

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria
QUARTERLY MEETING
Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Attendees*:

Allen Lomax, SAPCA Chair
Tricia Bassing, CSB& SAPCA Board member
Carrie Cannon, SCAN
Richard Merritt, Public Health Admission Commission
Mary-Jane Atwater, Atwater Communications & SAPCA Board Member
Cindy Follmer, INOVA Kellar Center
Jacqueline Coachman, DHS
Monique Edwards, Sheriff's Office & SAPCA Board Member
Shelly Morgan, Parent & SAPCA Vice Chair
Veronica Aberle, Health Department
Chanel Smith, CSB, T.C. Williams H.S. & SAPCA Secretary
Carrie Fesperman, Health Department/Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
Shay Holman, CSB
Krista Boucher, Alexandria Commonwealth
William Johnson, Police & SAPCA Board Member
Cheryl Ross-Audley, ACPS & State & Federal
Ann Redfearn, Alexandria's Recreation
Deborah Warren, CSB
Manez Covington, NOVAUL

*All community sectors represented except media, religious/fraternal organization, and other sub-stance abuse organizations.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: A. Lomax welcomed SAPCA members and began introductions.

2. UPDATES FROM A. LOMAX, Chair of SAPCA:

- He and T. Bassing have been participating in an orientation conference for Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant recipients. Compared to other communities, Allen felt as though SAPCA was doing quite well. Currently SAPCA still had not hired a coordinator as many communities had already done, but T. Bassing and C. Fesperman were working to fill that gap until the coordinator could come on board.

SAPCA has a more active membership compared to other communities, and many would like to be where SAPCA is. Other communities were particularly impressed that SAPCA members had been active in applying for the DFC grant, creating its logic model, and charting its prevention plan in the community.

- SAPCA has received some great press coverage from the *Alexandria Times* and the *Washington Post*. *Alexandria Times* printed an op-ed piece entitled "[Alexandria Need to Wake Up to Substance Abuse Problem](#)" that highlighted George Mason University's

(GMU) Substance Abuse Prevention plan. The *Washington Post* also published an article – [“Study Highlights Teen Substance Abuse”](#) -- in the Alexandria/Arlington Extra highlighting this work. The reporters interviewed several SAPCA members, including C. Smith and A. Lomax.

- T. Bassing made a presentation on December 10 to the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) on GMU’s report. The presentation received great feedback from members of the coalition, including from the mayor who is the Co-Chair of ACAP.
- SAPCA is still working with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) to get the Developmental Asset (DA) survey and YRBSS into the schools. The current plan is for the DA survey to be given to students in January and tentatively for the YRBSS to be given to students in April or May. With the help of the Department of Human Services, ACPS, and the Health Department, SAPCA has been successful in securing enough finances to pay for both the DA and YRBSS.
- There is a workshop for mentors on youth behavior, including substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and gangs on January 15th at 7 p.m. at the Campagna Center.
- SAPCA’s Strategic Steering Committee has been working on expanding and developing the recommendations from GMU’s Prevention Plan report. A. Lomax would like the larger coalition to be involved in developing an Action Plan around those recommendations.

3. BRAINSTORMING ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Lomax asked those attending the meeting to divide into small groups of 4-5 people. Each table was given the logic model included in the DFC grant application, markers, and paper. They were asked to focus on the strategy column for both the alcohol and marijuana sections and develop activities or action items around those strategies. Small groups reported back about their “best” action item related to marijuana and alcohol.

This information will be compiled and A. Lomax plans to turn to SAPCA members to help prioritize which action items to pursue.