



Concho Valley CARES Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2009

5:30 PM

First United Methodist Church – Heritage Hall

37 E. Beauregard

San Angelo, TX 76903

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: E. Angelina Osornio – CARES Coordinator, Nelda Angel – Goodfellow AFB, Juan Flores – St. Mary's Church Justice, Deanna Watkins – Lake View High School, JB Hall, Cressi Cutting – Rape Crisis Center, Donna Masterson – Masterson Place, Alicia Hartzell – ADACCV, Nita Tinny – Rape Crisis Center, Steven Goligowski – Texas Veterans Leadership Program, and Sammy Sablan - MHMRCV

1. Reading of Mission & Vision Statement (Deanna Watkins)

2. Attendee Introductions & Announcements

3. Last Meeting Minutes Submitted for Approval (also available online at www.cvcare.org)

JB made motion for approval and Alicia seconded. Vote in favor of approval made by attendees.

4. Recap Drug Free Community Month (E. Angelina Osornio)

Angelina briefly covered the activities of Drug Free Communities Month. Sammy mentioned the teen involvement CARES has now due to the Halloween event we worked on. The event offered the teens a chance to plan an event, stay out of trouble, and develop relationships to the adults involved.

5. Year 2 Outline – (E. Angelina Osornio) – please see attached document: Copy of Outline of Events FY2

Donna asked if CARES is still interested in developing a peer-led support group for teens in recovery. Angelina said yes and mentioned one member has expressed interest in heading up that effort. Donna mentioned some things to consider: a qualified facilitator will be needed – a person that relates to teens and possibly someone with mental health experience. The facilitator needs to know the AA/NA rules and regulations. She also explained teens need to understand the importance of confidentiality. Another thing to consider is transportation for the teens – some may not have autos.

Sammy mentioned there needs to be something specifically for teens. Locally, only adult AA's and NA's are around. Teens need a place to go where they are not censored, get a chance to be listened to.

Angelina thought there was possible funding (stipends) available for group facilitators but has learned, since the meeting, there is not.

Suggestions for meeting places were local schools. Instead of calling it AA/NA it can have an alternate name so concerns about the stigma can be eliminated. One member suggested looking at what other communities are doing in this area.

Juan mentioned he is going into neighborhoods and presenting to parents – groups vary from 10-90 attendees. He also mentioned he has disseminated numerous parent guides in English and Spanish to parents. He explained they have been very grateful and are surprised at how much they are unaware of. One theory as to why parents lack knowledge is some will turn a blind eye. Other theories include parents not knowing what to look for, parents in denial, and the

* all times are approximate



family being broken down. JB added some of these families lacking strong male role models tend to turn to gangs for leadership and support.

Juan mentioned there are 32 known gangs in San Angelo and believes that is how most of the narcotics in the Concho Valley are disseminated. Sammy added teens join the gangs and only experience juvenile hall and have no idea that if they continue the path they are on, they will end up in jail – which is a whole different world from juvenile hall.

Attendees then began discussing the speaker's bureau. Angelina explained the basic idea was to form a diverse group of speakers to reach out to the Concho Valley. She added some funding is available to pay stipends to speakers.

One suggestion was to form a traveling health/info fair made up of CARES members' agencies to travel throughout the Concho Valley. It would be an opportunity to reach out and provide education and resources. Deanna added it would be helpful to make available local statistics for each city in the Concho Valley – that way when the traveling panel reaches that community, they have information specific to them. Nita added this could work if funds were pulled together.

6. St. Mary's Church Justice Christmas Program (Juan Flores)

Juan explained St. Mary's Church in San Angelo participates in the National Angel Tree Program. What they do is gather gifts for children of incarcerated parents with drug offenses. They then present the gifts to the children, on behalf of the parents, for Christmas. He asked if any CARES member is interested in donated to contact St. Mary's Church at 655-6278. Many of the gifts include clothing or toys.

7. Next Meeting – Annual Celebratory Meeting!

- a. DATE: Thursday, December 10, 2009
- b. TIME: 12:00pm
- c. LOCATION: First United Methodist Church – Heritage Hall, 37 E. Beauregard