**Van Buren County SAFE Coalition**

**November Meeting Minutes**

**Location: VBCH Community Services Center**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2014**

**2:00 pm**

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

**Members Present:** Ray Brownsworth – Healthcare Professional, Julie Chapuis – Schools, Melissa Daugherty – Youth Serving Organization, Susan Frey – Civic Group, Lee McIntosh – Law Enforcement, Kris Rankin – Parent, Ginger Shaw – Youth Serving Organization, Janine Vermazen – Other Organization, Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson – Other Organization

**October Minutes approved by:** Ginger Shaw **Second:** Julie Chapuis

|  |
| --- |
| **Topic:** DFC Update– In Packets * Melissa shared that the DFC Update is in everyone’s packet and it is the one that is emailed to everyone.

**ACTION STEP:**None |
| **Topic:** YLC Update * Melissa shared that the YLC Members at Van Buren Community Schools are participating in the Great American Smokeout this week. She said they are hanging posters around the school on two different brightly colored papers one with the number 2,190 which stands for the amount of money a person would spend on a cigarettes in a year if they smoked one pack a day and the other number 480,000 which stands for the number of people who die each year from a tobacco related illness. Then on Thursday they have announcements that share what the numbers stand for. This activity stirs discussion in the school about what the numbers stand for. She said the middle school students are participating in a contest to guess what the numbers stand for. The high school students are doing a mystery box contest during lunch on Thursday where people reach in the box and try to guess what the items in the box are. She shared the items in the box will be tobacco related. They are also writing an article for the newspaper. The middle school students are also doing a poster contest about why they are above the influence of tobacco and the high school YLC members will be judging that contest. Melissa shared that the Harmony YLC group is not doing anything for the Great American Smokeout but they will be doing activities in March for Kick Butts Day.

**ACTION STEP:**None |
| **Topic:** OTC Literacy Forum – Next Steps * Kris shared that the OTC Literacy Forum had been held in October and talked about at the last meeting. She said that the Van Buren Community School District will be implementing this curriculum in their 5th & 6th Grade classes this spring. She shared that Larry Thomas has agreed to help with these presentations as well. She said that Heidi is also in the process of contacting Dr. Blair to see if he is willing to help with these presentations. She shared that Ginger has been able to share the curriculum with some of her contacts and they will begin implementing it in the near future as well. Ginger said that they are childcare providers with after school programs. Melissa asked Kris to share what exactly this program is for those who do not know about it. Kris said that it is a curriculum by Scholastic that contains four lessons that teach 5th & 6th Grade students about over the counter and prescription medication safety that can be used in schools or in other settings with this age group.
* Kris shared that the coalition is continuing to work locally to provide regular Rx Medication Take Backs. She shared that there might be a state wide program because the AC4C group is working on coordinating this type of event.
* Melissa said that the OTC Curriculum also came with some really nice posters that the Van Buren County Hospital & Clinics are utilizing. She said they explain labels and what they mean and what people should focus on.
* Kris said that Kitty Bogle is also going to be providing information to merchants through the Merchant Alcohol Trainings on what to watch for with OTC meds to prevent abuse of them. She also shared that the coalition is going to be developing a flier to share with non-alcohol selling merchants on what to watch out for with OTC & Prescription medications sales.

**ACTION STEP:** Work with local groups to implement the curriculum. Talk with Dr. Blair about teaching one of the classes. Work to coordinate Rx Take Backs in Van Buren County. Develop a flier for local merchants on OTC & Prescription Medication Sales Safety. During MAT Classes share OTC & Prescription Medication Sales Safety Tips. **By Whom:** Coalition Staff, Kitty Bogle, Coalition Members**By When:** As Needed |
| **Topic:** Prevention Conference Update * Kris shared that she had attended the conference, it was a good conference and she enjoyed it very much. She said that one of the things that she learned about there that she is interested in seeing implemented in Van Buren County is to work with the Juvenile Justice System to implement life skills classes/programs for youth and parents that are involved in the juvenile justice system. She shared that Michael from ADDS also attended the conference.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Mandatory Team Meetings Update* Melissa shared that these began this fall at the Van Buren Community Schools. She said that they held one in the fall and they just held their winter one last week. Kris shared that there were approximately 37 parents, students and coaches in attendance at the event. She said that it went very well and that Mr. Jones did a great job with the presentation. She said the parents and students seemed open to the information as well. She said a positive thing about these events is that a number of different topics can be covered all at once plus the parents are able to meet with the coaches.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Strategic Planning Time * Melissa shared that the coalition is in the process of finishing up the work for the Drug Free Communities Grant. So, Heidi would like for the coalition members to begin thinking about what the substance abuse problems are now in Van Buren County and then think about why they are a problem here. Heidi would like for members to come prepared in December to discuss this and begin to strategize what the coalition wants to address when the DFC Grant term is over in September.

**ACTION STEP:** Think of what Substance Abuse Problems there are in Van Buren County and why they are a problem here. Come prepared to discuss and plan for the future work of the coalition and how to address these problems at the December meeting.**By Whom:** All coalition members**By When:** December Meeting  |
| **Topic:** Potential Funding for the Coalition – Partnership for Success Grant * Melissa shared that there is a grant available from IDPH that the coalition may be able to apply for. It is a five year grant that focuses on underage drinking and binge drinking in Van Buren County. Melissa said that at this time Heidi is checking into whether or not the coalition can apply for this grant because the coalition is not a substance abuse prevention agency, but it meets all of the other criteria for the grant. Kris shared that it is approximately $90,000 per year with one full time position and one part time position. She said that there are all 20 counties in the state eligible for the grant and 15 of those will receive the grant. Melissa and Ginger pointed out that some will not apply for the grant. Melissa said Heidi will share more about this at the December meeting.

**ACTION STEP:** Get an answer on whether or not the coalition can apply for the grant. Apply for the grant.**By Whom:** Coalition Staff**By When:** December Deadline for Application  |
| **Other Business:*** Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Update – Julie shared that the Van Buren Community Schools has their team together and their plan done. They looked at some strategies in October that they think will be most effective with the students in the Van Buren Community Schools based on the IYS Data that they have from 2012. She said they will be focusing on building relationships with adults and students in the building this first year of the grant. She said they surveyed the kids and received feedback on written recognition – they will be trying to make sure each student receives a locker letter once a month that is written feedback/encouragement from an adult in the building. She said it was also brought to their attention felt that they did not receive much public recognition for their accomplishments/efforts – they are going to work on putting information on the school’s website, in the newspapers and displaying work in a newly purchased cabinet in the gym lobby. There are also trainings for staff that will be incorporated into the professional development times at the school. Lee said that kids like trophies and maybe the school could come up with trophies for good character or class accomplishments. He said they like to be recognized in this way. Julie shared that the school had started three years ago rewarding students for the traits of the WARRIORS acronym with a t-shirt and a certificate. She said the trophies could be good rewards for those students.
* Lee asked if the coalition has thought of more activities that could incorporate parents into the work of the coalition and broaden the focus beyond drugs, alcohol and tobacco. He suggested preparing students to go to college or go into the community. Ginger said the coalition has discussed activities like that before. Kris shared that this spring the coalition and Van Buren Community Schools will be hosting another week of presentations to seniors to help prepare them for the next step in their lives. Julie shared this will include a personal safety class with Don Pool and Chris Kauffman, a banking class with some insurance information, the national career readiness test, a substance abuse prevention and safety class with Heidi Bainbridge and Kitty Bogle, and a class with a presenter from Work Force/IHCC. Julie shared that there was a volunteer fair during the parent teacher conferences last month with thirteen different organizations, but the parent/student turnout was very low. Kris pointed out that it is hard to get parents to come out. She shared that they hosted financial aid planning classes that same night and the class she attended only had three families in attendance.
* Lee said it was good to hear the focus on helping the parents. He said he would like to see work done with people to help them understand how to utilize the hospital and clinics and help them understand how to deal with things with the health care community. He said even if there are only two or three reached it is still reaching people. He really feels that the coalition needs to expand it’s focus to other prevention areas instead of just drugs/alcohol/tobacco. Melissa shared that is why the coalition is looking for more local funding so that the coalition can focus more on what the community needs instead of what the grants demand, but what is truly needed here. She said that is where the coalition is at with its sustainability – they are looking for funding that would allow the expansion of the focus of the work of the coalition. She said they are looking for partnerships with local entities that would allow the work to continue and be funded. Kris pointed out that the coalition has been having the discussion that it should become a community based prevention group that encompasses all kinds of prevention for community members not just substance abuse prevention. She said the struggle right now is finding the people who are willing to join in that effort and commit to it. Lee said he does not know how to involve the community, but he knows a struggle in community is that a number of coalition members are government/tax funded so they struggle with supporting the coalition. He said he sees that coalition staff are working to work and think outside of the box of government funding. Melissa said yes they are trying to make those connections.
* Julie asked Melissa if she has been in contact with Ashley Moyer at Indian Hills. She said they have some exciting things going on with economic development with her. She shared that the school had been up there for the kids LEAP Graduation Ceremony and learned that Hills is really committed to helping with economic development in the ten county area. So she might be a good resource for the coalition too. Ray shared that developing leaders at the high school level leads to economic development and is a good approach. Ginger said that there is a lot of research that shows that building leadership in students is a good form of prevention so it would not be a stretch for the coalition to participate in that. Julie said that this leadership program has been sponsored by Community First Bank for the past two years and it runs the course of a year and students in their junior year go through the program and do leadership activities and do a service project.
* Lee said he remembers attending the town hall last year with the high school students participating in it and the coalition is doing a good job developing leadership in the students now. He said it would be good for the public to see that more. Melissa said that can be shared better by publicizing the work of the kids in the papers. Julie said that everyone is guilty of focusing on the negative instead of the positive in the kids. She said you hear more about the negative instead of the positive.
 |

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at2:00 pm at Van Buren County Hospital Community Services Center Conference Room.

**Meeting Adjourned:** At 2:25 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.