



**Van Buren County SAFE Coalition**  
**June Meeting Minutes**  
**Location: VBCH Community Services Center**  
**Tuesday, June 16, 2015**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Meeting called to order by Melissa Daugherty at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Kitty Bogle – Other Organization, Gloria Brown – Other Organization, Ray Brownsworth – Healthcare, Melissa Daugherty – Youth Serving Organization, Ginger Knisley – Other Organization, Lee McIntosh – Law Enforcement, Kris Rankin – IPFS Coordinator, Lindee Thomas – Public Health, Joni Worley – Parent/Faith

**May Minutes approved by:** Ray Brownsworth **Second:** Lee McIntosh

**Topic:** Partnership for Success Funds

- Kris shared the coalition staff and coalition evaluator have been working on the Community Assessment Workbook (CAW) and currently have the majority of the charts filled in and are now working on filling in the other data sources. The coalition staff and the coalition evaluation committee will be working on answering the questions in this document at a meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Then the coalition staff will complete the workbook and submit it to IDPH by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Kris said that with the help of coalition members all of the Tri-Ethnic Survey interviews have been completed. She shared that Tonja Jirak and Julie Chapuis are currently working on scoring those interviews and when they are done with that the coalition staff will complete the Tri-Ethnic Survey Report and submit it to IDPH by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Kris shared that the coalition held focus groups on underage drinking and underage binge drinking in the county the first week of June. She said that 15 adults, 4 young adults and 5 youth attended these meetings. She shared that in the reports from the evaluator it states that it is acceptable in the community for youth, especially after they have graduated high school, to drink. It was also reported that underage customers can be served in bars if the bartender believes there is no one in the bar that will get them in trouble or the bartender sells/serves to an of age customer and allows them to give it to an underage customer. Ginger asked if it was a specific bar or bars in general. Kris said there was not a specific bar named. She said it was also reported that underage drinking parties are continuing to be held and the alcohol is provided by older friends, older siblings and parents with the near peers being the largest suppliers.
- Kris said that there was a party planned a few weeks ago that was broken up by the local sheriff's office before it started. Lee said they followed them to three locations before it was stopped.
- Kris shared that in July at the coalition meeting the coalition staff will bring information to the meeting on the next step for the grant about capacity building. She said that the coalition staff will be attending a webinar next week on the deliverables (reports) for the capacity and planning steps for the grant and will share that information with the coalition in July.
- Melissa asked if during the focus groups there were questions asked of the youth and young adults about suggestions to help reduce underage drinking and binge drinking in the county. Kris said they did not ask anything like that. She stated that they used the questions recommended by IDPH in the CAW. Ginger suggested that down the road the coalition hold an event with youth and young adults and ask those types of questions to have that conversation started and hear their suggestions and solutions for these issues in the community. Kris commented that there were problems getting youth to these meetings because school is out and there were problems with the mail as well.

**ACTION STEP:** Complete the Community Assessment Workbook and Tri-Ethnic Survey Report and submit by June 30, 2015

**By Whom:** Coalition Staff & Evaluation Committee Members

**By When:** June 30, 2015

**Topic:** Youth Development Grant

- Melissa shared that there is information on this grant in everyone's packets. She said it is a grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Heidi has applied for it. It would focus on the youth prevention and YLC kids. If the coalition receives this grant it will be for five years. It will start August of this year through June of next year and will then run July to June for the next four years. It will be about \$60,000/year and the coalition will know the 10<sup>th</sup> of July if it has received it or not. A lot of this money will go back to supporting the YLC program. The goals include reducing substance abuse of school age youth, evidenced based programs, increase youth development skills, leadership skills and character development. It will fund one part time staff member and that will be Heidi. It also provides for administrative costs for the coalition's fiscal agent. Melissa said Heidi will be at the next meeting and can clarify any questions at that meeting.

**ACTION STEP:** None

**Topic:** Iowa Youth Survey Initial Results

- Melissa said that the Initial Results Report is in everyone's packets. She pointed out that there are a few things that have gone up, but not too much. Alcohol and Binge drinking are down. Accessibility to Alcohol has gone up. Tobacco use is kind of down, but leveled off with the 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Accessibility seems to be the same. Marijuana use is kind of all over the board and up with the 11<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Ginger said she did not have tobacco and marijuana information. Kris said it must not have copied properly and apologized. She said she will email it to everyone today.
- Melissa shared that accessibility for alcohol is up for 11<sup>th</sup> graders from 67% in 2012 to 81% in 2014. There is quite a jump in those numbers. There was a discussion on where they are getting it from and Kris said she will pull that information from the IYS report and bring it to the next meeting.
- Ginger asked what the marijuana numbers were. Melissa said for marijuana usage for the past 30 days it went from 2% in 2012 to 5% in 2014, but in 2009 it was 14% - so it went down and is now slowly creeping back up. Accessibility to marijuana is easy or very easy went from 49% in 2012 to 52% in 2014. Joni asked if the hype of marijuana has caused these numbers to go up. There was a discussion that yes that is part of the problem now.
- There was a discussion about how the 11<sup>th</sup> graders are reporting that they are skipping or cutting classes more.
- Lee asked if the coalition staff could put together a report comparing the county's results with other similar counties to show that the work of the coalition is helping the community. Ginger also suggested a comparison with the state overall. Lee said it would help with the viability of the coalition.
- Lindee asked if there are bullying questions in this survey. Kris said yes it does cover bullying. It is actually reported by school district and by county and the coalition does receive copies of all of those reports. She said this report is just a summary of what the coalition tracks for the work that it does.
- Melissa suggested that it might be a good idea to look at other similar counties to Van Buren and see if it is doing better because of the work of the coalition and the things that are in place in the county. Lee said in talking with law enforcement and others they are not seeing that problem as being serious, but if the coalition could show them that it is not as big of a problem because of the work of the coalition it could help. Ray said that for example if there were peer communities where the ranks were higher and show that because of the coalitions activities the county is safer and the coalition is helpful. Lee said that there might be more public acceptance of the work of the coalition if this could be proven to be true.

**ACTION STEP:** Send the full initial report to coalition members; Provide information to coalition members on where the youth say they are getting the alcohol from; consider developing a report that compares Van Buren results to the state and other counties similar to Van Buren.

**By Whom:** Coalition Staff

**By When:** As soon as possible

**Topic:** DFC Update – June

- Melissa shared it is in everyone's packets and it is emailed to everyone monthly.
- Melissa said that Heidi talked a little bit about when Dr. Blair and Larry went into the schools and there is some info on that in the update.

**ACTION STEP:** None

**Topic:** YLC Update – Youth attending NYLI and ISTEP Summit

- Melissa shared that Cheyenne Schmitter and Emily Jester will be attending the CADCA Mid-Year and National Youth Leadership Initiative Conference in August in Indianapolis with Heidi, Kris and herself. This is Emily's second time and Cheyenne's first time attending this conference and will be good for both of them.
- Melissa said that the ISTEP Summit is the state of Iowa's group that replaced JEL. It is their annual summit and over the past few years they have broken the summit down into smaller groups and they are holding one in Fairfield this year. She was really excited to get a bunch of kids to go to it this year since it is close and no kids are currently signed up to go. Cierry is on the executive council for ISTEP and will be there helping with it, but other than her Melissa has had no luck recruiting youth to attend the summit. She said she will continue to try to recruit kids to attend it. It is next Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western in Fairfield. It is free and the coalition is willing to help transport kids to it and back. Melissa even offered to transport them back early if they needed to for sports activities. She hopes some will change their minds and attend it. Joni said she thinks that Jacob might be able to attend. Kris shared that it is fun too; it is not just serious the whole day. Lindee asked who was invited and if it included the Middle School students. Melissa said it is for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Melissa said she thought some of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders were talking about attending, but maybe having to register online held them up from going. Melissa is planning on reaching out to some of them specifically about attending. She said they did send a text message out to the YLC members encouraging them to register and attend this summit.

**ACTION STEP:** None

**Topic:** Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools Grant

- Melissa shared that Julie is the one with the information on this grant and is not present today. Kris shared that the grant ends at the end of the month and that she believes

they will continue to utilize the display case, the locker letters and the youth council to develop a positive environment at the school.

**ACTION STEP:** None

**Topic:** Other Business

- Kids Fair Signup: Melissa sent around a signup sheet for coalition members to sign up to help at the Kids Fair on July 28, 2015 from 5-7 p.m. If other coalition members are interested in helping at the Kids Fair please contact the coalition staff at 319-293-6412 or [info@vbsafecoalition.com](mailto:info@vbsafecoalition.com). This would be helping at the coalition display or possibly with other activities at the fair.
- Poverty Meetings: SIEDA is holding Poverty in Your Community Workshops in Van Buren County right now. They have held them the past two Thursdays and they will be holding them June 18<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and 5:30 pm. They are conversations about what poverty looks like in Van Buren County. They are trying to encourage people who work with people in poverty or are in poverty to come to these sessions and tell their story and at the session they will come up with what poverty looks like in Van Buren County and plans for what can be put into place. So, if coalition members can join those they would be happy to have more people at the table. They will be meeting in the VBCH Community Services Center's Conference Room for the next two weeks. There were a few people at the first meeting and a few more at the last one. Lindee pointed out that it is hard for people from outlying communities (Farmington and Milton) to have the gas to get here. So, it might have been better to put it in other communities (rotate it through different towns). Melissa agreed and said transportation is a huge problem in the county and a barrier. She also shared it is fascinating when these focus groups are held, because at the first meeting the people said we don't have any poverty in Van Buren County. She thinks some people do not realize there are better things out there than what they have lived and know. Maybe the word needs to get out about what people are facing and dealing with when it comes to poverty. Lee shared that people have blinders on and do not see and look around at what is really going on in the community. Gloria said it is also the norm and they do not see it as poverty. Melissa shared that for herself when it comes to homelessness it does not look the same as in the big cities, but truly in the community there are people who are homeless and living with friends, family or in their vehicles. It is different, but it is still there. People hear it but they don't understand it.
- Lee asked if the coalition staff have heard anymore from the pharmacy about the drug take back. Kris said they have not. She hopes to give more information to the coalition on that next month at the coalition meeting.
- Kitty shared that the safety committee in Fairfield is looking to pass an ordinance that would require all merchants to attend merchant alcohol training within 30 days of being hired. The safety committee thought it was a great idea and there are just some wording changes that need to be made. It will be similar to the one in Centerville. She thinks it will pass.

**ACTION STEP:** None

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at Van Buren County Hospital Community Services Center Conference Room. Will include Work Groups

**Meeting Adjourned:** At 9:30 a.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.