

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

August 1, 2007

1. Reactions to data presentation:

- “Not too surprising”
- Uncomfortable with the definition of binge drinking – should be lower
- % of students reporting driving drunk higher than expected
- Would be nice to see data broken out by gender
- Think we’ve come a long way but surprised when 22% of youth don’t think it’s wrong
- Some information here is good – would it ever get out to parents
- College kids driving drunk – self-reported, a surprise
- 13% of parents providing alcohol is noteworthy
- What about ER data – alcohol poisonings?
- Reporting – especially Native American is under-reported (no designation of ethnic information)
- Do numbers here have any correlation to illegal drugs?

2. Factors (intervening variables or why is this happening?):

- Apathy
- Community Norms
- Cultural
- Peer pressure
- Parent belief system
- Stress – lack of coping skills
- Lack of law enforcement
- Lack of prevention funding
- Cuts in funding
- Seasonal issues
- Lack of alternative activities

3. What is being done to address the issue?

- Enforcement – cooperative grants with sheriff and state police to designate patrols targeting drunk driving
- Without those – patrols are not able to devote resources to traffic
- LSSU – piggy back on City efforts and encourage designated drivers – provide designated driver permits at school events
- ISD has Michigan Model – prevention education
- Schools in Rudyard partner with Sheriff’s department and present information in driver’s education programs
- SAMSHA grants: Family Connections, Reconnecting Youth, Parenting Wisely,
- Project Alert
- Volunteer Center – Project graduation, youth media campaign
- Women and Families program – when women bring kids to treatment they work with kids
- Speakers at nursing program
- Health classes in high school

4. What’s working, not working, and what are the obstacles?

- Mentoring (peer to peer – hard to get adults involved)
- Elsewhere, a dedicated drug and alcohol counselor in college – “plant seeds” and provided education

- New drinkers can be reached through education - bigger problem –those who come to college with already established behaviors
- Community Health Center in Schools (working) – agencies come in to provide presentations, counseling and services – 3 more schools will have this soon
- Parents do not get involved
- \$\$\$\$\$
- Not funded to do education or prevention
- Lack of substance abuse services for those incarcerated
- Parents – they are brought in when there is a problem – need to start earlier and change parent thinking
- Hard to recruit professionals to rural area for treatment/prevention services
- Seniors – overuse of medication and mixing drugs and alcohol

5. What would you do differently?

- More elementary school level prevention
- Prevention and treatment in the schools
- Have more options through the courts – kids return home – nothing to break the cycle – kids learn the system
- Start more education earlier

6. What outcomes would you like to see from this process?

- Collective advocating for more funding
- Parents getting more involved
- More legislation to restrict availability
- Capacity building for gathering data – a good surveillance system
- Educate the Doctors
- Chronic users and services for indigent – need a half-way house that is not short term

7. Any additional thoughts?

- Parents want to believe kids don't use – tell kids to be safe
- “Parenting Classes” vs. “Skills Classes” How do I handle my kids now and how you package that
- Rise here in opiate IV users 18-25
- Prescription Drug use is an issue
- More services needs for people with co-occurring disorders
- More prevention for younger kids (younger than 3rd grade)
- Figure out a way to continue support for parents and young kids
- More students picked up and put in jail recently
- It's a combination of problems, but substance abuse is involved in the majority of complaints handled by law enforcement – especially on weekends it is a factor in vandalism, burglary and assault, among others.

Comments from 3 x 5 cards:

- What is your total population for your data for Chippewa?
- Population of 8th, 10th, 12th
- Seasonal variations?
- Impact of Canadian drinking age?
- Where does the definition of being drunk come from? (i.e. 5 or more drinks in a row)
- I think there is a problem with that definition when we are applying it to youth because they are more susceptible & it may give the impression that 5 and under is okay.

- It is difficult to get students to believe that they shouldn't drink if at home their parents allow it and even encourage it sometimes – providing liquor for student parties in their homes
- When senior citizens are provided celebration meals, etc. for Avery Square residents – there are always many bottles of wine on the dinner table (plus some bubbly water) but no check is made and the few who drink can drink more than is desirable by law and no one checks on that. Is it legal to serve wine at these dinners indiscriminately to anyone who will attend dinners?
- What percentage does your is accurate info? When my kinds were in high school years ago they would come home and tell me there had been a survey and some of the pupils had exaggerated their responses. I felt that the numbers were higher than I expected and wondered if that could account for it.
- It is critical to focus on “social norming.” By encouraging students to participate in programs such as Al-a-non and Al-a-teen for students to empower them to overcome the family norms that have often been generational. Once students realize they can break the cycle of alcohol abuse it will make a big difference.
- Why is substance abuse not broken up after age 14. The statistics of age 15 and older are also very important.