

Greenville County Safe Communities Coalition Meeting Minutes County Square, Conference Room A

November 10, 2011

In Attendance Stacey Ashemore, Dee Barksdale, Judy Barton, Donna Breimann, Isa Brown, Yvonne Davis, Brian Donnelly, Vardrey Fleming, David Griffith, Kelley Grigg, Lilly Hall, Alan Johnson, Clint Keels, Jeff McAninich, Ame Pettiss, Carol Reeves, Dante Russo, Nicole Sheppard, Terry Taylor, Justen Thompson, Denise Williams, (21)

- **Welcome & Introductions –Carol Reeves, Chairperson** – Carol welcomed Coalition members and guests
 - **Approval of Minutes** – the minutes were approved.
 - **Lunch Sponsorship** – lunch for the November GCSC Coalition Meeting was provided by **Safe Kids Upstate**
 - **New Opportunities**
 - Announcements:
 - December Coalition meeting will be special due to holidays similar to last year – pot luck meal – sign up sheet passed around to members, also need help with games and activities
 - Drugs of Abuse Conference – November 30 – December 2 – Marriott Columbia
 - Denise Williams announced for Cathie Osika Landreth – February 27 GHS will host Injury Conference – more details to come - \$25 fee
 - Carol asked that the Coalition members vote for their favorite poster for Red Ribbon Poster Contest from the finalist. Winner receives \$100 prize.
 - **Presentation: Hayley Cunningham, Furman University Student – The Choking Game**
 - Carol introduced Hayley
 - Hayley gave history of why she became advocate for education of the “The Choking Game” involving death of her 13 year old cousin
 - Hayley explained the effects of her cousin’s untimely death on her family, and friends of her cousin
 - Choking game appears to be suicide unless details are investigated
 - Choking game is when an individual suffocates on purpose to get a temporary high
 - Since no drugs or alcohol is used, individuals feel this is safe
 - Dangers include, brain injury, stroke, injuries from falling, long term mental disabilities, etc.
 - Communities not educated about dangers, consider activity only used by adults
 - Warning signs individual is playing Choking Game – headaches, blood shot eyes, moodiness, change in behavior, ropes or straps in room, marks on neck, asking related questions, marks on doorknobs or bedposts, etc.
 - Most deaths occur in individual’s bedroom with parents in the home
 - The game has many code names, Blockout, Space Monkey, Purple Dragon, Funky Chicken, etc.
 - Haley’s goal is to educate as many as possible about the dangers of the Choking Game
 - She is available for presentations – contact GFP to forward requests to her
 - Questions:
 - David Griffith commented that he knew of the game in the 1950s – so the game had been around longer than thought.
 - Clint Keels believes the game involves relatively all classes
 - Carol – data isn’t available due to similarity to suicide
 - Carol believes education should begin in 5th and 6th grades
 - David Griffith thanked Hayley for getting involved and donation of her personal time
 - Carol asked the Coalition to help get the word out concerning Hayley’s availability for appearances
 - Yvonne Davis commented that she did not realize the connection with game her cousins played in her youth entitled “Fainting Game” until she saw the presentation. Her children told her of a game youth are playing involving stuffing miniature marshmallows in their mouths and saying a phrase – she believed it was “chucky bunny”.
 - Clint Keel ask if there were any preventative actions?
 - Hayley answered to keep youth busy with activities such as sports, need to offer challenges to keep Occupied
 - Terry Taylor asked if any sport’s celebrities were involved youth responded to them – Hayley didn’t know of any sport’s celebrities that were involved in this particular issue
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Reports

- Data Committee – Denise Williams, GCSO – Curtis Askew resigned as chairperson. Working with core members to produce reports. Will hold full meeting first of year.
- YEP Committee – Nicole Sheppard, Compass of Carolina – Meet 2nd Tuesday each month – currently working on presentations for 2012. Discussing possibility of ½ day training gang awareness.
- Committee for Responsible Driving – Denise Williams, GCSO – Visited four high schools during Red Ribbon Campaign presented traffic safety information including playing Distractive Driving Game. Purchased anti texting thumb bands through Medical Auxiliary donation gave to teens. Discussing community seat belt survey project combining distractive driving for future.
- Multijurisdictional Traffic Task Force – No Updates at this time
- EUDL (Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws) – Jeff McAninich, Phoenix Center – looking into issues with new clubs and substance abuse related establishments. Completed Greenville Co. Youth Survey involving school district will present information in March.
- MADD – Terry Taylor – Pledge program with NFL – deals with consequences of impaired driving Terry has ribbons for “Tie One on For Safety” begins November 16 – New Years. Terry gave Solicitor Walt Wilkins credit for increase in attendance at the Victim’s Impact Panels.
- Tobacco Free Kids Collaborative – Terry Taylor, GFP – Town of Pendleton passed smoke free ordinance and will come in effect on February 1, 2012. Total of 43 smoke free – 37% of the state. Great American Smoke-Out is November 17 – GFP Interns have essay contest working with Greenville High School – winner announced on Nov. 17th.
Carol asked members that smoked to consider working with GFP that day as a participant.
- **Upcoming Events & Additional Announcements**
 - Carol read upcoming events
 - Carol brought lunch before the Coalition - need to decide to pay for lunch individually or end meeting at lunch and not provide lunch with new year. GFP has been paying for most of the lunches.
 - Carol reminder members to vote for the Red Ribbon Posters – she believes that society should prioritize more for youth – don’t do enough.
 - Isa Brown, GPD – explained that everyone didn’t have time to stay and eat lunch, that the meeting time along with staying for lunch was too much time away from their jobs. She also feels that there is only so much that she can do personally, and that she does all she can. She felt as though she were being reprimanded. She felt that GFP should not be held responsible for providing lunches.
 - Carol apologized and assured Isa that her statement was not directed at her personally, and was meant as a general comment to the community. She just feels that we cannot do enough. She welcomes impute from the Coalition and feels conflict is healthy.

Meeting Adjourned - Lunch Served

Lunch Provided by *Greenville Family Partnership*

Next Meeting: December 8 – 10:30AM –
Conference Room A, County Square