

## Alamosa Coalition Minutes for August 17, 2004

**Welcome:** Members were welcomed and the meeting was called at 7:30 a.m. August 17, 2004 in the conference room of the San Luis Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center. Continental breakfast was provided.

**Facilitator:** Priscilla Ortega, Team Leader  
Recorder: Nelda Curtiss, Prevention Media Specialist

**Attendance:** Capt. Lawrence Martin, Kathy Van Gieson, Rick Esquibel, Jennifer Walter, Shoshanna Montoya, Charlotte LeDonne, Erin Smith, Valarie Ruybal, Paula Hendricks, Clarissa Woodworth (Program Coordinator), Tom Vigil (Prevention Specialist), Priscilla Ortega (Team Leader), Nelda Curtiss (Prevention Media Specialist)

**Program & Staff Update:** Clarissa discussed the multi-strategy approach that prevention takes. She addressed the continuation of grants and the addition of new partners: Costilla County Department of Social Services, San Luis school based program, Alamosa Department of Social Services and intensive case management. The prevention team anticipates about 45 students outside of the Alamosa based program. New staff have been added: Shoshanna will be 1/2 time with the prevention team; Adam Vasquez was hired away from medical records to be full-time with prevention; and Rick Esquibel will be the clinical supervisor working closely with Priscilla (team leader). Tom will have an intensive case load of 15 kids from the Alamosa DSS program. Additionally, the mental health center has hired Jennifer (a hardworking mentor for the prevention program, as well) as a full-time counselor based in Monte Vista.

**DUI Prevalence in the Valley:** Capt. Lawrence Martin, Director of the Colorado State Patrol Office in Alamosa, discussed the alcohol and drug problems. He noted that dui's in the valley ranged from one to two to three to even 4 times the legal limit. He noted that because their tolerance was so high these individuals were still functioning—but in other places, these intoxication levels would spell alcohol poisoning and hospitalization. "It is critical to get these behaviors deterred," he told the coalition. He noted that the coalition was the "first line of defense" and that the effort is a "long hard road." Speaking on the movement of Meth labs to rural communities, he Capt. Martin noted that hydrous-ammonia (fertilizer) had been stored in unlocked units until recently. That created a situation where a main ingredient for Meth could be taken in the night. Users of meth have a two-year life expectancy once they start. *(Read Erin Smith's story from the Pueblo Chieftain on the front page of this newsletter.)*

**Train the Trainer Opportunity:** Paula Hendricks, Director of the San Luis Valley — Tobacco Education Prevention Partnership, announced a train-the-trainer opportunity regarding tobacco prevention for youth peers and adults who will talk to youth and children in schools. She handed out brochures and registration forms for Sept. 10 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. training at the new Valley Wide Health Systems administration

building. Sue Davis arranged for the conference room with access to the kitchen. Lunch will be provided. The training will include new data, displays and demonstrations around healthy and COPD lungs, Mrs. Gross Mouth, and a puppet play for younger kiddos. Youth who smoke, youth peer counselors, teachers, prevention specialists are encouraged to come. For more information, contact Paula at 657-3352.

**Sub-committees:** Brief updates of the initial subcommittee meetings for the data and the media committees noted that the committees would meet again with the start of school. Hopefully, updates will be provided at the next coalition meeting (Sept. 21).

**Round Table:** Members shared information about their programs in the round table. Kathy Van Gieson and Marylou Rodriguez talked about the postponed BBQ, suicide prevention funding, Yellow Ribbon and that the National Conference will be in April and in Denver this year. SEADS (AHS) relay challenge at Cole Park earlier in the summer netted \$550. Valarie referenced the possibility of getting a suicide prevention trainer who gears presentation to enforcement officers. Charlotte LeDonne reminded members of her HIV and substance abuse training in the afternoon and the local efforts to increase risk reduction.

**Next Meetings: Sept. 23 (evening at 7 p.m.);** October 19, Nov. 16, 2004 at 7:30 a.m.

**Adjourned:** Meeting ended at 9:00 a.m.