HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2015
La Crosse County, Law Enforcement Center, 333 Vine St., Sheriff Dept. Conference Room
1:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Runchey, Jason Larson, Joella Striebel, Tim Candahl, Vicki Burke, Steve Helgeson, Joe Chilsen, Al Bliss, Mike Desmond, Pat Ruda, Ted Thompson, Tom Johnson, Troy Harcey, Emily Whitney, Monica Kruse and Shawn Kudron

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Gregg Cleveland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Whiteway, Tom Tornstrom, Emily Lodoen, Chris Eberlein, and Megan DeVore

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Baudek, Alexandria Berg, Brittany Jacobs, Kate Noelke, Kathryn Hietbrink, Lisa Buley, Amanda Fink, Bill Oldenburg, Brad Dinsmoor and representative from News 8

CALL TO ORDER
Mike Desmond, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Approved 4-23-15 meeting minutes. No public comments.

Updates provided on prevention efforts:
- Al – have collected all K-12 staff surveys on substance abuse and is now writing report. Alexandria, MPH graduate interviewed approximately 12 La Crosse staff.
- Mike – we are still identifying gaps in prevention and need to plan our strategies and make recommendations on prevention efforts
- Jason – the new Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results for 2015 will be released soon
- Kallen – YMCA does tutoring for at risk youth populations
- Kathryn Hietbrink – can ask her and other counselors for feedback too
- Monica – La Crosse has 2 social workers in high risk neighborhoods
- Sue C– very little family therapy is occurring. More work needs to be done with the entire family (referring to Gundersen) – parents are afraid CPS will take their children away
- Pat R – we have little to assist children, not a lot of mental health providers

Jon Baudek, Assistant Principal at Longfellow and Supervisor of Health and PE for the La Crosse School District shared information about the district’s health curriculum and as it relates to substance abuse prevention and education, (a two page handout was provided).
- 42 pages of health curriculum – comprehensive, being rewritten
- Teaching reality of addiction – kids probably don’t know that Rx drugs misuse may lead to heroin use
- Many adults/parents believe that Rx drug abuse is not that harmful
- Youth work on advocacy projects in schools – one current advocacy project is on marijuana
- Schools help get the word out to properly dispose of Rx drugs (use drop boxes)
- Discuss the link between alcohol, depression and drug abuse
- Please see Jon’s handout for more details on substance abuse prevention in elementary, middle and high schools.
- Opportunities to partner with task force such as partnering with an instructional group at the district and more sharing of resources and using real data
- Troy and Jon both agreed there is so much more to prevention than just health education curriculum. ‘It is a Dixie Cup” compared to everything else needed.” We need skills, strong families and networking.
Dr. Whitney spoke about the deregulation of teachers occurring by the state and that she would draft up a template for the task force members to sign on to NOT support the bill. She will forward the template to Al and will forward to the task force. Let Al know if you support it, but do not want to list your name or cannot list with your organization.

Tom Johnson, Investigator for the MEG or Metropolitan Enforcement Group provided a presentation on meth and what law enforcement sees on the streets in real time.

- Meth is important to address, but need to keep focus on heroin and Rx drugs
- Sees meth more like operating like a business rather than heroin, which is more addiction driven
- Types of meth, chemicals, and types of labs
- Most meth comes from Mexico and California then to the twin Cities and to La Crosse
- Not seeing meth as much from shake and bake garbage labs, but rather high quality “glass.”
- Mike, Sue and Tom spoke about what communities can do – Tom – ‘Keep information coming to law enforcement, be patient.’

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25 from 1-2:00pm at the Law Enforcement Center Building, 333 Vine Street in La Crosse in room 1615.

TRAVEL REQUESTS (INFORMATIONAL) AND TRAVEL REPORTS
None presented.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.
The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting. (Two pages)

Al Bliss, Recorder