**Van Buren County SAFE Coalition**

**March Meeting Minutes**

**Location: VBCH Community Services Center**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2014**

**2:00 pm**

Meeting called to order by Melissa Daugherty at 2:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Heidi Bainbridge – DFC Coalition Coordinator, Randy Besick – Business Community, Rhonda Carter – Other/Community Member, Melissa Daugherty – Youth Serving Organization, Susan Frey – Parent/Civic Group, Lydia Heald – Student, Tonja Jirak – Parent, Cassie Johnson – Student, Lee McIntosh – Law Enforcement, Faith Murphy – Student, Kris Rankin – Parent, Ginger Shaw – Youth Serving Organization, Mary Ann Williams – Other Organization

**February Minutes approved by:** Mary Ann Williams **Second:** Ginger Shaw

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| **Topic:** DFC Update – In Packet & Emailed to Coalition Members* Heidi shared that there are links to the trainings in the digital version this time. If you are interested in any of the trainings please let Heidi know. Heidi shared that the coalition is sending the three Parents as Teachers advisors to the Iowa Drug Endangered Children’s Conference. She also shared that the Governor’s Conference on Substance Abuse is very treatment heavy this year so the coalition staff will not be attending it this year.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Senior Class Presentations * Heidi shared they were held the first week of March. She said there were a few snafus with the weather – Monday ended up being a late start so the first day’s presenter was not able to come in and share. Tuesday started the event well with Don Pool and Chris Kauffman, Van Buren County Sheriff’s Reserve Officers, coming in to speak on personal safety. There was a lot of good feedback that they would like Chris to come in and speak more often as he is very energetic and a terrific presenter. On Wednesday the students participated in the National Career Readiness Assessment. That was a half a day where they took a test to assess their career readiness. They were given scores that day and it can be retaken to improve their scores. Thursday some financial institutions came in to speak on financial safety and the students also enjoyed their presentation. Friday Kitty Bogle and Heidi did a presentation on drugs, alcohol and things to be aware of at the college level. Heidi said that the A-Game presentation was not able to be rescheduled, so the students did miss out on that presentation.
* Lydia shared that she felt it was very beneficial. She felt the financial advice was very beneficial. She said she also liked the drugs and alcohol presentation because she knew a lot of it but it was a good reminder and it was good for other seniors to hear the information. She said the others would not have learned the information if it was not shared in this format.
* Faith shared that the Law Enforcement presentation was helpful because of their safety tips. She shared that the information on parking garages and open drinks really helped her. She said that they were things they might not have thought of.
* Cassie said she liked the career readiness test because it showed them what they are good it and what they need to work on.
* Heidi said it was interesting that when they presented on Friday about Synthetic Marijuana the kids did not know what it was (which is good) but they wanted to make sure the kids knew it was a dangerous substance. Then this week in the paper there was an article on a store, The Snack Shack, in Fairfield that was selling it and was busted this week. She said it was being sold as synthetic potpourri. She said now the kids know that this stuff is real and is actually out there and being dealt with.
* Heidi shared that they surveyed the kids and got good feedback from them on the week. This information will help them to make changes for next year as well.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** CADCA National Leadership Forum * Lydia shared that she, Faith and Cassie had attended the National Youth Leadership Initiative Conference in February. She said that she attended as a youth facilitator for CADCA and trained other youth on how to break down their communities issues and address them. She was also able to speak with Representative Loebsack at baggage claim. She said that she approached him because she was not going to be able to meet with him during Day on the Hill at the Capitol. She said that she shared with him where she was from and how much she appreciated his support for the drug free programs. She also shared with him things that she was passionate about and asked him to continue to support the fight against substance abuse. Lydia shared that Faith and Cassie were able to meet with his staffer during the Day on the Hill event at the Capitol as well.
* Faith shared they went to CADCA with an idea to come home with a plan to implement in the community before they graduate in May. She said in the past the students have attended, learned a lot and come back with ideas to implement but have not actually had a plan to implement.
* Faith shared that she and Cassie came back with a plan focused on marijuana. She shared that the plan they have developed is in everyone’s packets. Cassie shared that one of the first things they want to do is a student survey with simple questions about marijuana during a lunch hour to give them an idea of what is going on with marijuana in the Van Buren Community High School.
* Faith said then they want to work with Law Enforcement to put cameras up in the hot spots in Keosauqua.
* Cassie then shared that they feel there are students in school with knives, drugs, etc. So they would like to see if there could be searches and more enforcement of the rules at the school. Faith shared that they would also like to see teachers being trained in how to deal with students with contraband in their possession. She said this is important because it is a small school that does not have a lot of issues like this but that there are some and the teachers need to be more familiar with what they can and cannot do in a contraband situation. Rhonda asked about students carrying razor blades in their mouths. The girls said no. Lydia shared that they witnessed a student with a large knife that should never have been in school. Faith said there are clear rules on not carrying knives in school and if caught with one the student is to have it confiscated and returned to a parent. Randy asked if they think a pocket knife is an issue. Faith said if you forget you have it on you that it should not be severe consequences, but she does think a student who pulls out a large knife in class is wrong. Randy said he understands that but do they think pocket knives are bad. Faith said if you carry one and are caught that it is confiscated so she assumes the school thinks it is unacceptable. Heidi said she does not know what the policy is on that. Cassie and Faith said pocket knives with blades smaller than four inches can be confiscated and returned to a parent and larger knives have greater consequences. Randy shared hunting knives are banned by the state. He also shared that when he was in school pocket knives were not a problem and were allowed. He asked if the school was having problems with stabbings or other such violence. Faith said no it is just over all safety. The girls shared that they cause a possibility for a problem so it is better for them to not be in the school. Heidi said she would check into that policy. Lee asked if they thought the teachers had never been trained on these things. Heidi shared they have been through some trainings but that Mr. Banks had shared with her it has been a while since those trainings have occurred and the school is working on doing some revisits of some trainings. She shared that Mr. Banks is open to having some conversations with the teachers especially the new ones who have been brought on in the past few years. Lee asked about active shooter trainings. Heidi said she believed that was covered during the Safe Schools Grant period.
* Faith shared their final step for the plan is to distribute locks for alcohol cabinets to parents during the town hall event.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Kick Butts Day * Heidi shared most of the Kick Butts Day activities are being done by the Middle School YLC Students tomorrow on Kick Butts Day.
* Faith shared that some of the Middle & High School YLC members will be doing peer teaching at the elementary school tomorrow. During that they will be sharing with the younger students the dangers of using tobacco products.
* Cassie shared that some of the VBHS YLC students will be going to the Stockport City Park on Thursday to do a cigarette butt cleanup and will then report their findings to the Stockport City Council. Melissa shared that the coalition had received a report from a community member that there was tons of litter and cigarette butts that needed to be cleaned up and dealt with.
* Mellissa shared that the middle school students will be doing a cigarette butt cleanup on the school campus on Wednesday. She also said that they will be doing some activities during lunch – a basketball shoot out and a piñata stuffed with tobacco facts and candy.
* Heidi shared that yesterday three students did a community assessment in Keosauqua of businesses that have smoke free areas to determine if they had or needed smoke free signs. They also checked out the parks to see if they needed metal smoke free signs.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Town Hall Meeting – Our Community. Our Health. Our Future. – March 26, 2014 – 6:30 pm – Roberts Memorial Building * Melissa shared that the theme this year is Our Community. Our Health. Our Future. And it will be held next Wednesday at 6:30 pm.
* Heidi shared that she has a couple of things in regards to this. She said the committee needs help at the event – help setup, help with the light refreshments and tear down at the end of the event. She passed around a signup sheet for volunteers. She also passed around fliers for members to take and hang up where ever they felt was a good place for them to be seen so that people will know about the event and attend it. She also said there will be vendor tables for partners – so if you are a partner who has information to share please let her know and she will have a table for you to setup at.
* Heidi shared this event is not just on underage drinking. It will also cover tobacco and marijuana use. She said the YLC members have been doing a lot of the planning for the event. They helped pick the speakers and the topics to be covered. She then encouraged all coalition members to come and attend and invite friends and family members to attend with you.

**ACTION STEP:** Help & Attend the meeting**By Whom:** All Coalition Members**By When:** March 26, 2014 |
| **Topic:** Business Visits* Heidi shared that she has been going out and meeting with local alcohol merchants to see if they need anything, remind them which of their employees have attended merchant training or need to attend the training and checking in to see if there is anything going on that the coalition can be of assistance with. She shared that she has received good feedback from those she has met with so far. She said a couple are interested in the Red Managers Binders to have them in their stores and on site to use. She shared Kitty has had more people at the Merchant Alcohol Trainings because she has been meeting with the businesses and there are quite a few people needing to be trained. She shared that she has a few businesses left to meet with and hopes to get that done soon. There are also a few that she needs to go back to and supply with things they had requested help with from the coalition. Heidi said she plans on meeting with the businesses on an annual basis now to keep up these relationships.
* Lee asked about where the Crazy Girls Boutique is located. Heidi said the coalition staff is unsure, but that they have a license to sell liquor on the ABD site.
* Heidi shared that the coalition has received good feedback from the new owners of the bar in Bonaparte too. She said that bar used to be known as a hot spot for underage drinking, fights, etc. She shared that he is working hard to change what people think of that location and is cracking down on that type of behavior in the establishment. He wants it to be more of a family friendly restaurant than a bar scene. She shared that they have more lunch and dinner specials. She said that he has attended the Merchant Alcohol Training and he and his wife are currently the main employees for the restaurant/bar. Lee shared they have wonderful broasted chicken on Sundays.
* The one problem that the coalition has run into with supporting the businesses is that the company the coalition purchased the scanners from has gone out of business. She said the coalition staff is working on finding out how to do updates and help the businesses with them. Melissa asked if Kitty had information on the lottery machines being able to scan ID’s for those checks now as well. Heidi said yes that is true, but most of the locations the coalition supplied with scanners were bars and do not sell lottery tickets. She shared there is another organization that may have taken over some of the original companies work, but Heidi cannot get them to return her calls. Tonja commented that there is another scanner company out of California that may be able to help the coalition with the scanners.
* Melissa asked if the coalition can get the ID calendars for businesses. Heidi said yes the coalition can and she is actually taking them to the local businesses.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Work Group Reports/Discussions/Conversations (the work group reports were in the packets)* Heidi asked the work group leaders to share what has been going on in their work group.
* Hospital – Melissa shared that Heidi had met with Garen while he was the Interim CEO, but he has now left and the hospital is continuing with the search for a new CEO. She said that until there is a person in place for the CEO the coalition is at a standstill with its work with the hospital. Randy asked if they are any closer to finding a new CEO. Lee shared that the hospital board has an offer out and they are waiting on response. He said that if that offer is turned down then they are at least two months out from having a new CEO. He shared that the problem they are running into is that the people who take this type of position are looking for a certain lifestyle that Van Buren County does not meet. He also shared that the hospital hires a management group that hires, pays and supervises the CEO. When Lisa left they chose to partner with a new management company and that caused the hiring process to take longer. He said the hospital pays the management group and the management group pays the CEO. He said the management group gives a lot of oversight to the hospital including legal oversight.
* Near Peers – Tonja shared is working on tip line issues and whether or not it is practical to do in this community. The committee has reached out to the sheriff’s office and other communities that have tip lines to see what works and what does not. The committee had Heidi talk with Jackie Greenfield about targeting Van Buren County students at IHCC, but it was a dead end. The committee is looking into adding something into the alumni letters to help address near peer issues. Heidi also met with the reserve officers and Sheriff’s Office and discussed how to better partner with them on addressing near peers. Finally, the committee is planning some activities for this summer during events where there is high attendance by alumni.
* Parents – Ginger shared that primarily the group is working on providing information with the help of the coalition staff. Ginger asked Heidi if the coalition has heard back from Tom on what he would like for the juvenile parent packets. Heidi said no and that she will follow up with him. Ginger shared that they decided to also have the coalition staff share in a newspaper article the number of parents participating in the SAFE Home pledges and that was done in the fall.
* School Connections – Heidi shared that Julie has taken this on with the Van Buren Community Schools administration and they are addressing school climate and doing the Warrior Assembly. She said this will include training with the teachers and staff. Heidi shared that she has helped the Harmony Community School District to develop and implement their Code of Conduct and that has been completed and now they will review how that has gone and if they need to make any changes for next year.
* Work Sites and Industries – Melissa shared that the committee is making connections with a couple of the local businesses on the different policies. Melissa said she is struggling to get a hold of hers. Heidi said she has a meeting with one on Monday. Randy asked if the coalition is working with Barker Wire. Heidi shared that Barker Wire already has a comprehensive policy. She shared that the coalition staff had done an assessment prior to the work or this committee to determine which companies/businesses in Van Buren County did or did not have comprehensive drug free worksite policies so that the coalition could address those that do not have comprehensive policies. Randy pointed out that the hospital is on there but Barker is not. Heidi said she thought the hospital was there for additional resources and she will add Barker Wire there as well.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Sustainability Plan (Budget in the meeting packets)* Heidi shared that the current budget is in everyone’s packet with ideas for cuts after the DFC funds end. She explained it can be changed in any way the coalition members would like to see it changed. She asked if anyone had ideas for avenues of sustainability for the coalition to reach out to for help to sustain the work of the coalition after the DFC Grant ends at the end of September 2015.
* Randy asked for some clarification on the budget sheet for dates and if the proposed amount was the minimum needed for the coalition to continue. Heidi clarified the dates and shared it is not the minimum it is just a starting point to work from.
* Lee asked how effective the coalition staff feels the billboards are, because he has heard complaints about using federal dollars to pay for the billboards. Heidi asked the YLC members notice the billboards. Faith said she noticed the one when Emily won the Above the Influence contest. Cassie said she really noticed the Let’s Talk About it one. Heidi said it is hard to gauge the effectiveness of the billboards. Lee shared when you have something that it is hard to gauge the effectiveness of maybe it should not be invested in. Heidi said the coalition can track how many cars pass by there, but it does not determine if they are looking at it or not. Melissa shared it could be the same people several times a day as well because the county road crew is based close to the sign and are coming and going a lot during the week days. Susan pointed out that having a number to call for information can help with evaluating effectiveness by how many call for more information. She felt for awareness it does seem like a good way to get the message out as people see it quite often. Heidi said that in comparison the billboard is very cheap in this community. Heidi shared that $4000 covers the full 12 months of the rental and new vinyl twice a year.
* Heidi asked that people think of ideas for funding the coalition and deciding what type of budget the coalition would like to have after the DFC Funds end. She asked that everyone bring those ideas to the April coalition meeting. She shared that the coalition needs to have the conversation about whether or not the work of the coalition is worth sustaining and if it is then how it can be funded. She said the coalition needs to determine what if any work should be sustained.
* Randy said his position has not changed since the first meeting he came to. He does not think it is something that tax money should go to. He said it is a good thing to do and it is excellent to educate people on what is right and wrong since it seems to be somewhat lacking in society today. Ginger asked why tax money should not be spent on it. Randy said because he thinks taxes are high enough as it is and the country has a hard enough time funding things like infrastructure and things like that now. He said it is a community thing not a federal government thing to be funded by the federal government. Faith asked if the YLC group would exist without the SAFE Coalition. Heidi said no it would not because it is a part of the SAFE Coalition. Faith shared that since she has moved to Iowa from Georgia she has been active in YLC and has experienced adults who care about what the kids have to say and work to make sure that the kids are able to live in a safe community. She pointed out the work done by the coalition to help remove prescription drugs from the community. She shared that she will be going to college in the fall but she plans to return to Van Buren County and would be sad to not have the coalition still in existence and doing its beneficial work. She would like to be able to work with the coalition as an adult too. She asked how many kids are in YLC. Heidi said there are about 100 kids involved. Faith pointed out that those students are working every day and are thinking about the consequences of drugs and alcohol and making better choices because of the coalition’s work. She said CADCA has drastically changed her life. Heidi shared that she appreciates Randy’s point of view on it being a community problem and she needs input on where can the community provide the coalition with the funds to continue the work that is being done. If this is the communities problem and the community has seen the impact and changes made by the coalition then how the coalition can get the community to step up and support this work. Randy mentioned the Roberts Foundation.
* Randy said that Faith made a good point about the difference between Atlanta and Van Buren County. He said the difference has far less to do with the coalition and the work that it does as it has to do with the culture in Van Buren County. He said this culture is only one generation from the original American culture and Atlanta is at least two or three generations away from that culture. Faith said she does not understand what he is saying. Randy said that the teachers were raised the same way their parents and grandparents were raised where at in Atlanta the culture has changed at such a rapid pace that has been going on for a longer period of time and the values and sense of community is very different than it is here. So those things have a greater impact on the local culture. Faith shared about a map at CADCA that showed where coalitions were located and in Atlanta there are none. She also shared that she had never heard of a coalition or this type of work before moving to Van Buren County. She agreed with Randy that the culture makes a difference in the community, but she still believes that the coalition and its work also makes a difference and is beneficial to the community.
* Lee pointed out that something he struggles with is that the churches are struggling financially and are not willing to work together to help the community improve. He would like to see them consolidate their efforts. Randy pointed out that attendance has dropped in the churches too. Lee pointed out that delineating by denomination does not help too. He said he would be willing to speak to the churches about that. Mary Ann said that is some of things she has been trying to accomplish through Community Partnerships and when she approaches the local ministerial councils/meetings she tries to get them to work together. Heidi shared that the coalition has lost the faith based support that it used to have because the ministers who were involved have moved away.
* Tonja said the other thing that is hard to put your finger on is that a dollar spent on prevention saves money on the back end in treatment. She said she agrees with Randy that she wants her taxes as low as possible and does not want them to be wasted. Yet, if she is going to spend $10 on jail, treatment/rehab for the same individual that she could spend a dollar on at the front end she would prefer to do that. She would rather get the youth involved, get the peer messaging and social norms out and shift the thinking of the culture in a way to support community involvement, helping others and service. She said it would be nice to be able to put numbers out there about that but there is not. She said it is the old saying of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of treatment.
* Randy said he sees it as the concept is good but once you accept the free money then you have to obey their rules and use the money as they tell you to. He said that he has always thought that the coalition would do a lot better if they covered more areas instead of just sticking to the drugs and alcohol thing. Heidi said the coalition is losing its money and has the opportunity to be a community catalyst to address whatever issues they see need to be addressed. She said it will not be funded by an organization telling it what to do and now the coalition needs to take this opportunity to look at what needs to be addressed by this coalition and bring the community together and develop a quality culture in the county.
* Faith asked if YLC costs a lot and whether or not the YLC members could do fund raisers to fund the work of YLC. Heidi said all suggestions are good. Ginger said that would be good. Heidi said the Hoaglin Foundation has been a big help with funding that type of thing for YLC.
* Randy asked if anyone had read the works of Charles Murray. No one had. He said he has done a lot of research into the decay of the American society. He said he has put a lot of statistics together from 1950-2010 and that is the root of the problem in America. He said the problem is not so much the drugs and alcohol as the decay of the society and culture. He said when we get to the point where high school girls are afraid of someone with a pocket knife that is not the society that was originally created in America. He said the original society was honest and trusting and that no longer exists.
* Lee said two of the perceptions the community has for the coalition are that all of the members are here for the money for their jobs and incomes and not a lot of volunteers and the second perception is not seeing the youth and their involvement and work and the influence of the coalition in their lives. He said as Randy said the community should be having the influence on those kids without the coalition. He said he would like to gather the community together to sustain the work of the coalition. He said it is easy to talk about the way it was but now things have really changed and the original scenario is gone too. He shared that they did Compliance Checks on Saturday and met a young lady who is working hard and in school and gave him a positive feeling and hope that they can do well and work hard too. He said the funding of the coalition is a big hurdle, but not impossible and misperceptions are going to have to be cleared up and addressed and coalition will need to be rebranded to the community so people can see the real value to the coalition. He pointed out that the youth if they have guidance do care and can make a difference. He shared he is willing to talk to people and groups to help them understand what the coalition is doing. Heidi said that is what the coalition needs to be doing is having these conversations to talk about options and where it can go. Randy shared that participation in organizations is down and the coalition cannot compare itself to the other organizations because the people working for them do not have salaries of $51,000 they are volunteer organizations. Lee suggested other organizations including the youth. Lee said he really wants to see the youth being reached and helped, but funded locally and participated in locally. Randy mentioned when he started he felt the coalition should go and talk to the parents at their homes to reach and teach them instead of changing/making laws or tricking them into breaking the laws. Go door to door and make your point. Lee said knock on doors and invite them to something.
* Melissa shared that the sustainability will stay on the agenda for next month. Heidi said these are the conversations that need to be held. So, please bring these ideas, feedback, good, bad and ugly to the next meeting. She said the coalition needs to work through this to determine what should and can be done with/by the coalition in the future.

**ACTION STEP:** Think about what needs to be sustained and how that can be funded.**By Whom:** All Coalition Members**By When:** April 15, 2014 Meeting |
| **Other Business:** * Alcohol Compliance Checks were done recently by the Van Buren County Sheriff’s Reserve Officers and there was 100% compliance during these checks.
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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 2:00 pm at Van Buren County Hospital Community Services Center Conference Room.

**Meeting Adjourned:** At 3:15 p.m.

\*Meeting minutes are only a summary of the meeting. For a recording of the full dialogue of the meeting you may contact the coalition office.