

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of America

Strategic Planning Committee

Wednesday, October 29, 2008; 4:00-5:00 PM at the Durant Center

Attendees:

Allen Lomax, Chair

Tricia Bassing, CSB

Mary-Jane Atwater, Atwater Communications

Mary Riley, CSB Chair, Mental Health Anti-Stigma HOPE Campaign

Deborah Warren, CSB

Deputy Monique Edwards, Sheriff's Office

Captain William Johnson, Police

Andrew Denison, adult volunteer

Amy Beal, parent

Chanel Smith, CSB

Carrie Fesperman, Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria

1. Welcome and Introductions – A. Lomax updated the group that the Resource Officer position had been cut at Minnie Howard. This budget cut will be discussed at the Alexandria Council meeting on Thursday, October 30th.
2. Overview of Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant Requirements– A. Lomax and T. Bassing reported on the recent DFC new grantee training that they had attended. In particular, they hadn't realized that so much training was required for SAPCA's leadership and membership. Upcoming trainings include: 1) a training from January 5-7th at the Renaissance Hotel for the coordinator and SAPCA leadership; 2) a National Leadership Forum in February; and 3) CADCA's webinar on environmental change strategies held November 20th and January 15th.

D. Warren suggested sending out news about the webinar to all of the Partnership members, as it would probably be relevant. It was decided to invite CADCA to the January 6th SAPCA meeting.
3. Data Reporting Requirements Plan – T. Bassing underscored the importance of documenting all in-kind support. She will be entering time for everyone who attends SAPCA or Strategic Planning Committee meetings. The Coordinator will take on these duties once he/she is hired. SAPCA is also required to submit a program progress report, a coalition classification tool, and a financial disbursement report.

SAPCA is required to collect data on alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana usage. T. Bassing, A. Lomax, and D. Warren are working with the schools now to get the Developmental Assets survey completed in December and, hopefully, the Youth Risk Behavior survey (YRBS) completed in the Spring. Monte Dawson is the ACPS point person and a proponent of collecting the data. It costs \$15,000 to conduct both surveys; \$10,000 for Developmental Assets and \$5,000 for YRBS. While the Developmental Assets survey has all the information on tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana required by CADCA, SAPCA is advocating for both surveys.

SAPCA is committing \$5,000 and DHS originally committed \$5,000 but now says they can give \$4,000. We're still looking for \$6,000. D. Warren will check on why DHS' contribution was reduced. A. Lomax is going to ask the Youth Policy Commission and ACPS if there are some funds they can commit to the project. C. Fesperman will ask the Health Department for support.

Once the funding for this year is settled, A. Lomax will coordinate with community partners who are invested in the survey to draw up an MOU that addresses responsibilities related to survey implementation.

C. Fesperman will contact Ben Harris with the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families to see how they pay for the YRBS and Developmental Assets surveys in Arlington schools.

4. Hiring Status of DFC Grant Coordinator – T. Bassing reported that there are two qualified applicants. T. Bassing, A. Lomax, M. Edwards, and C. Fesperman will be interviewing these applicants on November 10th. If it is decided that a larger pool of applicants is needed, then we can re-issue the job announcement to the community at large.
5. Review of Community Assessment Recommendations – The committee began reviewing the recommendations from George Mason University’s report, but decided to hold a separate two-hour meeting TBD just to focus on the recommendations.
6. Communications Plan – M.J. Atwater reported on the multiple developments in communications. Alexandria Times published A. Lomax’s op-ed this month. The Virginia Paving Company is going to be displaying a SAPCA advertisement on the side of one of their vacuum trucks until March 2009. Washington Post’s Arlington/Alexandria Extra section will feature SAPCA. The reporter had already interviewed A. Lomax and was planning to interview C. Smith as well.

We also discussed the plans for tailoring PowerPoint slides to various upcoming community presentations. We have dates to present on SAPCA to the PTA at Minnie Howard on December 2nd (presenter: T. Bassing), the PTAC on December 10th (presenter: A. Lomax), and ACAP on December 10th (presenter: A. Lomax). A. Lomax will create the slides and then we will tailor the last “What you can do” slide to the audience. C. Fesperman will assist with graphics.

M.J. Atwater also suggested Leadership Alexandria as a possible way to get news to the community about SAPCA as there is a health day. C. Fesperman said that the Health Department has been contacted about being part of that day. The Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria is going to be included as well and she will see about highlighting SAPCA’s work.

M.J. Atwater is going to draft an article to be included in the ACAP newsletter about SAPCA. The newsletter will be signed by Amy Beal and Shelly Morgan, both parent representatives.

7. Work Plan for SAPCA 2008-2009 – A. Lomax tabled this conversation for the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting.
8. Web Site Issues – A. Lomax said that we continue to have issues with getting the website updated. The Committee discussed several changes they wanted to make. C. Fesperman said that she would discuss these with Michelle Davis. The Partnership is slated to have their pages recreated (at which point C. Fesperman will be able to make direct changes), but this project has been put on hold for the City’s intranet project. ACAP has an incredible webpage. T. Bassing will email ACAP to see who did their website. This issue is also on the Executive Steering Committee’s agenda.
9. Donations – A. Lomax recognized that this was an issue. It will also be discussed at the Partnership’s Executive Steering Committee meeting.

10. Next Meeting – TBD. It was suggested that the next few meetings be two hours.