

Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee
Tuesday, April 18th; 5:00pm
Rockwood Grange

I. WELCOME

II. Introductions

- Attendees: **Cheryl Houston, Nathan Teske, Brenda Butler, Chris McCormack, Maura White-Cioeta, Ivan Cortes, Chris Piekarski, Stephen Young, Darwin Seim, Kristen West, Bill Etter, Dina DiNucci, Pastor Dwayne Fleming.**

III. Approval of March 2006 Minutes: Chris P. motioned, Maura seconded. **Approved.**

IV. Drug Enforcement Administration

Special Agent **Bill Etter**, Demand Reduction Coordinator for the Portland Office of the DEA presented information about his agency. CCDO now requires involvement by the DEA in each Weed & Seed site. However, RWS made contact with Bill and his supervisor, Kenneth Magee, earlier this year while developing the Greater Gresham Area Prevention Partnership strategies.

We are in the Seattle Field Division that is made up of 4 states: Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Alaska. There is a district office in Portland. The Demand Reduction Coordinator attends community meetings and provides drug education. Bill's background is in biomechanics and he holds his teaching certificate. He is also certified as a drug/addiction prevention specialist. People don't understand the federal system or they don't want to get involved in reality so there is a lot of difficulty getting communities involved. Some events that Bill has done are: kid fairs, information booths at county fairs, etc. He does a lot of networking. He sits on the Oregon Meth Taskforce and has worked with Oregon Partnership. He is usually on an "on-call" basis. RWS is the first time he has been committed to a group. There is an organization from Medford called Crime Prevention Resources and they put out several "Drug Wars" movies; which are general explanations of the effects on the body when drugs enter your body.

Q: Is Meth as bad as all the press makes it sound?

A: It is an epidemic. Pseudoephedrine and 2 others will soon be state regulated. So that people will have to get their Meth from Mexician Superlabs so that people here no longer make their own meth. In the late 1960's and 70's they used the recipe for medical meth but now they are using a type of pseudoephedrine that has twice the potency with a more intense/faster high and more dangerous. That is why it is an epidemic.

Q: Meth labs used to use propane to cook their meth?

A: Yes but meth users will now use the tanks as a carrier. Bill has never worked with that type of meth recipe that changes the color of the brass valve. We should continue to watch for questionable signs on propane tanks.

V. Site Coordinator's Update – Brenda spoke about the following:

- Drug Free Communities Application

It was due on April 6th and we got it in on time!!! We will find out by end of August if we were funded. We requested \$999,909 from SAMHSA for our GGAPP's 5 year strategy. We are hoping to develop a Parent Corps, education, prevention resources, etc. Oregon is in the top 5 in the nation for marijuana & tobacco use.

- Rockwood Weed & Seed's 5th Year

We are not automatically funded but it is likely. We will send an application to the feds for \$200,000. We will continue to support the Community Court and the MADD project. Stephen has contacted the grant accountant person to find out what was budgeted for '06-'07 for the Community Court program. We will be invoicing like crazy so we can do our best to assure funding.

- New Weed & Seed Community (see attached/below *Synopsis*)

Lt. Richard Troudt attended the 2006 Weed & Seed Conference in Alabama with Brenda to review the possibilities of applying and getting accepted for a New Weed & Seed Community. In general, re-entry and serving those individuals to come out of prison was highly emphasized throughout the week. We will need to focus on this for the future in any future Weed & Seed Community.

- Make A Difference (M.A.D.) Update

Natalie will hopefully attend the next meeting. RWS put on the Gresham Chamber of Commerce AM at the Rockwood Grange on Good Friday. It was very successful (104 attendees) and Natalie will continue to talk with businesses in the community and get them involved in the West Gresham Business Coalition. The Coalition will meet again on May 1st.

- Children of Incarcerated Parents (see attached '*And How Are The Children?*')

If anyone would like to be more involved with children of incarcerated parents, talk to Brenda. Brenda would like to start some outreach for the PAL kids first because they are right in front of her.

- Back To School Fair 2006

I know it is only April, but Pastor Fleming of New Paradise and I connected recently and talked about summer and start-of-school programs. Pastor is having a camp this summer where kids can play music and focus on artwork, etc. Pastor wants to showcase the camp participants' work at a final event at the end of the summer – either on August 26th or September 9th. Camp ends August 30th. Having the BTSF on September 9th will probably be better so that we can get information out to the schools. In previous years we have people lining up about 2 hours ahead of time for their free school supplies. It is a 2 month camp and are hoping 50-100 kids get involved. There will be a very low \$15 registration fee for the camp. It will focus on music and arts. Folks who want to share their ideas about how these two events could merge (or not ☺), or to get more information about New Paradise's plans, contact Brenda.

VI. BRIEF Partner Updates

Catholic Charities El Programa Hispano:

Job Opportunity: Mental Health and Core Services Program Manager

Full-time (40 hr/wk) position. Manage mental health services, core (information, referral and assistance) services, and the El Programa Hispano low-income taxpayer assistance program. Act as one of three Program Managers reporting to the El Programa Hispano/Latino Services Division Manager. Hire, supervise and evaluate assigned staff. Effectively manage program budgets and record keeping. Effectively write grants and proposals to secure program funding. Effectively represent program and agency in the community.

Qualifications: Must be fluent in both English and Spanish. Bachelor's degree required. Master's (MSW or other) preferred. Minimum of 2 years experience providing social services to Latino clientele and minimum of 1 year experience managing/supervising a social service program. Excellent organizational skills and writing skills are required. Starting salary: \$35,000-42,000 annual with full benefits. Application form is required.

Obtain at www.CatholicCharitiesOregon.org and mail or deliver to El Programa Hispano, Attention: Gloria Wiggins, 451 NW First, Gresham OR 97030. EOE. Closes 4/21.

Rockwood Neighborhood Health Clinic will close 6/15/06 - Go to East Co. Health Center – 600 NE 8th St.

Kristen – The East County Justice Facility is underway for the time being. We are back on track again.

Chris Piekarski– Portland just passed their drug free ordinance and now we are waiting to get one implemented in the Rockwood area. He is going to write a draft himself so they can get one in place before the summer.

Darwin – Mr. Milex has a good-sized parking lot if we need to use it for some community events.

Stephen – Grateful to still be here and with the Community Court. He has been in this program for 2 years and he is still here. Community Court has been a little slow lately.

Dina – Met with the city development group today to open a café and crepe house in Rockwood. So hopefully she will be running the café soon.

Cheryl – Avian flu is from bird that is in Asia currently. There is no sign of it in the US currently. It is passed through birds. There is no vaccine for this as of now. Working on emergency awareness.

Pastor Dwayne – New Paradise Worship Center -- How can his church be utilized in this community? The church will be doing a lot of youth programs so they would be interested in more information regarding marijuana and alcohol. Contact Pastor Dwayne (via Brenda) if you'd like to know more or provide info.

Brenda – Compasión Rockwood is coming up on 4/28 and 4/29. Contact me to find out more!

Meeting Schedule

May 16th, Tuesday. Rockwood Grange--18303 SE Stark Street

ALL subsequent 2006 dates – 3rd Tuesday of each month; 5-7pm @ the Rockwood Grange.

Lt. Richard Troutt, Gresham Police Department
Synopsis of the STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
March 27 – 30, 2006, in Birmingham, Alabama

Besides the group opening ceremonies and welcoming sessions, I attended the following break-out sessions:

- *New FY 2007 Weed and Seed Communities Guideline*, Went into detail on the application process for new site recognition. One point that was repeatedly stated was the suggestion that new applications show a connection with groups assisting with re-entry programs for parolees.
- *Application Kit and Budget Session FY 2006*, Went into detail on the financial integrity for funding guidelines, including any budgetary requirements. Again, the speaker stressed the importance of re-entry programs being included in new applicants.
- *Law Enforcement Strategies and Data Collection*, Spoke about the need to maintain stats for the measurement of the effectiveness of your program. Appears that the data collected by GPD is on track. (Need to confirm with Brenda.)
- *Community Policing Strategies*, Stressed the importance of working with the citizens, and service groups within community, e.g. Who are your stake holders?

In addition to the break-out sessions, I also attended a tour of the Birmingham Weed and Seed sites.

The major point that was stressed during each of these break-out sessions was the suggestion that any new application has a connection with groups working on *re-entry* programs for parolees.