

# Youth Involvement Committee

August 29, 2006  
Valley Community Fund

**Present:** Priscilla Ortega, Sherice Valdez, Deb Coralis, Carole Pastore, Liza Marron.

Nancy Molina is no longer with Valley Community Fund so **Deb Coralis, new executive director**, joined us as the VCF representative and was very interested in our prevention work.

**Liza gave a brief history** of the work at hand and asked for the group to work on goals and objectives to increase youth involvement in the SLV Prevention Coalition work.

**Sherice felt** that too often the A+ and involved kids are usually brought to the table and she felt other marginal, but with just as much to offer, young people should be engaged in the invitations to participate. Deb works with migrant youth and felt those young people should also be asked to the table.

**Diversity will be kept in mind at all times** as we work to involve more youth in the coalition.

- Liza shared some of the youth involvement input from the coalition retreat:
- Assure youth involvement
- Have youth input on agenda of coalition meetings
- Youth meet at same time and location, but separate from adults
- Include college age youth
- Meet monthly with entertainment
- Youth meet different day (Saturday) and have representative on adult coalition to report back.
- Have adult representative to youth meetings
- Be flexible
- Have action items instead of talk

Keeping these in mind we asked the question – Why would the youth come to our coalition meeting?-- Because our focus is on underage drinking prevention and we are making decisions group.

about them without allowing them a voice or hearing from them.

**Youth have said** that the activities they like to participate in include:

Fun  
Music  
Entertainment  
Dancing  
Action

Sherice felt that the **college clubs are good contacts** for youth leaders and Priscilla shared that Shirley Atencio and Kris Daniels at ASC are great contacts too.

It was felt that **3-4 youth from each county or sector with a maximum of 15 to create a focus group would be best**. Their charge would be to plan or give input towards a larger youth event that will include fun and focus groups that will give input on youth involvement and ideas around what best prevention they think works with youth. This larger youth event would take place as perhaps a Get Real event with recruitment during Red Ribbon Week the end of October.

We identified sectors of youth we would like to see get involved:

**Student Council** youth under Amy Ortega's leadership - Priscilla

**Boys and Girls Club Youth** - Sherice

**Ganas youth** – Sandra Santa Cruz

**Phillip Sena** - Shayna Congress

**Faith Based** – Deb Coralis

**Get R!eal** - Priscilla

**Marginal kids** – that have community service to do – Liza/Carole

The next youth involvement committee meeting will be **Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Boys and Girls Club** – Each member will have identified 2-3 youth for an invitation to be part of the small focus group.