

LAWRENCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ALLIANCE

MINUTES

April 23, 2013

5:00 P.M.

**Manager's Conference Room
Lawrence Municipal Building**

Present: Steve Groeger, Recreation Superintendent
Tonia Moore, Superintendent Representative
Susan Varga, Community Representative
Melody Powell, PEI Kids
Bryson Edgar, Police Chief Representative
James Kownacki, Mayor, Council Liaison
Dr. David Maffei, Councilman
Carol Chamberlain, Chairperson

Absent: Kelly Nitti, Camp Fire Boys and Girls
Lisa Snyder, Project Graduation
Kenn Dunn, Community Representative

Guest: Nya Toussaint, THREADS Representative

A. Review of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed for November 27, 2012, January 22, 2013 and February 26, 2013. Tonia Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Groeger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

B. Grant Activity Reports

LMTI - Mr. Shabaz conducted two fatal vision classes for the LMTI students. The students enjoyed the tasks which were conducted using the glasses. The glasses are used to simulate the effects of being under the influence of alcohol.

LMTI is preparing for the Relay for Life. LMTI will have a team at the walk which is held at the high school.

The City of Angels had representatives who spoke to the junior health classes on April 8, 9, 10. They will be returning to speak with the additional classes. A program was also presented to the faculty on April 15. There have been a few people who have been in contact with City of Angels since the programs were presented. Tonia Moore expressed her appreciation for Kelly Nitti's assistance in coordinating the presentations.

Nya Toussaint provided an update about THREADS. There are six new coordinators with THREADS. One project they are working on is the March of Dimes fundraiser. A workshop on stress reduction and meditation is being planned. Romy Toussaint will be a speaker at this Women's Empowerment program.

The THREADS group participated in a Day of Service at the Light of the World Church in Trenton. Students volunteered for general clean-up at the church and worked on sprucing up the gardens before the Easter holiday.

A Mother/Daughter breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013.

A pre-prom event for students is being held at Nya's grandmom's house. The purpose of this activity is to provide an alcohol-free friendly environment for students to gather before the prom.

THREADS is also participating in a shoe collection drive called "Soles for Shoes". The shoes collected will be donated to Homefront. Shoes can be dropped off at the main office at Lawrence High School. Lawrence Intermediate School and Eldridge Park School are also participating in the donation project.

Camp Fire Boys and Girls - No report.

PEI Kids - The program was completed at Lawrence Intermediate School in February. There will be a follow-up meeting with the principal to review the final report.

Project Graduation - There was no representative at the meeting but Nya Toussaint reported Mr. LHS will be held on May 3rd. Project Graduation will be on June 18th. The Senior Breakfast will be held on Prom day. The third grade letter writing project is done in conjunction with the Senior Breakfast.

Carol Chamberlain said she would contact Lisa Snyder for an update on the balloon fundraiser which is conducted at Project Graduation.

Community Awareness - Carol Chamberlain reported the Alliance will have a table at the St. Lawrence Bike Rodeo. Volunteers are needed to assist at the table. The rodeo is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator Report - Carol Chamberlain reported the first quarter report has been submitted to the county. The needs assessment will need to be completed by summer, therefore, the next meeting will focus on reviewing data for the needs assessment.

C. Old Business

Revisions to Bylaws - The bylaws needed to be revised to comply with the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (GCADA). GCADA requires the bylaws include a Conflict of Interest clause. The bylaws were revised to include such a clause. Carol Chamberlain read the Conflict of Interest clause to the group. The revision to the bylaws was approved.

D. New Business

Needs Assessment - Carol Chamberlain explained the GCADA grant typically operates in a three to four year cycle. Before a new cycle is started the grantee must conduct a needs assessment of the community in order to assure the grant will address issues prevalent in the community.

In order to do this, a needs assessment must be completed. Typically in the past, the community would collect and review data and identify problems within the community. The alliance would then determine programs which could be implemented to address these problems. These programs would be funded whole or in part by GCADA funds.

This year, a needs assessment will be required to be completed shortly. The difference is this needs assessment will need to identify one significant problem to address. This one problem will then determine what programs will be funded to address the major community problem identified. For this reason, it is important to conduct a thorough needs assessment including the review of as much data as possible to identify a significant drug and alcohol issue in the community. This identification of the issue will determine the focus of funding with the grant for the next few years.

Carol Chamberlain said she has started to collect data for review. The police will also have data for the LADA group to review. Carol said the next meeting in May will focus on the review of data and identification of the problem. Carol Chamberlain asked for all members to make every effort to attend in order to have a comprehensive review of the data.

Nya said the LMTI would be willing to provide information on issues seen at the teenage level. Carol will schedule a time with Tonia Moore to speak with the LMTI group.

A few items of interest discussed were:

- Lucky 7 Deli seems to be a popular hangout.
- Students walk from Lucky 7 Deli to the park next to Slackwood School to smoke.
- Marijuana use is known to occur among high school students.

These issues and more are anticipated to be topic of discussions. Other suggestions for key informant surveys are welcomed.

E. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Carol Chamberlain reminded everyone of the importance of attendance at this meeting due to the completion of the needs assessment.

F. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Chairperson