**Van Buren County SAFE Coalition**

**February Meeting Minutes**

**Location: VBCH Community Services Center**

**Tuesday, February 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, Kitty Bogle – Other Organization, Melissa Daugherty – Youth Serving Organization, Tonja Jirak – Parent, Lee McIntosh – Law Enforcement, Kris Rankin – Parent, Ginger Shaw – Youth Serving Organization, Mary Ann Williams – Other Organization

**January Minutes approved by:** Tonja Jirak **Second:** Mary Ann Williams

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| **Topic:** DFC Update – In Packet & Emailed to Coalition Members* Melissa shared that there is one correction on the Update – The dates for Through with Chew Week are actually February 16-22, 2014 instead of what is listed.
* Heidi shared that it is emailed to all coalition members now and if anyone is not receiving it please let her know. She also said that she did not get the links for the conferences added this month and she will work to have that in next months. Ginger shared that she likes receiving it by email.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Senior Class Presentations * Heidi shared that the school district and coalition are working together to put together senior class presentations for Van Buren Community Schools. This is something that has been a while coming and there have been conversations about needing to have some type of presentations for graduating seniors on safety issues – personal, financial, work place, drug and alcohol, etc. That is now going to be happening March 3-7, 2014. It will be happening during required courses (Government and Economics). They will receive a different presentation each day that week. The Van Buren County Reserve Officers will be doing a presentation on personal safety, self defense, watching your surroundings, locking your doors, etc. Three local banks will be doing a day on financial safety and covering subjects such as credit cards, identity theft, etc. Kitty Bogle and Heidi Bainbridge will be doing a day on drug and alcohol safety and personal safety with them and what effects misuse can have on their lives. There is also a day on work place education and skills and attending classes. The final day will be a test that the students can take that is a type of job placement test that employers can look at and see how the students scored. Employers are beginning to use these tests to assist in hiring.
* Heidi shared that the school and Julie Chapuis are doing a lot of the work for this event and the coalition is supporting it and participating in it the one day.
* Randy asked if they are doing anything on social media safety during these presentations. Heidi said she did not know. Lee said Don Poole may have some good info to share on that during the Reserve Officer’s day. Heidi said she would check with Don on that.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** CADCA National Leadership Forum * Heidi shared that three youth attended the forum this year and were unable to attend today due to not having school the past two school days because of weather. She said they will try to be at the March meeting to share what they learned and what their project will be in the community.
* Ginger shared that it was a valuable experience and she had a hard time paring it all down to make sense. She said that she sent Heidi a four page summary of what she had learned including resources. She pointed out that it was fairly overwhelming but really valuable. She said she got a lot of resources and different research to look at and websites that she wants to look at that will be helpful for her work and the work of the coalition.
* Heidi shared that she and Ginger are planning a meeting where they can discuss what Ginger learned and come up with a plan or action steps that can be taken locally.
* Kris shared that she was there as the youth sponsor and was there to help the girls and make sure they had what they needed. She shared that she was very impressed with Cassie and Faith because of the great work they did while they were there. She shared that they have really got the point of the work the coalition does and put a great plan together to address marijuana in Van Buren County and they feel very strongly about their plan being important. She said they did not need a lot of direction or help because of their own knowledge and abilities.
* Heidi shared that she has asked them to put their plan together and bring it to the March meeting to share with the coalition. The coalition asked them to do a project because they are graduating seniors and normally the coalition does not send graduating seniors to these conferences. The coalition thought this would be a good opportunity for them.
* Randy asked about the rally that Ginger spoke of. Ginger shared that Patrick Kennedy is working on addressing marijuana legalization and was at the conference with the Project SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) group with Kevin Sabet and they were sharing information on what has happened in Washington and Colorado since the legalization of recreational marijuana in those states. They were sharing consequences and how it has blown up in these states. She said they shared how the drug content is so much higher than it was in ditch weed in the 60’s. She said it was an awareness issue. She said it is important especially since there are ten states considering legalization at this time and Alaska will be addressing it this fall on their ballots.
* Randy commented that Illinois is considering it and that he had heard even Missouri may be considering it. Heidi said yes she had heard from some people she was working with last week from Missouri that it is coming up there as well.
* Ginger said they were just stressing the idea that voters do not realize what they are legalizing. She said it is so much bigger than an individual smoking a joint in their living room. She shared that children are being targeted, big tobacco is getting involved and it is becoming huge.
* Randy shared that he had read that cartels are popping up in Colorado. Ginger agreed and said one of the arguments for legalization was eliminating the cartels and that is obviously not what is happening. She also shared that the drugs from these legal states are showing up in other states and it is being exported.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Through with Chew Week * Melissa shared it is this week February 16-22, 2014. It is a week to bring awareness to the chewing tobacco issues and concerns. She shared that the VBHS YLC members are planning to do an activity this week, but with snow days and scheduled days off that may not go on this week. She said that they will still do the activity sometime in the next couple of weeks.
* Heidi shared that the YLC members will be planning activities for Kick Butts Day in March and Alcohol Awareness Month in April soon.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Town Hall Meeting * Heidi shared that she would like feedback and suggestions from the coalition members on a town hall meeting this spring. She said at the last meeting she had shared that it will be done this spring and that it is being left primarily in the hands of the YLC members. Yet, she wants to know if coalition members have any feedback, suggestions or thoughts to share with the YLC members about previous town hall meetings the coalition has held or other town halls that members have attended or been a part of that would be helpful to the youth. She shared there is a planning committee meeting tomorrow at VBHS for the event and she can share input from coalition members at that time with the youth.
* Ginger said she had shared a paragraph with ideas for the town hall in her report on the forum. Heidi said she had seen that.
* Randy asked what the general topic is to be for the town hall. Heidi shared that due to the funding coming from SAMHSA that the meeting does need to address underage drinking, but it can also address marijuana or other substances if the youth want to. Heidi shared that the coalition has not held a town hall for a while so addressing underage drinking will be good but a dual topic event would be effective.
* Heidi asked if there was anything from the past that worked well. She asked for promotion ideas to help draw people to the event. Melissa suggested extra credit for the students as there was a year with a line out the door because of the extra credit students could earn by attending the event. Tonja said it has been a while since the coalition did one of these offering the extra credit so it might have some novelty to it. Tonja said it was the meth one where they had the huge crowd attend.
* Heidi asked about speakers. Heidi shared it may be the kids that do the presentation and the YLC members know of a student that is a great presenter and would do a good job. She said their voices could be a good avenue to reach others in the community. Heidi shared that plans will be starting to be made tomorrow and they will move forward from there. She said she will update the coalition as she has the information and will have YLC members come to the coalition meetings as well to share their plans. She asked that if coalition members have suggestions or ideas please let her know.

**ACTION STEP:** Send Heidi ideas for the Town Hall**By Whom:** All Coalition Members**By When:** March 1, 2014 |
| **Topic:** Evaluation Report – In the Packets* Heidi apologized to the board as the chart on the first page has not been changed yet. She said she is working on getting it changed because people cannot see the work that has been done and there is too much white space in it.
* Heidi shared that this is the annual report from the coalition’s evaluator. She said that it shows the work the coalition did during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. She said it points out where efforts were focused and what changes were seen. It talks about the accomplishments of the coalition on the first page and that the coalition did the bulk of its work in providing information about general ATOD work. There was a lot of sharing information and it was not very focused. She said this may be misleading because when the coalition does things that focus on multiple components they can be lumped together in one entry – so the coalition staff is working to be more specific in entries so there is a clearer picture of the work that is done. The bulk of the work is done in providing information; second to that is enhancing skills – providing trainings for the community; a little providing support; some changing policy, enhancing access/reducing barriers and changing consequences. The coalition is looking how it can reframe some of its work from just providing information to doing things that have lasting impact in the community. This would include changing the physical design, changing the consequences and changing the policies. These are things that have impact beyond the life of the coalition. They are things that would remain if the coalition were not here. If the coalition is not here the providing information will not be here. On the back there is a list of community changes that happened during the year. It also lists the decreases in numbers for IYS and there will be new numbers for that this fall as the IYS will be done again then. On the right it talks about areas of success and areas for improvement (specifically capturing key events in the community that affects the work of the coalition – things that the coalition is not doing itself but affects the work the coalition does).
* Randy asked if there has been any success in implementing a comprehensive drug policy at the school for the school employees. Heidi said no that has not been accomplished. She said that the last superintendant was approached on this and it was shot down. She said that it would be a good time to talk to the new superintendant about implementing one. Randy asked if the code of conduct only applies to the kids. Heidi said yes it only applies to the kids. Randy pointed out that the bus drivers are the only ones under a comprehensive policy.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Sustainability Plan* Heidi shared that the coalition needs to begin thinking more about sustainability. She said there is a work group that is setup to begin working on sustainability and there is the information in the year five DFC grant that they will start from. They are looking at other avenues of funding as the DFC monies go away. The work group is asking the rest of the coalition to be thinking of means of sustainability for the work of the coalition. What do members want the coalition to look like as it begins to phase out of DFC funds? Do members believe it is valuable enough to the community to sustain? Do members want to work to seek out funds to sustain the work and what pieces do need to be invested in? She would like everyone to begin thinking about this and be ready for a conversation on it in March. She would like members to come prepared with resources, funding sources and what needs to be sustained. The bulk of the coalition’s funding ends in September of 2015. There are some small pots of money that would sustain the youth work but the bulk of the funding would be gone.
* Randy asked if the coalition staff would still be willing to be a part of the coalition if they could not be paid anymore. Heidi shared that she has a vested interest in the coalition and that she would still volunteer time to the coalition but that she would not be able to devote the same amount of time to it as she would need to make a living too. Kris said she would be willing to stay involved in the coalition as well.
* Randy asked if this would affect kids going to Des Moines or Washington D.C. Heidi shared that the school provides transportation for some of the activities that are local so those would continue, but the long distance trips would be affected by the lack of funds. Melissa shared that Lydia is a trainer now so CADCA pays for her way for the trainings now.
* Ginger said a piece that would be helpful for March some round figures of the budget. Heidi shared that she will bring that to the March meeting.
* Randy suggested checking with the school to see what they are willing to sustain on their own like a class or extracurricular group.
* Heidi said the coalition would love to get brain storming ideas from all groups and people because others will think of things that the coalition staff may never think of. She expressed her appreciation for everyone’s feedback, ideas and willingness to help with this process.

**ACTION STEP:** Think about what needs to be sustained and how that can be funded and be prepared for a conversation on Sustainability in March.**By Whom:** All Coalition Members**By When:** March 18, 2014 Meeting |
| **Other Business:** None  |
| **Work Group Time*** The coalition members present broke into work groups and worked on what needs to be done in the coming months for each topic.

**ACTION STEP:** None |

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 2:00 pm at Van Buren County Hospital Community Services Center Conference Room.

**Meeting Adjourned:** At 2:50 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.