

LUCE COUNTY COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

August 16, 2007

1. Immediate reactions to data presentation:
 - Not surprised (works with youth)
 - Amazed at what kids think they can get away with
 - Consensus – we're bored, so that's what we do (court kids too)
 - Kids feel they can get away with it
 - Not a surprise – not just kids in the court system
 - It's the norm
 - It's what they think is expected from their friends
 - Young age of first drink is a surprise
 - Not surprised by number regarding lack of treatment
 - Youth treatment is less than 1 %
 - Kids talk about parents doing it – easy access – part of the culture
 - What would community members think?
2. Factors (intervening variables – why is this happening?)
 - Perceived culture
 - Adults may not see kids drinking – denial – or may condone it – “stay at home”
 - Drug court is an intensive year-long mandatory program in lieu of jail
3. What efforts are underway to address this issue?
 - Sheriff's office has youth alcohol grant for enforcement
 - Need more education
 - Prime for Life is in the schools now and through the court system – fosters realization of choices and consequences – starts in 9th grade and with court referred youth (8 this year) – drinking and driving is discussed
 - Talk with kids about other options daily
 - Work with community service kids and adults
4. What's working and what isn't?
 - Strong and positive influence on kids (at one community program) – the target population doesn't think there's a problem.
 - Prime for life – even if it impacts one kid
 - Program sees progress – teachers comment on changes in attitudes and grades
5. What are the challenges?
 - Manpower (no time)
 - Center is open because community decided it was important
 - Maybe we should target parents – “this is no okay”
 - The Center also discusses issues with parents and parents talk to each other – it's illegal – bottom line
 - Early childhood program addresses the issue on a case by case basis – parents think kids don't notice or they try to hide it from their kids
6. What outcomes would you like to see from this process?
 - It would be nice if bars didn't have to put up signs

- Parents should not have their teenagers be their designated driver
- Parents think kids aren't paying attention
- Parents need to be better role models
- Effective strategies to engage parents
- Maybe advertising
- Churches and faith based interaction – they will help with specific needs
- Parenting education for babies is offered in Marquette and the Sault
- There is a WIC clinic through the health department – not sure how much parenting awareness they do
- ISD does have some home-based parenting education
- Public Library is part of school – not a place where people congregate
- Parents are at sporting events
- Vendor education – parent responsibility
- Billboards at sporting events
- School is the convening point for the community

7. Final Comments

- Good idea – promote a positive peer culture in high school and college – emphasize the positive – messages in bathroom stalls and on posters, etc.
- Safe prom and graduation ads through GLCYD
- New program coming – Protecting You Protecting Me – 1st through 5th grades – emphasizes safety – getting in the car with someone who has been drinking is one of the lessons – offers material for kids to take home – beginning this school year

8. Other issues?

- It's all about learning about consequences of choices – drugs, alcohol, sex, internet risks
- Substance abuse and the connection to child abuse
- Prenatal exposure a big factor

Comments from 3 x 5 cards:

- Target population should be addressed evenly in all socio economic levels. Care should be taken to address the youth/adults who are able to avoid sanctions
- FYI – Court statistics like implied consent can be obtained from each individual court
- Zero tolerance arrests may not be accurate reflection – often they will be charged a straight OWI – reason – zero tolerance cannot be jailed – OWI can