**Van Buren County SAFE Coalition**

**July Meeting Minutes**

**Location: VBCH Community Services Center**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2014**

**2:00 pm**

Meeting called to order by Melissa Daugherty at 2:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**Heidi Bainbridge – DFC Coalition Coordinator, Randy Besick – Business Owner/Community Member, Rhonda Carter – Other/Community Member, Julie Chapuis – Schools, Melissa Daugherty – Youth Serving Organization,Susan Frey – Parent/Civic Group, Lee McIntosh – Law Enforcement, Ginger Shaw – Youth Serving Organization, Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson – Other Organization

**June Minutes approved by:**Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson**Second:**Ginger Shaw

|  |
| --- |
| **Topic:** DFC Update– In Packets * Melissa said that it is in the packets and has been emailed to coalition members.
* Heidi said it is pretty full this month as there was not one last month. She said she tried to put as many links as possible in it to make it easier for readers to look up the information they are interested in. Ginger said that it does work nicely to have the links in it.Heidi shared that the school board likes it as well.

**ACTION STEP:**None |
| **Topic:** YLC Update – None this Month * Melissa shared the YLC Group has not been meeting over the summer. She said they will be helping at the Kids Fair on July 29th, but other than that they do not have a lot going on.

**ACTION STEP:**None |
| **Topic:** Faith Based Sector – Filling the position * Heidi shared that she is working on it and has been in contact with three different people and hopes that by next month’s meeting the coalition will have another faith based member. She said the coalition has added another new member in the civic/volunteer organization sector and it is the new ISU Extension Coordinator that will be working in Van Buren County. Heidi shared that she will be working in the county approximately four days a week and hopes to be able to attend the coalition meetings. Heidi said the coordinator is excited to work with the coalition and has some great youth development activities that she would like to implement in the county. Heidi said she is especially looking at starting activities on the early out Wednesdays for the Van Buren Community Schools.

**ACTION STEP:** Contact the three faith based community members and ask them to join the coalition.**By Whom:**Heidi**By When:**August Coalition Meeting  |
| **Topic:** Kids Fair – Sign Up to Work – July 29, 2014 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm * Melissa shared it will be on July 29th from 5 to 7 pm at the Roberts Memorial Building.
* Heidi asked for members to sign up to help at the fair and passed a sign-up sheet around.
* Heidi passed out fliers for members to hang up or pass out in the community to let families know about the kids fair.
* Heidi passed out copies of the newest SAFE Newsletter.

**ACTION STEP:** Post fliers, help at the Kids Fair, let people know about the kids fair **By Whom:**All Coalition Members**By When:**July 29th |
| **Topic:** Tobacco Grant Updates * Melissa shared that they have been working on the assessments on all multi-unit housing sectors in the county to see what their tobacco policies were. They have now assessed all of the multi-unit housing in Van Buren County. This consisted of them talking to the owners or managers of the units about what their tobacco policies are. Then if they qualified they are able to be a part of a statewide directory. There were three units that were a gold standard which is all of their buildings are smoke free and the area 25 feet around the buildings are also smoke free. There were three units that were a bronze standard which is at least one building is smoke free and all of their patios and balconies are smoke free. There were five units that were copper standard that a 100% of the building is smoke free. Each of the units was provided with signs and window clings about being smoke free. They did assess the units and helped them with policies if they wanted help. Melissa shared that it was challenging to find all of the units as there is not a listing for the county of all the multi-unit housing that is available. She said she had actually just thought of another one this weekend. Heidi said sometimes it must have been hard to find out who owned them as well. Melissa agreed that was a lot of work as well.

**ACTION STEP:** None |
| **Topic:** Social Host Conversation * Heidi **shared that the Social Host Bill is in the packet.** She shared that no one at the state level has clarification on this law. She said it was very frustrating to go to a state meeting with state partners and no one could answer questions. She said the state partners actually had as many questions as the coalition representatives and they did not know where to go for the answers. Tammy asked if they had drafted the administrative rules for it. Heidi said they do not know who is drafting those. She said they believe it is the attorney general’s office. Tammy said that would make sense. Heidi said there is not a lot of guidance at this time and no one seems to want to take responsibility for it. The recommendation at the State Meeting was to have local conversations with law enforcement and judicial members to make sure that everyone in the community is on the same page in regards to enforcing the law and following through with it in the judicial system. Heidi said that she has been trying to do this and has not yet made those connections. She said her goal is to meet with both of those individuals at the same time. She said once she has been able to do that she will report to the coalition on how that law will be handled locally. One thing that came out of the meeting is that the new law does include consumption of alcohol instead of just purchasing or being in possession of the alcohol. She said they added that they cannot consume the alcohol nor have it in their system. Randy asked if that is based on a Breathalyzer. Heidi said she is not sure how they will determine consumption. Randy said that since it is a zero tolerance then any registration on a Breathalyzer would mean a conviction and that is problematic as Breathalyzer react to many things that have nothing to do with alcohol consumption like the yeast in bread, cough medicine, mouth wash, etc.

**ACTION STEP:** Meet with local law enforcement and county attorney. **By Whom:**Heidi**By When:**August Meeting  |
| **Topic:** Sustainability Work * Heidi shared that the coalition has been discussing sustainability for a while now and at the last meeting the coalition had discussed things that could be done to continue the work of the coalition. There have been some smaller group conversations since then about merging some programs and services across the county to be more unified and working together. This includes looking at wellness prevention, tourism, health prevention and human resources. There are a lot of conversations out there at this point but nothing has come to fruition at this point.
* Heidi asked if anyone has any new ideas. She also mentioned that before last month’s meeting she had spoken with Randy about some ideas on ways that the coalition can work in the community on peer to peer networking to provide some positive peer support without pushing a program or initiative. She said there are potentially some funds coming down next year that the coalition could benefit from. A couple of those are youth focused grants from the state of Iowa on youth development and one that focuses on underage drinking that would support the work that is being done and continue to develop that work. She said for the time being the coalition is ok – she said the funding will not be at the same level but it will continue the work of the coalition. She said when there is more information on these funds she will share that with the coalition and then the coalition can decide if it is the right fit for the community and the work that is being done in the community. She said the coalition does not want to go after funds that do not coincide with the work of the coalition. Heidi asked for any thoughts or ideas on sustainability for the coalition.
* Lee said that he would like to see the coalition being able to help provide education on basic life skills to community members –not just to youth but to adults as well. Julie said she believes that many of the community issues are driven by poverty situations that could be addressed by county services that promote economic development. Heidi said some of the challenge that would need to be overcome is how to get the information out to people or have them come to learn about it. Lee said his concern is that grant funding limits what can be done and he wonders if it cannot be done without grant funds.
* Tammy said that what Heidi mentioned is really important, because even though the coalition has great discussions about how to help others the others need to want to learn about it. She shared that there is a series that was on National Public Radio that can be downloaded and listened to about Bandwidth Poverty and how poverty causes stress on the brain and the brain capacity is used up thinking about today and they are not able to think about what is happening in the future. She said it gives others a different look at people in these situations. Heidi said she likes the idea of intertwining other community issues in with the work that the coalition is currently doing.
* Ginger commented that there is quite a bit of opportunity to partner with other groups when the coalition opens itself to addressing other community issues outside of substance abuse. Heidi shared that she and Randy had talked about Parents as Teachers and the work they do a merging socio economic classes and bringing them together in different learning type environments and allows reaching people with those different needs. Randy said that his conversation with Janet he found that there are a lot of strings attached that keep them from accomplishing all they could. He also said that in his opinion we are fighting the wrong war. He feels the government is fighting the war on poverty and then the war on drugs. He feels that the coalition is nibbling on the outer limits on the war on drugs. He believes the focus should be on the front end with the parents to influence them to take responsibility for themselves and their children without the drugs and alcohol to the degree it is then the coalition would not have to focus so much on the other end. He said it would be within the confines of social events and not funded by the government. He shared an example of someone in the community that was influenced by making a friendship with another parent that influenced them to see a better way to live their life. Julie said it is always about relationship first and the learning second. Lee said that he had noticed that with the YLC members and the connections they have with the youth leaders and how that influenced them. Lee said maybe there does not need to be government funding but work with in the community instead.
* Randy said the other issue is coming up with local funding because there is not a whole lot of money to be had in the county due to the poverty level in the county. Randy asked Julie what she meant by Economic Development. Julie said that she was talking about the work of the Villages in tourism and economic development and the Birmingham Business Incubation site with the help of Indian Hills coming together and working together to help sustain some of the work that is being done by the coalition or maybe even be more preventive if there are resources for them to tap into. She said it makes sense to use these partners to continue the work of the coalition. Randy said that he spoke to the people in Des Moines at the Department of Economic Development and it seems pretty clear to him that their first goal is the sustainability of their department and then it is politically driven so Van Buren County is at the bottom of the list. So that is why he feels the county is going to have to provide the funding themselves for development and prevention in Van Buren County. Heidi said that it is important to have jobs for people to have a healthy well rounded community. Randy said he does not believe retail is it. Tammy said that on the flip side you have to have the people able to fill the jobs that are coming and that starts with early childhood and families. She said it is finding the jobs for people who need them now but it is also finding the people for the jobs in the future. She said the coalition can reach out to families and offer them help, but as stated in rural Iowa sometimes things go on that does not allow the community to have a lot of control. She pointed out that the community used to react differently to single parent homes and supported the families in whatever ways they needed to be supported. Randy said that in those days there were fewer families needing that kind of support. He shared in the 40’s 5% of children were born out of wedlock and now 50% are born out of wedlock. So now instead of 10% of people helping you need everyone to help. He said it has just changed so very much.
* Heidi pointed out the important part is finding how to get the local support behind the work of the coalition. She said that is what the coalition will be working on in the next year. She said if the members have any ideas or ways to get the community buy in, support or funding to continue the work on issues that impact the community as whole to make it a healthy community that people want to come and live in, raise their kids/have their kids grow up in and come back to please let her know by giving her a call.

**ACTION STEP:** Think of share ways to sustain the work of the coalition to continue to make Van Buren County a SAFE and Healthy place to live.**By Whom:**All Coalition Members**By When:**September 2015 |
| **Topic: Workgroup Time** * Heidi said that the coalition has just a little bit of work left to do as it is coming close to the end of the grant cycle. She said most of the things on the work group forms have been completed and in a few there are still some things to be done due to road blocks that have occurred. She asked the group to break into work groups to go over what needs to be done between now and the end of September.
* Broke into groups and worked.

**ACTION STEP:** Continue the work that needs to be done in each group.**By Whom:**Work group members**By When:**September 2014  |
| **Other Business:*** Thank You – Heidi shared the Thank You note from Faith Murphy for the Scholarship the Coalition granted her.
 |

**Next Meeting:**Tuesday,August 19, 2014 at2:00 pm at Van Buren County Hospital Community Services Center Conference Room.

**Meeting Adjourned:** At 2:55p.m.

\*Meeting minutes are only a summary of the meeting. For a recording of the full dialogue of the meeting you may contact the coalition office.