

# MONROE COMMUNITY COALITION MINUTES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Attendance: Paula Alice, Tammy Amador, JoAnn Carbonetti, Tom MacIntyre, Cherie Matyas, Tracy McMillan, Amber Menta, Mary Myers, Geena Weeks, Latisha Williams

Staff: Joe Neigel

Meeting was called to order at 1PM.

Welcome and introductions preceded agenda review.

## **Discussion: Needs, resource and gap analysis process from October Coalition meeting**

The Coalition reviewed and discussed the Needs Assessment results from the October meeting and supplemented the analysis. The group began by acknowledging all input received during the prior month's activity was best guess, and not necessarily fact.

- **Depression**
  - Explored the idea of cycles of drug use being tied to cycles of depression.
  - Lack of natural supports in a student's life contributing to drug use to cope with depression.
  - Stigma a barrier to m/h services that needs to be addressed.
  - Community forum suggested to help parents become advocates for their children.
- **Perception that L/E doesn't enforce drinking laws**
  - Group wanted to know more about adult rates of drinking in Monroe to help understand the relationship between adult use and student perception.
  - There was a suggestion that L/E may be scared to enforce the law because of community repercussions.
  - Discussed working with law enforcement to develop standards.
- **Perception about the number of best friends who drink alcohol**
  - Reviewed this risk factor as an indicator of social norms.
  - Coalition members talked about contributing factors, including Friday night beer drinking parties in the community.
  - Identified a need to promote current laws and consequences.
- **Intention to use drugs**
  - Confirmed findings of the October meeting and didn't elaborate beyond them.

## **Discussion: Parental attitudes tolerant of substance abuse**

The Coalition continued its needs, resource and gap analysis process by examining a fifth risk factor impacting students in Monroe: Parental attitudes tolerant of substance abuse.

## **Comments:**

- The group overwhelmingly believed the current climate of Marijuana legalization contributed to student's belief that their parents are tolerant of use; however, it was pointed out the Monroe is disproportionately impacted compared to the County and State rates, so there had to be other contributing factors.
- Law Enforcement standards were brought up in the context of school Principals feeling unsupported in their effort to curtail student marijuana use. It seems the threat of enforcement is disappearing when it comes to MJ.
- Joe shared that the Snohomish County Regional Drug Task Force, a collaboration of law enforcement agencies working to stop drug trafficking, no longer considers marijuana an enforcement issue.

- Some discussion occurred around parent hosted or facilitated drug use being tied to high school sports, particularly aftergame parties.
- The conversation broadened to include “valley culture” and “contamination from east valley” as significant contributors.
- Unemployment stressors were also discussed.
- Conversely, it was also suggested that increased affluence in Monroe may also be influencing access and use, contributing to the perception that parents in Monroe are more tolerant of substance use.
- Price and availability were mentioned, as was a recent drug house burning down, potentially magnifying the scope of the problem.
- Parent outreach was suggested as one approach to take to impact this risk factor.
- Some members stated the faith community is ready to respond, as were other local agencies like the Monroe Rotary Club.
- Coalition members were also interested in building a parent support network to correct misperceptions and teach skills.

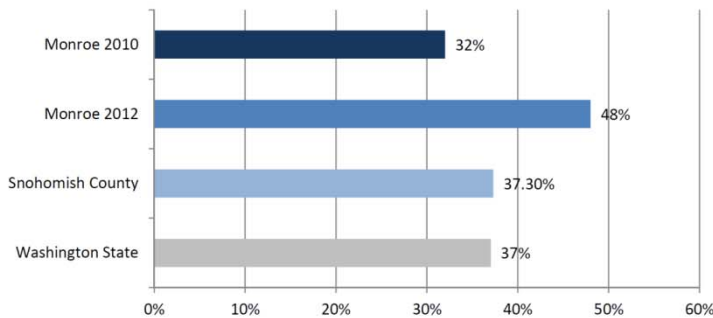
Coalition Adjourned at 2:40 without addressing the rest of the agenda.

## Risk Factors Most Predictive of Alcohol Use

The Healthy Youth Survey includes 24 risk and protective factors in four social domains: community, school, family, and peer/individual. Each “factor” consists of two or more questions so that the factor includes multiple dimensions of the risk or protection being measured. The risk factor scores and protective factor scores refer to the percent of youth “at risk” or “protected” by that factor.

The *Parental Attitudes Tolerant of Substance Use* scale is one of four risk factors found to be most strongly associated with alcohol use.

### 10th Grade Parental Attitudes Tolerant of Substance Use



HYS Risk Factors	GRADE	Monroe		State	
		2010	2012	2010	2012
Parental Attitudes Tolerant of Substance Use	8	19%	20%	21%	24%
	10	32%	48% <sup>a</sup>	37%	37% <sup>b</sup>

