Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Committee Meeting  
September 30, 2004  
9:00 a.m.  
Karrmann Library Conference Room 212

Attendance:  Judy Wurtzler, Roger Meyer, William McBeth, Dan Dahlquist, Deb Crabtree, Rhonda Viney  
Absent:  Robert Conway, Dominic Barraclough, Steve Steiner

The meeting was begun by the designated convener, Judy Wurtzler. Everyone introduced themselves and a discussion ensued regarding the selection of a committee chairperson. One of those in attendance asked for a general description of the committee and the role of the chairperson. Bill McBeth indicated he would be interested in assuming that role and it was enthusiastically received by the committee.

Roger Meyer, Director of University Counseling Services, provided a report regarding the work of another campus-based alcohol committee. He reported that this group meets approximately every 3 weeks.

He explained that UWP had received a UW System AODA grant in the amount of $3200. The funds will be used to hire a graduate assistant for 4 - 6 hours / week to assist in the coordination of assessing the alcohol environmental risk factors at UWP. This is the first part of a 2 part plan and the assessment (environmental scan) will be performed this Fall semester.

He described a new "anti-hangover medicine" named Chaser. There was much discussion regarding this concept.

Meyer indicated that the preliminary report from the alcohol survey that was performed on line last spring will help us know how we compare to the system norm. However, he indicated there were some concerns related to the web-based survey -- self-perception and self-reporting issues. He also questioned the definition of binge drinking as the language used involved the term "sitting" and that is vague. Bodyweight impacts alcohol absorption. It is viewed that BAC is a more reliable determiner of impairment. There are many factors that impact it (food intake, body size).

A member shared the news of the recent death of a 19 year old who died from having 20 shots. That lead to discussion of the reasoning behind the 21 Club project that was piloted last year. The group is wondering about the status of that program and would like to invite David Nevins to attend our meeting to discuss that.

Deb Crabtree was introduced as the newly hired AODA Coordinator. She described some of the proposed activities for Alcohol Awareness Month (October) and Week (Oct. 17 - 23). There will be a display in the Karrmann Library. It is associated with the concept of "I bought the beer, my friend paid for it." She will distribute paper bricks for individuals to print "lessons I've learned" about alcohol. She's looking to get 100 completed bricks for the wall. On Tuesday and Wednesday an Alcohol Fair will provide students the opportunity to spin and respond to trivia questions. If answered correctly, they will become eligible for $50 worth of dining dollars. On Thursday at the Pioneer Student Center rootbeer will be distributed to students with the saying "have a shot on us" and will contain information related to alcohol use. On Friday, carnations will be given out at the Pioneer Student Center. Its purpose is to raise awareness of death due to alcohol and to remind people to drink responsibly. She also described a program that encourages different ways to get "natural highs" and will incorporate the use of balloons.

Crabtree is looking ahead and will be involved in CircleFest with a proposed giant twister game. She is also looking at a Spring Party Challenge that would involved a competition. She hopes to have smaller activities each month and will need volunteers to work with these activities. It was asked how our committee can help. Crabtree is also interested in looking into the possibility of working with the Safe Ride program in town by attempting to develop a Designated Driver program. She's interested in hearing ideas.
With regard to projects and goals for this year, Meyer indicated that the biannual alcohol report is due this year. We will discuss the topic of projects and goals again at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at approximately 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21st at 9 a.m. in the same room.

Minutes submitted by Rhonda Viney.