

MARQUETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

August 7, 2007

1. Reactions to data presentation:

- Become community tradition – cycle needs to be broken – getting protocols in place regarding sale at community events
- Kids need to learn dangers
- Our rates are higher than the State averages
- Kids are starting to use at a younger age
- Get stricter with checking ID's
- This information needs to be spread to the community – on the front page of the Mining Journal – people are not aware
- Treatment doesn't match the problem – need more treatment – hard time funding treatment and there will never be enough money for all of those who need treatment – prevention is key
- Public by and large is immune to the statistics
- As a group we probably are not surprised by the data – need to take some select information and package it for the general public
- Are there powerful effective models that could be applied here? “Feels like we don't know what the problem is.”
- Public policy is lacking in compliance for substance abuse programs
- Use funds more effectively
- Surprised by statistics – especially early onset of use
- Shocked that 8th, 10th, and 12th graders think it's okay – certainly the public would be surprised
- Coalition addresses some of the strategies (such as enforcement) but could always use more that will compliment overall efforts –
- Goals – reduce use and change cultural norms
- Numbers are coming down

2. Factors (Intervening variables – why is this happening?)

- Homelessness hasn't been mentioned – add that as a variable as it is documented in those seeking services – it is also a factor as to why they are homeless (current use or history of use has strong correlation to homelessness)
- Lack of appropriate and attractive alternatives – youth engaged in positive activities are motivated not to use
- More private treatment than indicated in data
- Addiction is an inheritable disorder – you are more at risk when it is what is modeled at home
- Modeling is important – lack of parental input, etc. in the experience of youth
- Fewer crashes perhaps if we had a local system of legal and affordable transportation – little governmental support for this and none from liquor providers
- For some people using alcohol and marijuana is a viable option for self-medicating

3. What is being done to address this issue?

- MGH –Prime for Life – to underage youth who are exhibiting high risk behavior (evidence-based) – Most have MIP or DUID offenses
- MC2 objectives – we could add to that or do more of them (such as compliance checks)
- Juvenile Court – Prime for Life – for adjudicated MIP offenders, etc.
- Secretary of State – effects ability to get a license
- Sheriff's office targets drunk driving and youth alcohol with a grant
- 0013 – shift in most circles that it's not cool to drink and drive
- Similar shift with tobacco and domestic violence – look at these for way to change attitudes

- Snowmobile clubs no longer promote bar to bar tours
 - 6,000 designated river cards distributed to local businesses since January – may be helping
4. Other efforts – goals and objective in place – and what are the obstacles or barriers?
- MIP attend MIP group and police, prosecuting attorney and insurance companies present information on consequences – overall return rate is about 20% (those who re-offend)
 - 60-80 MIP and 12-15 have returned
 - Challenge – used to have a driver analyst but MDOT does not allow them the time any longer
 - Responsible alcohol sales program to increase knowledge of servers – low attendance – challenge getting them to attend.
 - Inpatient treatment is referring people at risk of homelessness to the shelter. Challenge is that once they find a place to stay it is difficult getting them to continue to participate in the program and find them long-term housing
5. Lessons learned – what would you do differently?
- More prevention education programming at MSHS with health education
 - More information targeting youth – at risk or not
 - Dissemination of information is least effective – involvement is more effective
 - School challenges to accept programs offered – time, space, staffing and other logistics
 - Intervention at NMU kicks in with serious offense – better to respond to first offense – most things are handled at Residence Hall level
 - Less money available for enforcement and for school programs – need to add to that pot
6. What outcomes would you like to see from this process?
- Additional evidence based treatment for adults
 - More focus on administration and are they being effective
 - Linkages between programs could be developed/improved
 - Target middle school and high school
 - Michigan Model is good
 - Need to get parents involved
 - Strengthening Families – those who need it don't attend
7. Additional Comments
- Addressing the issue after the fact – emotional stability of children is paramount
 - Overall, we could have a larger impact if we build people up and find strengths in everyone so people would enjoy working and coming for services
 - Thanks Merrilee and the coalition

Comments from 3 x 5 cards:

365 Day a year data calendar

Need to reference age range on college students and are they youth or young adults