



Wednesday, September 13, 2006
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 pm
SLV Mental Health Center

MINUTES

Attendance: Mary Benavidez, Sue Davis, Kathy Gilmore, Paula Hendricks, Liza Marron, Paula Medina, Nancy Molina, Amy Raya, Ileen Rivale, Sandra Santa Cruz, Mavi Valdez-Apodaca, Charlie Valencia, Della Vieira, Katy Baer, Tiffany Boyer, Erin Kenzie, Nelda Curtiss, Kris Daniel, Lucia Hand, Julie Mordecai, Liz-Tabeling-Garcia, Sherice Valdez, Adam Vasquez, Clarissa Woodworth. Youth attendees: Melissa Barnes, Natalie Johnson, Sophia Guerrero-Murphy, Lauren Martin, Chris Woodworth, Jacob Sorling, Dakota Valerio, Phillip Sena, Ryan Esquibel, Kristin Lucero, Chelsea McDonald, Chrystal Locke, Erica Trujillo, Brian..

Welcome and new member introductions – Paula Hendricks, Co-Chair

- Tiffany Boyer and Erin Kenzie. Also, welcome students from Alamosa High School.

Approval of Minutes – Mavi Valdez-Apodaca, Co-Chair
A motion to approve the minutes from the July 18 coalition meeting was made and seconded. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Paula said that in the interest of time, we would **defer committee reports to the next coalition meeting**. There is a list of committees on the wall. Every member of the coalition is encouraged to participate in at least one committee. Paula explained that we will highlight a member of the coalition each month in order to learn more about the agencies and people who are part of our coalition. She introduced Charlie Valencia as the Member Highlight of the Month.

Member Highlight: Charlie Valencia is the coordinator for Costilla County Prevention Partners Grant. The CPP is a 5 year grant which targets underage drinking and also works to lower substance abuse rates. There are 14 counties in Colorado who received similar grants, 4 of which are in the San Luis Valley. Charlie was hired 3/1/06 to be coordinator. There are also 3 youth consultants. To date, the CCPP has coordinated events at the Santana celebration (informational booth), "Back to school" nights in both districts. They have successfully established a youth coalition at Sierra Grande and Centennial High Schools. They are present at town hall meeting to make the community aware of who they are. They are working on their strategic plan which is due in March 2007. They are also participating in the Healthy Kids Surveys and a Children's Health Fair on October 19.

Nancy Molina and Mary Benavidez talked briefly about their new home with ASC Community Partnerships.

Liza Marron gave a report on our recent Retreat & World Café. (See attachment for Liza's full presentation.)

Suggestions:

- **Lucia Hand mentioned that she can be a resource** regarding what people in other communities around the state are doing.
- **Julie Mordecai suggested a youth website on prevention and mentioned that kids are using Myspace.com.**
- Media committee needs more news. Need a place & ways to hear.
- It was suggested that a clear understanding of what each meeting goals are would be very beneficial. For instance, this meeting is helping to develop the coalition strategic planning.
- Install a display rack for member info here at the MHC.
- **Phone conferences and web cam can help every member to participate in meetings.**
- Sponsors give away free stuff

Round Robin – Paula

Kathy Gilmore – working on ASC Cares Days on 9/30.

Amy Raya – getting ready to do "Get Real", Casastart Summit and 2-day highway cleanup for ASC Cares Days

Ileen Rivale – works for Public Health on tobacco prevention. Preparing "train the trainer" on 28th w/CPP. She's been active with town hall meetings in conjunction w/school Open Houses including one tonight in Center. They've done doorprize drawings to get parents to register so that they will have contact info and continue to communicate.

Charlie Valencia – organizing school surveys. She and community members helped with Open Houses at Sierra Grande and Centennial High Schools.

T Boyer – developing connections with schools to implement service learning. She is also conducting a needs assessment which she would like to share with members of the coalition.

Mary Benavidez – is an **Americorps Vista volunteer** working with ASC Community Development. The projects Mary is working on includes ASC Cares Days, developing a service learning partnership w/TSJC and establishing an Environmental Club on campus. She also volunteers with the Novela Project.

Nancy Molina – has a new office with **ASC Community Partnerships**. Her present focus is on evaluation of the

various programs she is in charge of and demonstrating that the programs are effectively producing outcomes. She hopes to continue to develop connections with the community at-large as well as the Coalition.

Katy Behr – Katy is the Director of the WIC program. Her program tries to prevent low birth rates by educating pregnant women about smoking, drugs and alcohol. WIC gives food packages for pregnant women. Her agency also does Breastfeeding Education and Nutrition Education. She is also working on COPAN. Katy invites public commentary to the feds on new food packaging. Please make comments directly or through Katy.

Clarissa Woodworth – raised the subject of **efficient and effective communication with Coalition members**. T suggested using a free list serve. Clarissa said we had tried it before but only 8 members signed up. Need to look at why it didn't work. Della said she didn't clearly understand the intent of the earlier list serve when it was first tried, but would try it again, now that she knows its purpose.

Erin Kenzie, VORP – working on peer mediation training for the next two months. The peer mediation teams are trained at their respective schools. They received an after-school anti-bullying grant from the Colorado Trust for which they hope to raise awareness on this issue. They also facilitate restorative discipline training for Ortega Middle School teaching staff.

Paula Medina, VORP – works with victim-offender reconciliation training, youth (ages 11-24) and parent mediation.

Liza Marron – very excited about COPAN in which the group is working on their strategic plan. Liza Invites input. She is also working on CPP and MAPP needs assessments with Public Health.

Sue Davis, Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center – working on CPP & COPAN. The EPI group meets monthly. Very exciting opportunity to gather data and use it. Other research programs that the center is working on include current school environment project; diabetes type 2 referrals; school nutrition, "Coming Alive" (focuses on improved physical activity will start in January), "Healthy Habits" at the Alamosa Farmers Market, Healthy aging network and Valley Senior Day. She will be presenting an abstract to Colorado Public Health next week. She has brochures (distributed to attendees).

Della Vieira, R.N. Alamosa County Nursing Service - gave an update on tobacco prevention – new signs coming to the schools. She went to statewide media training where the emphasis was on educating youth where they hang out. Also was present at a couple of big events (rodeos, county fairs) this summer and educating on 'spit-free' events. Please email Della if you know of upcoming events. She reminded us that flu

season coming and that she has materials around preventive measures. She is finishing their series of free immunization clinics and will be at Migrant Headstart next week.

Liz Tabling, Bresnan Communications – Liz is the chair for the Media Committee and sees her role as a resource to the coalition.

Clarissa Woodworth – We have mental health clinicians in most of the schools and provide important services. However, many perceive mental health care as a stigma. How do we reduce the stigma of mental health? Please email feedback.

Lucia Hand, Regional Prevention Consultant, OMNI, works in a lot of different counties so she sees what other communities are doing. She is a resource to our coalition. She can connect us with other programs around the state. June 2007, El Pomar Foundation will hold Rural Philanthropy Days in Leadville next year. Great resource for looking at grants/funding.

Sandra Santa Cruz, SLV MHC Prevention, gave update on the Antonito Mural Project which focuses on prevention of underage drinking. The Antonito community is very happy with the mural. We are in the process of planning a dedication of the mural and community celebration.

Paula Hendricks, Rio Grande Public Health Tobacco Prevention and co-chair for the coalition. She is working on the annual "train the trainer" focusing on youth and adults. Contact Paul if you work w/youth and do not have "Get Real" program – it's empowering for youth, but needs to happen very soon. Paula has buttons for Smoke-Free Colorado.

Kris Daniel – works with **ASC first-year students**. They have been focusing on Sexual Responsibility Week and have had speakers from Tu Casa. Next week they begin programs on alcohol prevention. ASC Cares Day coming up. Kris is the tobacco education coordinator for ASC and is working on no-spit policy through executive cabinet – its already a law but the cabinet is voting on it next week. Also involved as a service learning mentor for first-year students.

Sherice Valdez – has collaborated with SLV MHC and Alice Price on a Tony Grampsas grant for the prevention of bullying. The Boys & Girls Club is sponsoring a free La Veta train ride this weekend which is prevention based and will be talking to kids and parents about healthy lifestyles. Bring kids (must be a member of the B&G Club. Make your reservation by calling 589-5252.

Meeting **adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**