

SAFE Coalition Meeting 9/20/2011

Present Were:

Sarah Smith – Washington County SAFE Project Coordinator

Chrystal Woller – Public Health

Eddie Nebel – Public Health

Deb Bodensteiner – Hamakua/Faith Community

Annette Shipley – DFC Mentoring Grant

Susan Junas – Education Coordinator, RVAP

Dovanna Siren – Therapist, Hillcrest Family Service

Kristen Frank – MECCA

Lean Benson – MECCA

Deb Werning – Counselor, Highland High School

Lea & Kristen of MECCA

Last year MECCA was awarded \$ for awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and they focused on Iowa County. This year, they are focusing on Washington County. Clinics & Town Hall meetings are proposed. They would like guidance from this group. How would this best benefit the county? Would we like invite the students? It would possibly be at the Library. Lea and Kristin asked group if they were aware of any foster or adoptive parents of a child with FASD that could speak on the effects of FASD, and if they could give a first hand story about its affects. That will have more impact especially if we could gear it toward youth and young adults. In Iowa, we have above the national average (#3) for binge drinking. When FASD is viewed as a spectrum, there are more people affected by this disability/disorder. So it will be looked at from a State level. They will have literature to disseminate throughout the clinics in the community. It will be an hour in April with a great lunch! Look for more details coming soon!

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Alcohol Awareness Month. So that is why it is being planned for April. Lea works with the WIC/Public Health office for these presentations. They would consider holding the community event at Hamakua, to attract the student population. Talked about school aged students, and having an excused out for health class. Deb suggested having it on an early out Wednesday so that they could leave early for only an hour and not miss the entire day. Lea is asking us for a Foster Parent or Adoptive Parent. Deb will connect with her support parents to see if there are any who may be interested in speaking. The confidentiality for foster parents may be an issue. AmySara suggested MaryAnn Alberhasky. Lea has a line on someone. Kristen suggested if we can't find a live person, that they have a feed and video so that if we need to use video, we could do that also. They showed a baby called "Baby Think It Over" who displays the facial and body features of a child with FASD. Lea reports that Shaken Baby Syndrome has increased to 65% from 50%. MECCA also has a drug affected baby what has tremors and cries. Deb W. suggested Lea talking to the Family Consumer Sciences instructors to get this information and request to present it to the students.

Eddie is presenting for Prevent Child Abuse: WACAN – Washingtons Against Child Abuse and Neglect. They are looking for new recruits. These people have

been a source of funding for the emergency child care program at the YMCA. This also supports staff throughout the year. The crisis child care program at the Y did not get funded this year, so the current members are questioning what their purpose is, and are wondering if they could come under the umbrella of the SAFE Coalition. The current leadership is committed to stay in tact until a new structure can be established, or until next June when the Grants come out. Edie is asking us to entertain that as an item for discussion. The next grant will be written in January, so we need to have a decision made by then, as to whether or not we would take on this mission. Iowa and Cedar County already have their Child Abuse Prevention programs under SAFE.

The grant would be written under the ICAP grant – Iowa Child Abuse Prevention. Fiscal responsibility was discussed. As far as absorbing the 501c3 into SAFE. Deb B. made the comment that doing this would solve an issue we have had with SAFE NOT being a 501c3, and needing the designation. This would rectify this. It is logical to absorb the WACAN. Kristin is recommending the enhancement of our social and digital media campaigns. The coalition is already implementing those services.

WACAN has met last week and this will be their final meeting until December. Edie has encouraged them that if SAFE approves this, they would be welcome to attend meetings and to participate in the decision making process for the group. We will all try to promote this effort to other SAFE members as well as to the WACAN members.

Sarah talked about the new brochures.

Reports the binge drinking has gone down in the county from 26% to 15%, which is currently on the new brochure. Annette is suggesting that we display on the brochure the change in rates from the last 10 years since SAFE has began.

Annette suggested contracting the brochures out, since the money is there, and we need to have these printed by October, or we lose the funding. The group discussed the brochure some more, so that all the work can be done by the end of the month. Sarah, Chrystal, Deb B. and AmySara will meet next week to finalize the brochure for Sarah to send it out via email for approval.

Chrystal talked about the grant funding which was awarded to County which will be used to bring Rachel's challenge back to WHS. Discussion about where to have the additional assembly for the adult meeting, as well as the night and time for the adult event. The assembly will be on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will also have the adult event December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30. Locations discussed were Hamakua, Library, Community Center, ISU Extension Building, Child care was discussed. Deb B., Deb W. and AmySara have teens which will volunteer for silver cord hours. AmySara motioned for the event to be held at Hamakua. The event was carried by all. Advertising was discussed as well as the pre- and post- surveys, which will probably be done on Survey Monkey. Using this for the adults or text voting for the event was discussed. Sarah and Chrystal will discuss it further to examine logistics. Grant fliers and requirements were discussed as well. Financial donations are needed of \$800 as well as the

need for door prizes. Donations would be for the Teacher In-Service and core students to process the information. All people will report back to Chrystal and Sarah about their efforts of fundraising for this event.

Chrystal also discussed the Pledge and Act project, which evolved from the Skit project at the Middle School. These will be handed out at seminar next week.

This will also be uploaded to the SAFE website, so that all stakeholders can use it as needed.