



ALAMOSA COMMUNITY COALITION MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

On September 23, Dave Boon, motivational speaker, presented Uncommon Success—helping today’s students become tomorrow’s leaders.

His slides introduced the coalition members to the mayor of Fort Collins, to physically challenged athletes and to minorities. All of these successful individuals didn’t give up even as they faced debilitating adversity.

Dave explored with the coalition in the same way that he discussed goals and choices with students at Centauri Middle School, Centennial School, and Alamosa Middle and High Schools for the two days he was in Alamosa. Noting the 127 item list that John Goddard wrote as a 15 year old dreaming about Borneo, Easter Island, and Amazon River, he encouraged everyone to write their goals and dreams.

SSAVE and SEADS coalitions gave a brief update. SEADS has visited with Sierra Grande’s students to encourage development of a suicide and drug prevention coalition.

Priscilla Ortega and Clarissa Woodworth announced the start of new programs with Centennial Schools, Costilla County Department of Social Services and Alamosa Department of Social Services.

Prior to the coalition meeting, Dave also met with staff and others in community to present tracking and evaluation of mentoring programs. He also addressed funding opportunities.

The meeting adjourned about 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2004 at the SLV Mental Health Center at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast will be provided.



Please join us for our next
Alamosa Community Coalition Meeting
(a drug free communities program)
Thurs. MORNING – Oct 19 at 7:30 a.m.
SLV Mental Health Center
Speaker: Valarie Ruzbal *on update on regional resources*
****** Refreshments provided ******
Parents, youth, mentors, and community members are all welcomed & encouraged to come.

San Luis Valley Mental Health Services has partnered with OMNI Research and Training, Inc. to develop and implement the evaluation plan. The plan includes three components:

- 1) Process evaluation for coalition effectiveness and implementation of funded programs.
- 2) Assessment of short-term impacts on individual students who receive services funded under the DFC initiative.
- 3) Assessment of longer-term outcomes on all Alamosa RE-11J students.

As discussed earlier, a comprehensive set of programs are being implemented under this Drug-Free Communities grant. Programs were selected that affect issues in multiple domains and include family strengthening programming, youth mentoring and health educational services and as well as violence prevention in schools. Each of these focus areas have/will have individually developed process measures, but will share common measures for assessing immediate as well as longer-term impacts. Each of the three components of the evaluation plan, including progress and preliminary results, are described in further detail below.

Process Evaluation

Coalition Effectiveness. The effectiveness of Alamosa’s local community coalition was measured in February 2004 using an instrument known as “Working Together”, which is based on research conducted by Crislip and Larson (1994) on collaborative leadership. The instrument assessed the coalition on five dimensions and results generally revealed (see table below) quite positive results, indicating a good level of overall functioning.

Alamosa Community Coalition Effectiveness (All individual items that comprise each dimension are measured on a 4-point scale, with 1 indicating poor performance and 4 indicating good performance).

Dimension	Mean Score
The Context of Collaboration	3.75
The Structure of Collaboration	3.38
Collaboration Members	3.27
The Collaboration Process	3.32
The Results of Collaboration	3.40

While the means on each dimension are high, an analysis of individual item means suggest a few areas that would warrant attention for further developing the effectiveness of the coalition. Specifically, better definition of group member roles and greater use of sub-groups were two areas that yielded lower scores relative to scores on other items. Also, the coalition may benefit from more discussion surrounding their performance as a group. To this end, all Working Together results have been shared with the coalition and already have facilitated productive discussions. Subsequent administrations are planned for early fall 2004, spring of 2005, and spring of 2006. In addition to using the

instrument to celebrate strengths as well as highlight areas for further growth, Working Together results will be analyzed to examine trends in the coalition's effectiveness over time.

Process Evaluation for Implementation of Science-Based Programs. Appropriate process indicators are currently being captured for MiAnimo Prevention and are being developed for Family Strengthening and Violence Prevention. These process measures will capture demographic characteristics of youth served, as well as dosage, duration, and other indicators of implementation fidelity. An electronic database to store and assess all process data is currently being developed and will be ready for use by May 2004.

Impact Evaluation

A pretest/posttest design is being used to assess impact on individual students who participate in the programs funded under the DFC initiative. The instrument includes the following measures:

- School engagement
- Frequency of alcohol, tobacco, or other drug (ATOD) use
- Intent to use ATOD in the future
- Perception of ATOD use among peers and adults
- ATOD refusal skills
- Perception of disapproval of ATOD use by peers and adults
- Perception of risk or harm from ATOD use
- Other attitudes and beliefs toward ATOD use

As discussed earlier, only one of the three proposed science-based based programs has been implemented in FY2003-2004, the youth mentoring program known as MiAnimo Prevention. Staff trainings on the Family Strengthening and Violence Prevention programs are scheduled for spring 2004 and will then be ready for implementation for FY2004-2005. Because MiAnimo Prevention does not have fixed start and end dates, pre- and post-testing is occurring on an ongoing basis, upon entry and exit of individual students. The electronic storage and analysis database is currently being developed and analysis will begin on all matched data in June of 2004. About 25 to 35 matched cases are anticipated.

Although all four of the required GPRA measures are included in the longer-term outcome instrument described below, three of the four of these "core" measures will also be assessed with the pre/post instrument. Age of onset will *not* be measured with the short-term impact instrument because of the relatively small sample and the fact that no pre- versus posttest change can occur given the matched design.

Outcome Evaluation

Longer-term outcome measures will be collected at the school community level utilizing the Colorado Youth Survey (CYS), which measures 24 of risk and 10 protective factors predictive of substance use and abuse from Hawkins and Catalano's (1993) Communities

that Care prevention model. In addition to the risk and protective factors, a number of ATOD use and antisocial behavioral outcomes are also captured. Amongst these factors and outcomes are the required GRPA measures:

- Age of onset of any drug use (including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs);
- Frequency of use in the past 30 days;
- Perception of risk or harm; and,
- Perception of disapproval of use by peers and adults.

Yearly administrations are scheduled over the life of the DFC initiative, with baseline data having been collected in spring of 2003. Surveys are administered to all middle and high school students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 who may or may not have received prevention services funded under the initiative. For this reason, trends that emerge using this instrument are considered relatively enduring, longer-term impacts on youth culture and norms. These data will be examined annually and will also be used to assess changes in GPRA and other key measures as well as assist coalition members in planning and decision-making.

A total of 465 middle and high school students participated in the baseline administration of the CYS. Substance use in the last 30 days and in lifetime for this group was as follows:

Substance	Percent Who Reported Use in Last 30 Days	Percent Who Reported Use in Lifetime
Chewing Tobacco	9%	18%
Cigarettes	16%	48%
Alcohol	32%	54%
Marijuana	16%	32%
Stimulants	1%	3%
Psychedelics	1%	3%
Cocaine	2%	7%
Inhalants	6%	14%
Other Illegal Drugs	6%	13%

Furthermore, the Alamosa baseline sample showed a number of elevated risks when compared to the average of all Colorado schools that provided data during the same year, including:

- Laws and norms favorable to drug use,
- Perceived availability of drugs,
- Early initiation of drug use,
- Attitudes favorable toward drug use, and
- Peer use of ATOD.

A second administration of the CYS occurred in February of 2004 and data will be processed and assessed by May of 2004. Yearly February administrations are planned over the life of the DFC initiative.

Community Reporting

The coalition will work with the evaluator to develop a user-friendly report outlining the various data collected by the project on a yearly basis. A community level report will be created that integrates related social indicator and CYS data. These will be disseminated through coalition members and be provided to the local newspaper to facilitate broader community dissemination. In addition, summary reports detailing pre-post changes on youth participants will be developed and disseminated as a way to demonstrate the importance of provided services.

Overall Evaluation Goals and Activities

Conduct process, outcome and impact evaluation to determine the effectiveness of coalition and project service activities.

Timeline of Evaluation Activities for FY2003-2004.

Evaluation Activities	Target Dates
Administer the Colorado Youth Survey annually to support community measurement objectives including required GPRA outcomes.	February 2004
Measure changes in coalition effectiveness over time using the <i>Working Together</i> instrument.	February 2004
Implement the CSAP Minimum Data Set software package or similar to manage process information on all evidence-based services provided with grant funding.	Spring 2004
Assess fidelity in implementation for the MiAnimo Prevention program.	May 2004
Administer pre-tests to program participants.	Ongoing – send to OMNI by June 2004
Administer post-test to program participants.	Ongoing – send to OMNI by June 2004
Analyze all data to determine local and community level outcomes resulting from provided services and coalition activities.	Summer 2004
Create summary report based on all data collected in FY2003-2004.	September 2004

References

Crislip, D. & Larson, C.E. (1994). *Collaborative Leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Hawkins, J.D. & Catalano, R.F. (1993). *Communities That Care: Risk-Focused Prevention Using Social Development Strategy*. Seattle, WA: Social Development Research Group, Inc.