and upcoming changes, including weekend classes. Financial aid available for classes at NTC. O'Day presented PowerPoint regarding learning centers designed for students who are looking for GED, etc.

Review Minutes of Last Meeting: No minutes available

Report on the Homeless Issue: Nordgren reported for Brian Michael that Indianhead Community Action Agency and their new director have an interest in leading project for homeless shelter in Medford with Salvation Army.

Committee Reports

Safe & Stable Families: Nordgren reported 28% cut in funding through IV-E. New caseworker for Big Brothers/Big Sisters is Tammy Holman – Price County Office. Five Bigs available.

Early Childhood: Greget reported early learning training with good attendance. The next meeting of the Early Childhood Committee is scheduled for September 12 at 1:00 p.m. He distributed new membership list.

ATOD: Jacobson reported the ATOD Committee will meet in September. Nordgren has asked the Sheriff's Department to present on county alcohol and drug issues at the September Prevention Council meeting.

Coordinated Community Responses to Domestic Violence: Valenti reported on shelter tightening criteria for admission. Willing to do trainings on healthy relationships/boundaries. Economy situation bringing in many calls for assistance including cash.

Discussion followed.

Other Business: none

Confirm Next Meeting: September 24, 2008 at 9:00 am

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10.30 am.

TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL

March 26, 2008

Medford Area Public School District Office

Members Present: Linda Heinkel, Parent Resource Center; George Southworth and Mary K. Bix, Taylor County Board of Supervisors; Kathleen Alexander, Rib Lake Schools; Kim Christofoli, Indianhead Community Action Agency; Tom Bremer, Salvation Army; Randy Oaklief, Northcentral Technical College; Michele Armbrust, Taylor County Health Department; Jean Nuernberger, Taylor County Circuit Court; Joseph Greget, Medford School District; Dan Renzoni, University of Wisconsin-Extension 4H Programs; Sally Toepfer, Taylor County Human Services; LeeAnn Raab, Taylor County Victim/Witness Coordinator; Sharon Ludwig, Stepping Stones, Inc.; Tammy Dahl, Taylor County Head Start; Peggy Nordgren, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Call To Order: Chair Nordgren called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

Review Minutes of Last Meeting: No corrections were proposed.

Committee Reports

Safe & Stable Families: Nordgren reported that at the Safe & Stable Families January meeting funding cuts were discussed. The budget has been between \$80,000-100,000, but it will probably be cut by at least a quarter. Less and less money has been going to prevention programs but the proportion is still more than half. A lot more money is now going to intervention and reunification in cases of severe intervention. Prevention programs include: the Family Visitor Program and Parent Education, both of which are run through the Parent Resource Center; Mentoring, such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters; after school programs, and parenting newsletters. Funds for family supervised visiting are being re-allocated more and more to intensive in-home interventions.

Early Childhood: Greget reported that at the March 18, 2008 meeting, BadgerCare Plus was discussed. Other topics were on class size in the local schools, the birth-to-3 program, and the summer program at Sand Box. There is a Wisconsin Model Early Learning Seminar which will be presented by CESA 10 June 10-11. The next meeting of the Early Childhood Committee is scheduled for June 6.

ATOD: Dan Renzoni was present to report on ATOD activities. Deb Berends is working on the WINS program. She and the Americorps person are also working in Rib Lake, Stetsonville, and Gilman with the "Kick Butts" program. The after-school 4H program has over 140 kids involved; these students are all in grades 1-4. The Northwoods Coalition is being rebuilt since there are a lot of grant funds to be accessed through this organization. Paula Dubiak is still working with the pig lung demonstrations.

Coordinated Community Responses to Domestic Violence: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Stepping Stones, Inc. is selling pink ribbons at barber shops and beauty salons to support its programs. Stepping Stones also feels that communication is improving greatly among their office, the sheriff's department and the local medical facilities.

Other Business: Head Start has 31 students and is now accepting applications for fall. The Parent Resource Center has a teen pregnancy program entitled "Parenting For Teens". There seem to be a lot of layoffs occurring in the area; some of these are voluntary and some are not. Even Marathon Cheese is encouraging employees to take Fridays off. The Weyerhaeuser plant in Dorchester is expected to close completely within the next year. The Food Pantry is busier and needs more contributions of money and goods. Child Development Days will be finished for Gilman, Medford, and Rib Lake by the end of the first week of April. A discussion on homeless shelter startup was held after the regular

Prevention Council meeting. Members of the Prevention Council are encouraged to contact Nordgren with ideas for future meeting presentations.

Confirm Next Meeting: May 28, 2008 at 9 AM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 AM.

TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL

January 23, 2008

Medford Area Public School District Office

Members Present: Dave Hemke, Karen Jacobson, Sally Toepfer, Craig Alwin, Taylor County Human Services Department; Jean Nuernberger, Circuit Court; Sheila Nice, Taylor County Housing Authority; Diane Niggemann, Taylor County Commission On Aging; Patty Krug, Taylor County Health Department; LeeAnn Raab, Taylor County Victim/Witness Coordinator; Mary K. Bix, Taylor County Board of Supervisors; Theresa Valenti & Sharon Ludwig, Stepping Stones, Inc.; Sue Courtney, Memorial Health Center; Peggy Nordgren, University of Wisconsin - Extension; Brian K. Michael, United Pentecostal Church; Rev. Dennis Grovier, United Methodist Church; Kim Christofoli, Indianhead Community Action Agency; Kelly Jensen, Sand Box; Randy Oaklief, Northcentral Technical College; Joseph Greget, Medford Area Public Schools; Bonnie Eckstrom, Parent Resource Center; Tom Bremer, Salvation Army.

Call To Order: Chair Nordgren called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Introductions & Announcements: Indianhead Community Action Agency is looking for a service organization to run the Christmas gift program. Rev. Dennis Grovier distributed copies of the "Beds for Christ" brochure. This is a program designed to provide beds for the neediest members of our community. Members of the Prevention Council are encouraged to provide Nordgren with email addresses. It is much less expensive to email meeting notices and announcements rather than using the regular mail. Nordgren's email address is: peggy.nordgren@ces.uwex.edu.

Review Minutes of Last Meeting: There were no changes.

Panel: Homelessness in Taylor County: Kim Christofoli of Indianhead Community Action Agency, Rev. Brian Michael and Tom Bremer of the Salvation Army, and Sheila Nice of the Taylor County Housing Authority gave the presentation on homelessness. Taylor County does not have adequate mechanisms in place to deal with homelessness, so homeless people must be sent to other counties such as Eau Claire and Marathon. The largest single group of homeless is single women ages 18-24 with one child. To really help homeless people, they should stay in a shelter at least 90 days. This will provide them with various counseling opportunities, as well as access to state and federal programs. One of the biggest problems concerns recently released jail inmates who have nowhere to go when they get out of jail. Tenant-Based Rent Assistance is a state program that provides first and last month's rent so that people can get into rental housing. In 2006-2007 the Salvation Army provided 37 motel nights; in 2005-2006 this number was 15. The Hickory program provides the first month's rent and security deposits for housing and utilities; however, the recipient must be employed. This eliminates many people from the program, and these funds must eventually be paid back so that other individuals can use them. For the short term, Taylor County has the General Relief program, FEMA funds, and the Salvation Army. Causes of short-term homelessness include job loss and recent release from an institution. Mental illness and domestic violence also play a role. In Taylor County there appears to be a ratio of about 50/50 of transient homeless to those with ties in the community. The State of Wisconsin has a number of programs to deal with the homeless problem, among them a database called ServicePoint. There are grants for prevention, to offset shelter costs, and to support housing costs and provide case managers. All states are required to have a 10-year plan to end homelessness. These plans rely heavily on counties and constitute another unfunded manage for the counties.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the Taylor County Prevention County is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 9 AM. It will be at the Medford Area Public School District Office.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.