



Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria

Strategic Planning Meeting
February 4, 2008
Durant Center

Attendance: C. Alexander Brennan, Chair; J. Dunn; D. Cheney; M.J. Atwater; C. Smith; T. Bassing; Captain W. Johnson; A. Beal; R. Merritt; M. Riley; A. Huston.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** C. Alexander Brennan, Coalition Chair welcomed all committee members and each member provided a brief introduction.
- 2. Coalition Mission and Vision Statements.** C. Alexander Brennan presented the Mission and Vision statements as proposed and all agreed upon the statements.

SAPCA's Mission Statement

The mission of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria is to engage diverse sectors of the community in comprehensive substance abuse prevention activities that result in a reduction of underage substance use and abuse in the City of Alexandria.

SAPCA's Vision Statement

The vision of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria is a community whose various parts—parents, youth, schools, city health and recreation services, non-profits, businesses, policymakers and law enforcement— work collaboratively and cross-culturally, sharing the responsibility to prevent youth substance abuse.

- 3. CADCA Planning Process.** C. Alexander Brennan presented the planning process as advocated by CADCA (Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America).
- 4. Chair's Report.**
 - a. Overview of Activities.**
 - b. State Grant Review.** T. Bassing provided an overview to the committee regarding submission of a state grant to assist community coalitions with community assessment functions. The grant was submitted on January 30, 2008 and will receive notification by the end of February. If approved, the Coalition will contract with an external group to assist with qualitative research to compliment the quantitative data we have from Developmental Assessments and Youth Risk Behaviors surveys. The qualitative data gathering will include interviews, focus groups (targeting parents and youth from both

middle schools and high school) and online surveys (targeting parents, students, law enforcement, business, youth service providers, and faith communities).

- c. **State Grant Implementation.** C. Alexander Brennan summarized the need for volunteers to assist with this entire process. We will need to recruit volunteers for focus group involvement (training and facilitation), recruitment of focus group participants, and conducting interviews. The committee discussed the timelines for the project (beginning in March and extending into this summer); questions and focus of the qualitative information. We hope to convene the focus groups or use standing community group meetings.

5. Coalition Structure. A. Huston presented a plan to enhance Coalition membership and identifying those community members we need to support our efforts; a structure for four committees to include Education, Law Enforcement, Communications; Strategic Planning; and the need for By-Laws and position descriptions. The Strategic Planning committee will be used as the approving committee for these documents until a formal board of directors is elected.

6. Summary of Action. C. Alexander Brennan asked the Strategic Planning Committee to meet monthly for the next several months to guide the Coalition during this critical planning time. T. Bassing will initiate a monthly email to all coalition members on substance abuse/prevention topics for information.

- a. **SAPCA Meeting.** C. Alexander Brennan reminded committee members of the full Coalition meeting planned for February 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Minnie Howard Library. She will present an overview of the past year's activities and will summarize the YRBS data.
- b. **School Involvement.** The committee discussed the need to increase the school system's involvement and how to best approach school officials including school board members in our recruitment efforts.
- c. **Legislation.** M. Riley reported on the introduction of several mental health bills including one by Senator P. Ticer that would require the insertion of mental health into school curricula.

7. Next Committee Meeting – Monday, March 3, 2008 4:00 p.m. at Durant Center.

Submitted:

Ann D. Huston
Interim Health Planner