

Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee
Tuesday, January 17; 5:00pm
Alder Elementary School

I. IN ATTENDANCE: Bevin Smith, Brenda Butler, Gloria Wiggins, Natalie Mitchell, Mary Lou Begert, Tricia Harding, Brenda Brady, Chris Piekarski, Teddi Anderson, Nancy Harvey, Stephen Young, Virginia Warren, Kristen West, Erika Silver, Maura White-Cioeta.

II. November 2005 Minutes – Chris Piekarski motioned, Gloria Wiggins seconded, approved.

III. Steering Committee Changes

- Resignation of Co-Chair -- Kathie Minden respectfully submitted her resignation on January 13th. Volunteers to fill this vacancy can contact Brenda.
- Increase in overall attendance? Brenda sent out about 60 letters to community folks to try to get more folks involved. Any suggestions on how to get individuals here would be great. Human Solutions may have a good list of residents. Also there is a Renters Rights night coming that may be a good avenue. Also at Alder Elementary is having a Latino Parents Night next week. Maybe we just need to make people more aware of what Weed and Seed involves and what it does. Brenda will approach Parent Teacher Groups at area schools.
- Increase in resident participation – no actual west Gresham residents sit at this table this evening. It is imperative to seek out involvement of area residents.

IV. Law Enforcement Update Teddi Anderson

- There are three new folks that have been added to the Target Zone Team. Each has less than 3 years on the force.
- Teddi would recommend that RWS wait on doing another survey for a few reasons.
 - weather – in the winter folks will not be as involved in what is going on in their neighborhoods
 - crime drops with the temperature
 - let the target zone group get their traction in the neighborhood. They would like to do a few PR things in the area where folks can feel their presence.
 - kids will be out of school and parents will be more aware.
 - Other attendees agreed that waiting until summer for the second round of surveying is a good idea
 - This will also give ‘seeding’ folks an opportunity to look at those relevant responses on the survey
- Drug free zone is on hold until the City of Portland votes on their drug free zone in February.

V. Make A Difference (M.A.D.) Update Natalie Mitchell

- Objective 1 – Business Incentive Program – A new and improved ad will be in the Gresham Chamber of Commerce Business Community Directory. Natalie will be meeting with the Gresham Chamber on a continuous basis to keep the businesses updated as to what is going on. Friday, January 27th brochures will be distributed to all Chamber members present at the AM. She will be looking for feedback from the community and will put updates on the BUZZ. The participating businesses will stamp the cards and card holders will be given a chance to enter into drawings and win prizes.
 - flyers will be put up in businesses in Rockwood to let folks know about the MAD program and which businesses will be participating.
 - brochure will also let businesses know what they can do to help support MAD.

- Objective 2 – Joint Venture with Urban Renewal – Natalie will go door to door and talk to individual businesses and let them know about the program and some exciting benefits of being involved in MAD. Urban renewal folks would like to go door to door with Natalie to explain the impacts of Urban Renewal. The “Branding of Rockwood” will soon be decided hopefully by this spring. We are looking at getting a billboard to publicize information about RWS/MAD and the joint projects.
- Objective 3 – Community Clean-up – Natalie will be connecting with Chief Piluso to figure out some clean up possibilities. Possibly team up with Portland Lutheran folks and Metropolitan Family Services to get some volunteers for some community/neighborhood clean ups. We hope to do four clean ups this year.

VI. Progress Report Brenda Butler

- Due January 30, 2006; Brenda will be working on the progress report to submit to the main federal office to make sure we continue to be in compliance.
- Thanks to all for submitting the helpful information to help with the report.

VII. Continuation of the Sustainability Discussion 6:15 All

- Brenda’s Priorities:
 - Drug Free Communities – Grant offered by SAMHSA for communities to apply. It is about the prevention of substance abuse; build from neighborhood associations or weed and seed groups. Right now it is a 80/20 split so 80% of the funds would go to simply coordination of the group and 20% of the funds will go to direct services.
 - Announcement to be released near Jan 31; application due near end of March?
 - 5th Year of RWS (06-07)
 - Attend Strategy Development Conference end of March; app due near beg. of May?
 - New W&S Site Recognition
 - Find out more at Conference – end of March
 - Letter of Intent due end of March (tentatively); app due in November or December?
- Drug Free Communities
 - Small Group Breakout – Attendees completed the attached questionnaire (see below).
- Ideas about engaging more people in this and future coalitions:
 - Folks will come if they think it is worth while to them. Will this info be useful?
 - Try sending out meeting info in English and Spanish and see if folks would be interested in having bi-lingual meetings.
 - Find out info from the Latino parent night.
 - Would folks like to hear from Judge Chris Larson?

VIII. 2006 Strategy Development Conference – March 27-30, 2006; Birmingham, Alabama

CCDO will host a this Workshop for Weed & Seed sites that are in various stages of planning and implementation with the purpose of enhancing and strengthening resources and partnerships. Application + budget sessions will be incorporated into the content of this conference for communities that will be seeking funding and Official Recognition in the upcoming year.

- Brenda will attend.
- Natalie was nominated.
- The GPD is considering sending someone.

IX. BRIEF Partner Updates

- Gloria –
 - the Crisis Line" Linea Unica" the number is 503 232 44 48, it is working from 9 to 5 Mon-Fri in Spanish. For victims of Domestic Violence of Sexual Assault. In late February, it will be 24/7.
 - Through Project Safe Neighborhood, they will hold a second round of Safety Promoters Training. The classes will be on February 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 4th from 9 to 2. For more information, call Laura Gomez-Navarro at 503 669 83 50.
 - They will have tax assistance this season as well. Clients must make appts – 9-2 on Saturdays.
- Tricia –
 - OR Department of Education sent out a Socio-Economic Report – Alder was third in the the state for lowest socio-economic status. Several Reynolds schools were up there.
 - This is the 4th year for SUN/21st Century Learning Schools for Alder and Davis -- funding will be cut.
- Erika - Human Solutions is working on a grant for families who are repeatedly homeless. (Families who are camping or living in a car.) We are still looking for a place in Rockwood to set up the multi service center. Let them know if you know anywhere.
- Virginia – Worksource Oregon (the employment dept.) offers RESUMES & STRATEGIES sessions for those that need help creating their resumes or want to learn strategies for an effective job search. MONDAYS, 1:30-3:30pm, 19421 SE Stark; 503.669.7112.

X. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, February 21st @ ROCKWOOD GRANGE; 5:00pm – 7:00pm (183rd/Stark)

Rockwood Weed & Seed Continuation of the Sustainability Discussion
DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES
Partner Feedback, January 2006

- **What specific issue do you know about that makes you want to help us reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, adults?**
 - ≈ The increase of meth use among youth and young adults and the effects of the meth addiction in families and children.
 - ≈ The increase in crime related to meth and other drug use.
 - ≈ “Latch Key Kid” population is large in Rockwood – see this as a group vulnerable to potential (if not already existent) substance abuse – as a group provide a huge target for dealers – complicated by socio-economic issues of their home situations.
 - ≈ Wide availability of drugs and the prevalence of parents using/buying/cooking drugs around their children. Youth more likely to engage in activities that seem common and acceptable. Modeled behaviors.
 - ≈ Exposure to drug homes (for children, teens and others) – especially in large apartment communities.
 - ≈ Safe areas for children to play outdoors.
 - ≈ Increase safety and productivity in the community.
 - ≈ Teens who are not engaged in activities.
 - ≈ I have heard from schools that they notice a reduction in services and resources for high school/middle school treatment or early intervention.
 - ≈ Robbery for drug money
 - ≈ Kids coming to school – U-fed, U-dressed and U-prepared
 - ≈ Families unable to pay debts or buy basic necessities.
 - ≈ Domestic violence, homelessness, mental health and poverty in general as well as the intergenerational nature of substance abuse and all of the above. But I also see everyday people making their lives better, overcoming these problems, with support from the community.
 - ≈ Substance abuse effectively removes choices for those who engage in this activity, or at least temporarily derails most people from a healthy life. It’s such a waste of potential and leads to personal destruction and harm to society – at it’s all preventable (or should be).
 - ≈ Have more parenting classes.
 - ≈ Encourage employers to create more jobs with more reasonable shifts. In that way adults can have more options and spend more quality time with their kids.
 - ≈ I know that youth substance abuse leads to adult substance abuse.
 - ≈ From a county standpoint, prevention is far cheaper to fund than intervention. Also, we can’t afford to put substance abuse folks in jail for breaking the law.
 - ≈ Homelessness, school drop outs, unemployment.
 - ≈ First, the earlier young people start using alcohol or drugs, the more likely they will develop an addiction. Second, substance abuse and addiction is the primary concomitant problem found in adult defendants of the criminal justice system.
 - ≈ The traffic dangers of people on drugs. While walking around the block, a car traveling down a residential street at high speed plowed into the house directly across, not turning right or left. No one apparently was injured, and there weren’t children outside. The neighbors suspect drugs.
 - ≈ The other day, a car ran a light at about 90 mph and then turned in front of other cars, too. Probably drugs or alcohol.
 - ≈ The developmental issues of children under 5 yrs. being around addicted parent(s), repeating the cycle.
 - ≈ You might consider adding a gambling environment and attendant impact (parental neglect, family dysfunction, alcohol/drug addiction, gambling addiction, educational challenges, etc.) to the risk factors for the needs case for the grant. Should the Dog Track at 223rd be used as a casino, then Wood Village would certainly have need of the sheriff’s office, hence the Justice Ctr. need, etc. Some of this will depend on who is elected, and the Memorial Coliseum was looking for a venue, is near the freeway, near sports... The jobs created are generally not family-wage jobs. Timing will determine what you can use for your case.
 - ≈ I respond to calls everyday where drugs, specifically meth is a factor.

- ≈ Substance abuse is a huge barrier to employment. They cannot focus on training, hold a job or behave in a socially acceptable manner. They put peer pressure on others to use drugs or alcohol – motivation decreases.
- ≈ Theft and violence are potential risks to society as a result of substance abuse.
- ≈ Most of these youth (Springdale Job Corps students) have poor role models (parents, family, etc.), so were exposed to substance abuse at a young age – need to stop the cycle.

○ **How would you benefit from this collaboration continuing?**

- ≈ The Latino community will benefit if there are more resources to a)prevent drug use b) provide treatment to youth and adults with drug addictions c)the Rockwood neighborhood will improve, will be safe and a better place for families.
- ≈ Library serves this population daily – can benefit from continued collaboration because being a partner with agencies knowing how to deal with such issues is only way we can be successful.
- ≈ Reducing drug crime indirectly reduces other crimes by removing economical and psychological factors that drive certain anti-social behavior.
- ≈ It would be great to bring some drug prevention workshops or programs to the SUN school programs and other schools.
- ≈ In general, it is a great way to stay connected with the community.
- ≈ The parents (and their children) I work with: People get clean, have jobs, keep them, they can pay rent & utilities, can fee and clothe themselves and their families and then I'm out of a job (which, for this instance, would be great!)
- ≈ It is valuable because of the networking and the information sharing.
- ≈ I would benefit from safer streets, reduction in crime, fewer resources being dedicated to the public safety and health needs of substance abusers.
- ≈ Less crime.
- ≈ It is great for community partnerships and joint projects.
- ≈ Increased connection with residents of Rockwood
- ≈ Helps to highlight the successes of the Community Court Project.
- ≈ This collaboration already has proven partnerships and structure in place. The early establishing years are out of the way and can become even more effective; networks can continue to develop, and even more partnerships on a broader state geographic level develop.
- ≈ The fight against meth is more than just one thing; ie, enforcement, treatment, prevention. It needs all three to be successful.

○ **How would you like to see the coalition strengthen?**

- ≈ Including more partners from social services
- ≈ More participation from other immigrant communities
- ≈ Joint projects
- ≈ Unsure – but feel huge strength exists in current participants and wonder if there is some way to better “tap” this.
- ≈ More people at the table.
- ≈ Encourage residents and businesses to work together.
- ≈ Drug/Alcohol prevention for teens
- ≈ Positive connections for youth with law enforcement
- ≈ More point people in the community/community involvement
- ≈ Get Parent-Teacher Groups involved.
- ≈ Bilingual – Spanish/English
- ≈ Maybe advertise specific agenda items and their relevance to the larger vision for Rockwood and advertise the RWS successes.
- ≈ Members who work with the community have more activity programs, such as sports or drug education programs and consequences.
- ≈ More resident meetings, school awareness opportunities
- ≈ Continue to encourage participation of partners - more Safe Havens established - increased billboard and signage - stronger school connections with a specific activity. Actually teaching 3rd to 5th or 6th graders how to do speech,

like Toastmasters; mentoring; stronger church connections is a challenge, but needs to be addressed in a viable way still.

≈ I think we are doing it with Weed and Seed and active members of the community. How about a benefit to raise money and awareness?

○ **What ideas do you have to promote and deliver effective substance abuse prevention strategies?**

- ≈ Start at elementary schools with 4th and 5th graders
- ≈ Parents education
- ≈ Intensive outreach to the disenfranchised communities in Rockwood
- ≈ Community education – in multiple languages – perhaps “topics” broken down to those having meaning for community members – “concrete” topics
- ≈ Community outreach, particularly to kids, on effects and dangers of drugs and also on how to take action to reduce crime around them; “Scared Straight” program
- ≈ Afterschool activities for all ages. Free activities for kids. Increase parent involvement in creating afterschool programs. Free family fun events in the community.
- ≈ Connect with existing SUN afterschool programs; tap into existing Family Night and Parent Groups within SUN.
- ≈ More parenting classes (MFS Guiding Good Choices, for example)
- ≈ Parent “Venting” Groups
- ≈ Former drug users/abusers going into middle and high schools
- ≈ More literature in school libraries and a week of focus on that literature (maybe at beginning and end of school year) or RED RIBBON WEEK (October)
- ≈ Don’t penalize people for admitting they are using or drinking and expect relapse as part of the process.
- ≈ Treatment – Education from former addicts for young people
- ≈ Group contacts in many languages, participatory activities, not lectures. Sometimes calling it something catch can make a big difference especially if not related to drugs/alcohol.
- ≈ From what I’ve heard, DARE has limited success. Perhaps integrating education about substance abuse throughout school curriculum (?)
- ≈ It would be nice to distribute a PowerPoint that explains the different drugs and effects; distribute in high schools.
- ≈ Target schools, hold an informational fair, social service agencies.
- ≈ Reduce adult leniency towards use of alcohol by youth. Stop shoulder tapping which occurs outside liquor stores. Encourage development of psychoeducational dialogue groups in schools to help young people make good decisions for themselves.
- ≈ I would like to talk with the Oregon Partnership. What linkage could develop there, and what might apply not only to Rockwood, but all of East County?
- ≈ Introduce kids to travel and reinforce the concept of adventure - real adventure - we lose our kids to these various addictions before they even have a chance - Our strategies must focus on very young ages, as well as teens.
- ≈ Involve police in treatment programs if they aren’t already.
- ≈ Creating more drug free zones.
- ≈ Educational materials to distribute.
- ≈ Guest speakers made available
- ≈ MADD chapters, support groups