

## **TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Wednesday, November 30, 2011 - 9:00 A.M.  
Medford Area Public School District Office

**Members Present:** Rita Clark, Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource Center; Vi Marie Nelson, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Rachael Loucks, Parent Resource Center; Amy Merrill, Victim Witness Coordinator; Patty Krug, Taylor County Health Department; Jen Meyer, Taylor County Human Services Department; Erin Meyer, Black River Industries; Kathy Danen, Northwest Comprehensive Employment Program; Sue Courtney, Memorial Health Center; Kris Porter, Stepping Stones; Kelly Schultz, Counseling Connection; Joseph Greget, Medford Area Public School District; Peggy Nordgren, University of Wisconsin - Extension; Kelly Jensen, Sand Box; Mary Bix, Aging & Disability Resource Center.

**Call To Order:** Chair Nordgren called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.

**Review Minutes of the September 28, 2011 Meeting:** The minutes of the September 28, 2011 meeting were approved by acclamation.

**Presentation: "Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results" - Patty Krug:** This survey was done in middle and high schools in Taylor County. In the middle schools, a total of 418 students participated. About 40% stated they had been in a physical fight, had been bullied, had been the victim of a verbal slur because of their appearance, and felt bullying was a problem in their school.

Approximately 22% stated they felt so sad or hopeless for two weeks or more that they abstained from a normal life activity; between 2.5-3.5% stated they had attempted suicide.

A small percentage of the middle school students stated they had smoked within the past thirty days; 5% of eighth graders stated they had had five or more drinks at one time within the past thirty days.

There was very limited use or misuse of marijuana, inhalants, prescription drugs, or over-the-counter drugs. However, 25% of the seventh graders and 14% of the eighth graders felt drug use was a problem in their school.

A limited number of students used unhealthy methods to lose weight or keep weight off. Around 10% stated that there were times within the past thirty days when they went hungry because there was not enough food in their homes.

The great majority of the students felt their parents loved them, that they belonged in school, and that they had at least one teacher whom they could go to with problems. Most of the students participated in some form of extracurricular activity.

A total of 810 high school students participated. Less than 20% felt violence was a problem at their schools, although the younger students felt more threatened. Some students carried weapons with them to school for safety, but this number was relatively low. A relatively small percentage stated they felt they had been forced either verbally or physically to participate in sexual activity. The number of students who felt that bullying was a problem in their school decreased dramatically as the students progressed through school.

Nearly 20% of sophomores felt so sad they curtailed their normal activities, but this percentage decreased to around 10% by their senior year. The percentage of students attempting suicide went up to 6.2 during the junior year but decreased to 3.4 in the senior year.

As the students got older, their use of tobacco increased, and those students who did smoke tried to quit in ever-increasing numbers as they progressed through high school.

Over 60% of all high school students had at least one drink in their lives, and over half of all seniors had a drink within the past thirty days. Over 45% of seniors had indulged in binge drinking within the past thirty days; nearly that number admitted to being drunk one or more times in the same timeframe. Over 20% of the seniors admitted to driving after drinking.

Marijuana was used by less than 20% of the students, and use of other drugs was very limited. Some students did say that drugs were offered for sale on their campus, and a third felt that drugs were a problem at their school.

The trend of using unhealthy methods to lose or maintain weight continued through high school. Again about 10% experienced shortages of food in their homes.

Most of the students felt their families and teachers were supportive and that they had someone to go to if they needed advice.

It is anticipated that this study will be repeated in the future to track trends. Taylor County has been awarded a grant to form an AODA coalition. The County will also try for a drug-free communities grant in the near future. Nordgren will email executive summaries of both research projects to Prevention Council members.

**Follow Up of Suicide Prevention Training:** Chair Nordgren asked the members to submit their evaluations of the Suicide Prevention Training that was provided at the September meeting. She will resend the new Mental Health providers fact sheet developed as a result of the training.

**Round Table Announcements:** Bix reported that the Aging & Disability Resource Center Board is meeting for the first time today, and plans to start the satellite office in Medford are set for April or May.

Jensen stated that Young Star, a rating system for child care agencies, will be done at Sand Box probably by the end of the year. From October through April, parents working on job-search activities will be eligible for up to eight hours of free day care per month.

Clark reported that Abiding Care is working collaboratively with the Ladysmith facility to share an ultrasound unit for up to two years. Anyone interested in an email version of their newsletter should contact Rita.

Nelson announced that Big Brothers/Big Sisters has fourteen matches in the Medford and Rib Lake area. They are working on their Polar Plunge fundraiser.

Loucks is working on getting the Family Visitor Program re-instated; they are doing fundraising and looking for more donations.

Merrill is new to the victim witness program. Welcome!

Krug stated the Health Department is dealing with whooping cough outbreak. Kids and adults need boosters.

J. Meyer reported the Mental Health unit at Human Services has a new case manager.

E. Meyer reported BRI has a new bus.

Danen reported nothing new at job center except the higher volume of people using the services.

Memorial Health Center has a new ob/gyn provider and a new mental health provider. Gilman clinic is providing programs for older adults in Hannibal once a month.

Porter reported Stepping Stones had a banner year: 1,100 nights of shelter in 2011, doubled in 2011.

Schultz reported referring many clients to smoking cessation.

Nordgren distributed the class schedule for Managing Your Money classes in 2012, flyer on Powerful Tools for Caregivers class starting in January and flyer on a Money Tips for Seniors presentation in January for older adults.

Greget reported on the new Literacy Council. Is sponsoring an adult literacy class in January. NTC and council are writing for rural literacy grant to help start remedial classes and literacy classes.

Child Find will be changed to March 8. Early Childhood Committee will be on December 2. Autism speaker on December 8 in the media room at MAES.

**Confirm Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting of the Taylor County Prevention Council will be Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. It will be held at the same location.

**Adjournment:** 10:35 am

## **TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 - 9:00 A.M.  
Medford Area Public School Office

**Members Present:** Sharon Ludwig, Stepping Stones; LeeAnn Raab, Victim/Witness Coordinator; Mary Kauer, Good Shepherd Parish - Rib Lake; Monelle Johnson, Restorative Justice Programs; Kelly Schultz, Counseling Connection; Joseph Greget, Medford School District; Mary Bix, Commission on Aging; Nicky Kollmansberger, Memorial Health Center; Joseph Dietrich, St. Andrew/St. Peter Lutheran Church; Peggy Nordgren, UW-Extension; Jackie Strick, Medford Middle School; Jill Koenig, Medford School District; LouAnn Stanton, Terry Lybert, and Jina Lange, Medford High School; Cindy Gibson, Medford Alternative High School; Bob Whetstone, United Way; Vi Marie Nelson, Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

**Review of Minutes of Last Meeting (July 27, 2011):** There were no corrections to the minutes of the July 27, 2011 meeting.

**Introductions:** The members in attendance all introduced themselves.

**Presentation: QPR Training: Suicide Prevention:** Jen Meyer of the Taylor County Human Services Department presented the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) program for suicide prevention. A short video and a Power Point Presentation were shown. During the meeting, it was emphasized that 90% of people committing suicide were suffering from clinical depression and that having a family member commit suicide increases your likelihood of doing the same by 50%. It was decided that a one-page list of suicide prevention telephone numbers and other contact information would be developed by the Prevention Council. Some of this information is already available in the Taylor County Directory of Services, but there is new information.

**Round Table Announcements:** Due to time constraints, no announcements were made at this meeting.

**Confirm Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting of the Taylor County Prevention Council will be Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. at the usual location.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 A.M.

**Handouts:** "Question, Persuade, Refer" booklet; Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction bulletins: "Required Notice of Youth Suicide Prevention Resources" and "Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Rules Related to School-Based Suicide Prevention".

## **TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Wednesday, July 27, 2011 - 9:00 A.M.

Medford Area Public School District Office

**Members Present:** Peggy Nordgren, UW-Extension; Vi Marie Nelson, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Teri Rostberg, Hope Hospice; Bob Whetstone, United Way; Amber Fallos, Taylor County Human Service Department; LeeAnn Raab, Victim/Witness Coordinator; Jean Nuernberger, Taylor County Circuit Court; Rita Clark, Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource Center; Kathy Danen, CEP, Inc.; Sue Courtney, Memorial Health Center; Mary Bix, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Ad Hoc Committee.

**Call To Order:** Chair Nordgren called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

**Review Minutes of Last Meeting:** There were no corrections to the minutes of the last meeting.

**Introductions, Announcements & Round Table Discussion - What are the needs of families in Taylor County? What support can we no longer provide?** Sue Courtney - Memorial Health Center. The facility is seeing more people going to the Emergency Department and Urgent Care. They are moving to a rural health center status. The Pre-Natal Coordination program is now at the Hospital, having been transferred from Taylor County, although Pat Schilling is still operating the program. Kathy Danen - CEP, Inc. They now have waiting lists because of budget issues. They have added another county and now include Taylor, Price, and Rusk. Danen is working on grant funding. Unemployment in Taylor County is at 9.3%. Rita Clark - Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource center. ACPRC is having a fundraiser at Arby's on August 17. They are emphasizing education for their clients by having an "Earn While You Learn" class and some parenting classes. They would like to get their programs into the schools.

Jean Nuernberger - Taylor County Circuit Court. The Circuit Court is facing a 2% cut in funding from the County for 2012, but S.M.I.L.E. and the other programs they offer individuals should remain intact. They are seeing many, many pro se divorces; and that is probably the result of the current economy. She feels the new Stepping Stone-affiliated attorney is an excellent resource since most people involved in domestic abuse cases do not have ready funds to use for court proceedings. LeeAnn Raab - Victim/Witness Coordinator. She also is facing the 2% cut by the County, but this should have no major impact on her office. They have just submitted an application for the Victims of Crime Act (V.O.C.A.) grant which they have received for the past 15 years. This grant allows them to access crime victims when the crime is first reported to authorities rather than waiting until it gets to the District Attorney's office. She hopes the state funding will remain the same but knows it will not increase.

Amber Fallos - Taylor County Human Services Department. Her department is facing a 10% cut from the State of Wisconsin in addition to the 2% from Taylor County. The Economic Support Unit (ESU) alone is facing a 33% cut. The State wants the all the ESUs in the state to be regionalized by October 1, 2011. Taylor County is having a hard time finding a compatible consortium to join. The department is finding that the new transportation program run by LogistiCare is getting clients to their medical appointments but not necessarily getting them back home afterwards. Bob Whetstone - United Way. The allocation committee is still working on who gets what monies, but that will be done by early August. Their fundraising kick-off is scheduled for September 23 at The Veranda.

Teri Rostberg - Hope Hospice. They receive 98% of their funding from Medicare, but the amount to be received for Hospice care in nursing homes will be cut. They currently have their highest census ever, so their finances are good. They do have to travel farther to get to their clients - e.g., Ladysmith - and that is not cost effective. They just received a grant

to work with veterans and are doing training to facilitate this care. Vi Marie Nelson - Big Brothers/Big Sisters. They are busy fundraising. Price County BB/BS just hired a case manager with money they received from that county. Currently they have 14 matches with 12 youngsters still on the waiting list.

Mary Bix - ADRC. The final vote for Taylor County on the ADRC will be at the next County Board meeting on September 20. There are many issues to be decided. If Taylor County decides not to proceed at this time, the State of Wisconsin will do a Request For Proposals (RFP). Then the ADRC will probably go to a non-profit organization. This means Taylor County will have no say in how the ADRC is run. Peggy Nordgren - UW-Extension. With all the talk of budget cuts, they are not certain which programs they currently run can be continued, especially in the teaching areas. She plans to continue teaching her finance classes since it appears that more people need assistance in that area and the class sizes are rapidly increasing. People are now actually "self-selecting" attendance at these classes rather than being ordered to attend by the court system. Nordgren also reported that Patty Krug from the Taylor County Health Department has completed school surveys on alcohol and drug use and may be applying for grants.

**Confirm Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting of the Taylor County Prevention Council will be Wednesday, September 28, 2011 - 9:00 A.M. at the Medford Area Public School District Office.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 A.M.

**Handouts:** "Managing Your Money"; "From the Start, Consider the Finish", a playbill for a play on end-of-life planning; "Honoring Veteran Preferences in End-of-Life Care".

## **TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Wednesday, May 25, 2011 - 9:00 A.M.

Medford Area Public School District Office

**Members Present:** Jean Nuernberger, Taylor County Circuit Court; Rita Clark, Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource Center; LuAnn Raab, Taylor County Victim/Witness Coordinator; Sue Courtney, Memorial Health Center; Kelly Jensen, Sand Box; Amber Fallos, Taylor County Human Services; Rachael Loucks, Parent Resource Center; Vi Marie Nelson, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Kim Christofoli & Shanna Kestler, Indianhead Community Action Agency; Mary Bix; Peggy Nordgren, University of Wisconsin-Extension; Joe Greget, Medford Area School District; Bob Whetstone, United Way; Kris Porter, Stepping Stones; Kelly Schultz; Counseling Connection.

**Call To Order:** Chair Nordgren called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

**Review Minutes of Last Meeting (January):** The minutes were approved by acclamation.

**Introductions:** The attendees introduced themselves and their organizations.

**Update on Completed Prevention Project (Radio):** Nordgren has a CD with all of the recent radio interviews on prevention issues. She felt the NTC and the CEP presentations were excellent. Connections were definitely made between all the nine programs presented and prevention. We may do it again. Kudos to: Rachael Loucks of Parent Resource Center, Kim Christofoli of Indianhead Community Action Agency, Kelly Jensen of Sand Box, Randy Oaklief of Northcentral Technical College (NTC), Patty Krug of the Taylor County Health Department, Kathy Danen of Northwest Comprehensive Employment Program (NW-CEP), Peggy Nordgren of UW-EX, and Kris Porter of Stepping Stones.

**Brief Review of Research into Action article "What Coalitions Do":** Our mandate is to promote the education of and provide channels of communication and collaboration among our members. We have not directly affected policy change, although this may result from our efforts.

### **Committee Reports:**

Early Childhood (Greget): The next meeting is June 4. Child Development Days are finished for the year. The First Responder Training for Autism had 93 people representing 43 organizations. Outpatient mental health services have been approved for in-school delivery during the day. These services will be funded through Medicaid or private pay insurance and will encompass K-12. The Taylor County Literacy Council is now meeting on the last Monday of each month.

Continuum of Care Committee (Christofoli): The committee is close to finishing work on its bylaws. They will be filing for Articles of Incorporation soon. There is a house that is being foreclosed that may be suitable for the needs of the group. Next they need to organize a board and obtain money for the project. Because of the current state of funding, they may have to depend on the community for much of their operating funds. This project is now called "transitional housing", not "homeless shelter".

ATOD Committee (Krug, Nordgren): This group is still in transition. Patty Krug is taking over the organization and will be working on obtaining funding. The "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" program is getting a lot of good play in the community. Their mandate will also include prescription drugs.

Safe & Stable Families (Nordgren): This group has lost funding and only has the original \$40,000 available. They will be distributing this money soon and may only meet once a year depending on need for grant.

Family Visitor Program (Loucks): The Family Visitor Program will no longer be receiving money from the Taylor County (Safe and Stable Families). They will be applying for larger grants from other sources. Currently funding from the United Way will allow them to continue the program for about six months. Since they are the only comparable program in Taylor County, they are now working on a community fundraiser from June through August to raise \$25,000.

**Announcements:** Nuernberger reports that the number of divorces with minor children is remaining relatively stable with perhaps a little decline. She feels that the in-school mental health program will be a boon to the court system. Clark announced that the Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource Center will be having its open house on June 2 from 11 AM until 7 PM. They provide pregnancy testing and are targeting crisis pregnancies. They provide information so that their clients can make informed decisions. One of their emphases is sexual integrity programs in middle school and high school. In other areas, this program has resulted in a dramatic decline in teen pregnancies.

Raab reports business as usual, although there is an increase in thefts probably due to the economy. Courtney announced that Memorial Health Center now has mammogram screening in Gilman. There is an article on suicide in their WellAware magazine. In addition they are trying to get more services available at the clinic at those times when people want them - e.g., later afternoon.

Christofoli stated that the emergency shelter grant is finished at the end of June. More money may be available to fund the program through September. The transitional jobs program is finished for good at the end of June. The food pantry received 3,050 items from the postal food drive. They have developed a new logo and are stressing that donations to Indianhead support the community. During the first quarter of the year they helped over 200 families.

Summer programs at Sand Box are starting in June. They are working on intergenerational programs with their students going into Country Gardens, the nursing home, and Our House to interact with the older people. They are also working on preparing youth to be on their own at home once they age out of Sand Box at age 13. All day care and child care facilities must get applications into the state by June 1 if they want to work with kids whose families get assistance for day care from Taylor County.

Fallos reports that at least some of the Economic Assistance department duties will be handled by the State instead of the County, but this may not be the total transfer of duties as originally proposed. There have been many referrals to the birth-to-3 program; in fact, there has been a huge increase this year. All Human Services programs will have decreased funding. The Managed Care Organization component of the Aging & Disability Resource Center will not be coming to Taylor County for at least two years.

Loucks reports that the local theater is collaborating with Parent Resource Center in a fundraiser on June 22. All popcorn sales at the Cars 2 show will go the PRC. Nelson reported that Big Brothers/Big Sisters has 12 community matches with 13 youth on the waiting list. The Bowl-4-Kids fundraiser did not produce the results they expected. Rib Lake Schools are very pleased with the BB/BS school-based program.

Whetstone reported that United Way is just finishing their allocations for last year. Porter announced that work on Stepping Stones' ramp will start next week. Through a grant they

are able to offer attorney services for their domestic and sexual abuse clients are no charge. They now have a Web site and are on both Twitter and Facebook.

Nordgren is offering "Managing Your Money" and "Food Preservation" classes and handed out the schedules for both. Bix reported that the Commission on Aging will have \$25 vouchers for the Farmers' Market on Friday, June 3. This is income-based and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. She also reported that clients using Medicaid transportation will now be served by LogistiCare, a national company that has a state-contract to provide these services. They will no longer be run through the Commission on Aging.

**Adjournment & Confirm Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting of the Taylor County Prevention Council will be Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

**Handouts:** "Managing Your Money"; "Food Preservation Update 2011"; Parent Resource Center brochure; "Promotion of Knowledge, Relationships and Institutional Changes Produce Outcomes"; "Medford Area Diploma Academy"; "Autism Spectrum Disorders Resources for Health Care Providers"; Parent Resource Center of Taylor County, Inc. fact sheet; minutes of Taylor County Prevention Council January 26, 2011.

## **TAYLOR COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 - 9:00 A.M.  
Medford Area School District Office

**Members Present:** Rachael Loucks, Parent Resource Center (PRC); Robert Whetstone, United Way; Joseph Greget, Medford School District; Mary Bix; Kim Christofoli, Indianhead Community Action Agency (ICCA); Kathy Danen, Comprehensive Employment Program (CEP); Teri Rostberg, Hope Hospice; Jean Nuernberger, Taylor County Circuit Court; Kris Porter, Stepping Stones; Peggy Nordgren, University of Wisconsin Extension (UX-EX); Vi Marie Nelson, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Randy Oaklief, Northcentral Technical College (NTC).

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

**Review of Minutes of Last Meeting:** There were no corrections to the minutes.

**Proposed Prevention Project:** Porter and Nordgren introduced an idea to work with the radio station on a series of interviews covering various aspects of the Prevention Council. The idea is to let the public know what services are available in Taylor County. An overview of the Prevention Council would be presented, followed by a series of individual agency interviews. Those present agreed that this was a good idea.

**Committee Reports:** Safe and Stable Families (Nordgren): They have had no recent meeting. There is very little money available, and they will probably meet only 1-2 times annually. The goal of Safe & Stable Families is to cut child abuse and neglect.

Early Childhood (Greget): Week of the Young Child is scheduled for April 9 through April 16. Child Development Day for Medford is March 14. Collaboration meetings are coming up on early childhood development because of changes in federal requirements.

Continuum of Care Committee (Christofoli): Indianhead Community Action Agency has agreed to be the umbrella 501C3 organization for the Continuum of Care. They need to decide on a name and establish bylaws and a vision statement. They already have a mission statement. This will not be a homeless shelter, but rather transitional living. "Homeless" people in Taylor County are not sleeping on the street; recent situational changes mean they have no home and are probably sleeping in their cars. Seventeen homeless people were counted during the June census. The next count is scheduled for January 26. Veteran homelessness is becoming a real issue nationally but may not be here yet.

ATOD: This committee is being re-formed and will be meeting with the Northwoods Coalition in an attempt to access funds for an AmeriCorps person. Alcohol and drug use are big problems in Taylor County, and money needs to be found to address the problem.

### **Introductions & Announcements:**

ADRC (Bix): The Ad Hoc Committee is working on finalizing a location for the ADRC in Taylor County. It now appears that this facility will open in spring (probably March) of 2012.

Stepping Stones (Porter): The shelter now has a part-time attorney who can assist qualifying clients with domestic/sexual abuse issues at no cost.

Parent Resource Center (Loucks): They are working on a grant from the Children's Trust Fund to create a Parent Resource network. They have lost their support from Safe & Stable Families, but may be able to keep prevention programs going for three years with this grant.

Northcentral Technical College (Oaklief): The Learning Center is still offering refresher classes in math, reading, English, writing, and study skills. However, the number of people participating is going down, and this is probably not a good situation because people who need the services are not getting them - possibly because they are not aware of what is offered. Basic computer classes are also being offered at this time. The Medford Adult Diploma Academy is doing well and should be graduating two people in the very near future. NTC's semester started Monday. The request for Economic Development funds is still in the pipeline, but it now appears that the earliest new construction could start would be the fall of 2012.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters (Nelson): The school-based program in Rib Lake is going really well. They have had a couple of new matches and are working hard at getting more.

United Way (Whetstone): They met their goal last year and are now finalizing which organizations get which allocations. Marathon Cheese is their major contributor.

Medford Area School District (Greget): The Adult Literacy Council is re-forming. The District is providing an autism awareness class for First Responders, EMTs, and police as well as another one for parents and other people in the community. They are working with NTC on the Adult Diploma Academy.

Indianhead Community Action Agency (Christofoli): They now have an Opportunity Education grant that can help people who are on Unemployment Compensation. The senior employment program will now be located in the ICAA building.

CEP (Danen): They are very, very busy and are also working with their training programs.

Hope Hospice (Rostberg): The hospice just received a grant to help veterans with end-of life issues. The peak for World War II vets has past, but there is increasing concern for the Vietnam Veterans. Because of the way they were treated at the end of that war, many are unwilling to identify themselves as Viet Vets.

Circuit Court (Nuernberger): Over 700 participants have completed the S.M.I.L.E. program for divorcing parents since its inception in 1998. This program is designed to mitigate the effects of divorce on children.

University of Wisconsin - Extension (Nordgren): Nordgren distributed the UW-EX's non-discrimination letter. More "Managing Your Money" classes are being offered, but the "Rent Smart" classes have been discontinued because funding is no longer available even though it was very successful.

**Confirm Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting of the Taylor County Prevention Council is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 9 AM at the Medford Area School District Office.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.