

Behavioral Health committee

Feb 22, 2008

1:30-2:30 pm

In attendance: Marilyn Lande, Michael Lande, Kelly Warren, Annette Becker, Curt Ledford, Kristi Coltharp, Gordon Blue, David Voluck, Kayla Boettcher.

“Minor consuming – Major Concern”

YAS discovered that kids have been using with their parents, police don't appear to be doing anything about it. Opened notion that we may need to host a discussion about what's happening with kids and alcohol/substance use in Sitka, and how the various entities deal with it.

The group at today's meeting articulated a common goal of gathering together all the people involved with MCs in Sitka for a discussion on this topic. To include:

Police

DJJ

Sitka High counselors and principals

BMS counselors and principals

Pacific High staff

Steve Bradshaw

MEHS (Christy Anderson; Bernie Gurule, John Delong)

Prosecutor – Julie Willoughby

Public defender - Jude Pate

Other court personnel?

STA (TIDE) – Shannon Boussom (tribal court supervisor), Jessica Perkins (tribal attorney), new tribal judge when hired.

Youth Court

The entities present today (SCPS, YAS, Raven's Way, SEARHC Clinic 2)

Many of these roles have a relatively new person filling it. First goal would be for everyone to gain a common understanding of what's currently happening in Sitka with regard to this issue: statistics, practices, laws, options of district court v. tribal court, procedures, follow-up, prevention efforts, etc. The group today each plays a role in some aspect of this, but realize they know little about how the whole process works. Also need better understand of how all the programs interface, and when/how certain entities get involved (e.g. DJJ, public defender, etc.).

First Step:

Gather all the right people (see list above) with good information, present it in a way that can be mutually digested, provide better understanding on what's currently happening. City attorney's office to provide numbers, they have info on TIDE program, and anyone that ends up in the city as a city violation.

Info to be gathered and presented at the "big meeting":

- # of MC citations, tracking them through their process, recidivism
- What IS a minor consuming citation – when is it issued?
- what does it mean when a kid gets an MC – first offense, multiple offenses, when cited?

- prevention programs offered, to how many kids, at what ages, for how many years offered?
- treatment agencies – how many kids seen per year? Repeats?
- District court and tribal courts: how many seen, what is the process for each,
- Historical records on recidivism
- DJJ – how/when do they get involved?
- What kind of legal “hooks” can be put in place to get parents involved in consequences
- If a kid is caught smoking marijuana, what happens? How many citations for those?
- Prescription drugs incidence rate,
- What is the referral process for sending for an assessment?
- What happens from the point of citation beyond?
- Folks in treatment give teachers insight as to triggers that prompt youth to consume; training tool during inservice (later goal – not for this first meeting)
- DJJ – brief primer on MC law; what’s the trigger for getting them involved? (usually only when it’s a more serious problem)
- Process for interception of prosecutor/public defender, affidavit of non-compliance
- Why do MCs go to adult court, not juvenile justice? (CL: it started in juvenile justice, but after multiple references, then go to court – now that process is reversed, only after going to court multiple times does DJJ get involved)
- Brief history of how things were dealt with in the past (?) - lots of new people in the roles
- Best practices – what things have worked in field of prevention (e.g. anti-smoking)

Meeting needs to be moderated, well-structured.

Next goal: look at effectiveness of these programs. After all the participants have the same understanding of the current situation, the group would like to see a discussion about if the current process is effective, and to what extent. If all the players are “buying in” to the seriousness teen use of alcohol and marijuana. What’s the recidivism rate? What are the consequences? How are they being enforced? Maybe includes talking with kids and learn what worked, what prevented you from drinking again.

Long-term goal: cultural shift, change the perception that this is okay. Major audience in this goal is parents who enable teen drinking, who don’t perceive it as a problem behavior. This may include an educational campaign, similar to the recent inhalants campaign, to increase awareness that it’s not such a great idea to be loose with alcohol. One committee member wondered about the possibility that the legal consequences of a child’s MC could involve parents, e.g. requiring them to participate in additional classes. There was a bill introduced to state legislature for consequences to parents when children incur damages from DUI - may be possible to add tag to that? We should see how it’s tracking, if prevention language could be attached.

Next steps: Notes from this meeting, contact other people with a “heads up” that we’re hoping to do this meeting, schedule another planning meeting to determine structure for the “big meeting.”