



## CV CARES Action-Focused Monthly Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 14, 2009

1:00 PM

First United Methodist Church – Heritage Hall

37 W Beauregard

San Angelo, TX 76903

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**Mission Statement:** To eliminate substance abuse through community effort.

**Vision Statement:** Our Dream is through God's guidance, we unite our community, and create an environment that encourages the elimination of substance abuse, so our children and families can thrive in a spiritual, moral, healthy, drug-free environment.

**Attendees:** Officer Kathy Walker – SAPD, JB Hall – Concerned Citizen, Gardner Wiseheart – Healthy Families, N. Gary Smith – Juvenile Probation, Phil Neighbors – Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Ken Stewart – Angelo State University, Stephen O'Brien – Angelo State University, Tabitha Ramirez – New Bridge Family Shelter, Cindy Jordan – Children for a Peaceful World, Wendy Powell – Child Protective Services, Donna Masterson – Masterson Place, Mike Wyse – Catholic Diocese, Bishop Michael Pfeifer – Catholic Diocese, Retha Fortenberry – Meals for the Elderly, Adri Fortenberry, Sammy Sablan – MHMR, and E. Angelina Osornio – CARES Coordinator

**1. Reading of Mission & Vision Statement (Phil Neighbors)**

After reading both the Vision and Mission Statements, Phil thanked everyone for working towards this mission.

**2. Attendee Introductions & Member Announcements**

**3. Community Development Initiative (Dr. Ken Stewart)**

Phil introduced Dr. Ken Stewart and asked him to touch on the work he is doing for the Census.

Dr. Stewart noted that we [community] will be “seeing Census people” out and about – they are checking addresses. The administrative offices will open late in the summer and they will begin hiring people. A campaign to generate willingness to participate in the Census will begin on the summer/fall. The Census will occur in March 2010.

Dr. Stewart then highlighted the work he is doing for CARES as the evaluation consultant. He introduced Stephen O'Brien – an ASU student – as an assistant to the project. Dr. Stewart Explained they are working with CARES to develop a baseline study of the drug situation in the city and is compiling a broad set of data regarding substance use.

Much of the data is “pre-packaged” and is hard to take apart. Obtaining and compiling the raw data allows for the information to be “put together your way”. The DFC grant reporting is not particularly difficult because the required measures are available via the Texas School Survey (TSS). But obtaining the raw data from TSS allows us to break the information down further (i.e. determining the hard-core users, non-users, backgrounds, family situations, etc). The raw data will allow Dr. Stewart to compile the data in the most effective way.

Dr. Stewart stated he is interested in hearing from CARES membership to determine their interests regarding substance abuse. He noted Stephen, throughout the summer, will be in touch with local agencies – including some of those represented at today's meeting. Dr. Stewart explained he wants the study to be “most informative” and encourages the community's input. The hope is to have the study out in the fall.

Bishop Pfeifer noted Sheriff Hunt stated that 85% of people in the prison system are related to substance abuse and the number is increasing.

Dr. Stewart noted the data is “shows an explosion of violations” and is interested in outlining the geographical occurrence of the crimes.



Bishop Pfeifer noted it may help to try to collect data regarding drug cartels.

Gary suggested Immigration Customs would have some “good stats”. Gary expressed his interest in learning what the parents’ perception of risk is regarding marijuana.

Dr. Stewart noted the data shows alcohol is the preference regionally. Lifestyle patterns support the experimentation of alcohol.

JB asked Gary why are many of the local juveniles are in jail? Gary noted it was “pot”. Gary offered up their (Juvenile Probation) stats to Dr. Stewart for his use.

Donna noted parents seem to be less concerned than the youth regarding the dangers of marijuana and alcohol. More babies are born “positive” for drugs in their systems. Some parents will state, “It’s just marijuana – an herb...can’t be that dangerous...” Some will bring up that California is legalizing to validate their point. She also noted people use the drugs/alcohol to self-medicate their mental health issues.

Retha stated it would be helpful to learn the attitude of the population and do a social marketing campaign of the real dangers of substance abuse.

Angelina mentioned an article she read that morning stating the marijuana available now has a much stronger THC concentration than what was available 20 years ago. It mentioned THC levels rose from 4% to 10% and has a stronger impact on the brain.

Retha noted it seems marijuana is “back on the rise”.

Donna discussed how she some interactions she has with people regarding marijuana. They’ll state, “California made it legal” and explained it is even being sold in vending machines.

JB mentioned a documentary about the origins of the Bloods and Crips (notorious gangs with roots in California). They began due to the drug demand. The documentary explained kids in Los Angeles have higher rates of depression than people that have served in Iraq, possibly due to drug use.

Cindy mentioned she was interested in submitting questions for Dr. Stewart. She would like to know more about the kids first time to ever use drugs. What were the circumstances? Party? With friends? Why keep doing them? Cindy also suggested letting kids be part of the solution. Dr. Stewart noted the more successful programs were youth generated ones.

Angelina noted the social marketing training CARES provided. The purpose was to train the adults to train the youth on how to have a social marketing campaign geared towards substance abuse. It would allow the youth to provide input to CARES about what they are seeing, what seems to be the more prominent drug and create a message on their own.

Bishop Pfeifer mentioned the successful STARS program from Friends of Hope in Big Lake and is youth-centered.

Ken noted State Farm wants to invest in the youth and would provide the contact person’s information for those interested after the meeting.

#### **4. Concho Valley Family Challenge (Retha Fortenberry)**

Retha began by mentioning the Family Challenge is an event that touches families’ lives. It is a series of fun, educational classes and takes place on every Tuesday and Thursday of every June from 7:00-7:45pm. They will take place in the Sunset Mall Community Room (next to the Men’s Dillard’s). Meals will be provided on Thursdays and the prizes will be “useful” ones (laptop, etc.)

The planning committee for the Family Challenge is gathering donations for prizes. Last year, all participants won something. Last year’s grand prize winning family stated, “It changed our lives” and are eager for their next child to



(who will be eligible in 2010) to participate. Retha stated we need enrollment now. It was pitched at the PRIDE rally on Wednesday, May 13 that took place at the San Angelo Coliseum. Last year, seven families participated and CARES hopes to have more this year. Flyers are available online, with the SAISD school counselors, and ADACCV.

Angelina mentioned Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Living in the Light Ministries is hosting the “Working Together for a Drug Free Community Picnic” and CARES has a booth. If anyone is interested in volunteering, let her know.

Phil mentioned the Military Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and explained it was only for military stationed at Goodfellow and civilian employees of the base and their families. Last year they had 1100 attendees and were hoping for 1200 this year. *Please see attached document; 2009 Family Challenge Schedule.*

#### **5. Community Mobilization Training (E. Angelina Osornio)**

Angelina explained CARES needed to have the Community Mobilization Training before the fiscal year was over on September 30, 2009. It was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 28 from 9-2 but was postponed due to very low registration numbers.

The training is very important and necessary because it will strengthen the coalition, improve effectiveness, and help get all coalition members on the same page by better understanding the strategic plan outlined for the next 4 ½ years.

Wendy stated Saturday trainings are very difficult; especially after a long work week. Kathy asked if a weekday would be possible. Cindy stated Saturdays work better for her but understand it may not be well for others. Tabitha and Gary stated a weekday for training was much better. Mike suggested possibly doing it from 3 or 4pm to 8 or 9pm during a weekday.

Retha suggested it be in August but not to wait until September (the last minute) when the fiscal year ends.

Phil asked Angelina to select dates in July and August and send them out to membership to gauge what works best. Angelina agreed.

#### **6. Coalition Building Track at the Texas Behavioral Institute**

Angelina explained CARES has funding available for the registration fee for two individuals interested in the Coalition Building Track at the Texas Behavioral Institute being held in Austin. They take place on Tuesday, July 7 and Wednesday, July 8, 2009 from 8:30am-5:00pm. CARES is unable to provide travel, hotel, or per diem for meals. *Please see attached flyer; Texas Behavioral Institute 2009.*

#### **7. Open Discussion**

Bishop Pfeifer explained that Julie Alonso and Angelina went to Midland on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> to provide information to the Midland Drug Task Force about CV CARES. He explained they are interested in receiving DFC Funding thought it would be a great networking opportunity for CARES. He also noted they are working towards the same goal.

Bishop Pfeifer stated he is grateful for the great job CARES has done and explained we should attempt to get more stories out in the media.

JB suggested CARES have a weekly article for the Standard Times to provide stats and facts. Bishop noted bad news is always in the paper and some good information would be great.

Cindy explained a project she worked on with the Lee students. They were presented a problem and they had to come up with a solution and put it on display. Not 1 single parent came to see their child’s project. The project was repeated a second time and the same result occurred. Cindy asked, “Was it apathy with the parents?”

Gary explained often kids want attention and most of the time they get it when their bad. Cindy explained when she works with kids, she’ll recognize them when they are doing something right or behaving well.



**8. FACE Billboard (E. Angelina Osornio)**

Angelina informed the group the billboard with the most votes from last meeting was the “Here’s where kids get alcohol”. It has Polaroid pictures with captions – friends, garage, kitchen, and fake ID. Julie is working on getting it ordered.

**9. Next Meeting**

- a. DATE: Thursday, June 11, 2009
- b. TIME: 1:00pm
- c. LOCATION: First United Methodist Church – Heritage Hall, 37 E Beauregard