

Ingham Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

**ISAP Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2008
LPD South Precinct
11:30 am to 1:30 pm**

Members Present:

Angela Austin, Community Coalition for Youth
Mike Botke, Lansing Teen Court
LaClaire Bouknight, Capital Area Michigan Works, Eagle Vision Ministries
Harriett Dean, EISD/PPS
Barbara Filmore, Northwest Initiative
Micki Fuhrman, EISD/PPS
Dawn Kepler, Community Coalition for Youth
Sara Lurie, EIDS/PPS
Amy Moore, Ingham County Health Department
Michelle Nicholson, IISD/Birth to Five Committee
Allison Nix, American Lung Association
Mike Tobias, Cristo Rey Community Center
Karen Waters, Cristo Rey Community Center

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 2, 2008

I. Call to Order:

11:45 am

Chairperson Marie Hansen called the meeting to order at 11:45 am and had each person introduce him or herself.

II. Old Business

a. Compliance Checks and Problem Vendor Report

Karen Waters presented. Marie began by writing 3 environmental strategies on the board:

- Access and Availability
- Social Norms
- Policy Enforcement

She stated that the information Karen was presenting fell into the "Access and Availability" category. Karen distributed copies of the ISAP Coalition: Problem Vendor Report 2007/2008 and the Problem Vendor Summary 2007/2008. She stated that ISAP members present would vote to accept the report and the 2 suggested action steps in the summary. Karen stated that the report indicated which vendors in Ingham County were "problem vendors", based on sales of alcohol and/or tobacco products to minors as well as other violations of Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) codes. She stated that the report contained all alcohol compliance check results beginning in August of 2006, when ISAP began baselining alcohol compliance check results, up through the present. She said that she had added tobacco check results from the same approximate period, historical MLCC violation data for each identified vendor, and recent and historical data regarding compliance during alcohol inspections. The result was a snapshot of which Ingham County vendors appear to adhere to liquor control codes and which vendors do not. Karen

stated that some of the vendors have a poor record of adhering to sale-to-minors laws, while others have records of other violations such as continually selling to intoxicated persons and allowing them to consume, or allowing fights and brawls. She stated that providing these problem vendors with education and technical assistance will address both youth use and adult use, depending on the offenses. Karen pointed out that the summary sheet also listed a comparison of current rates (2007/2008) and baseline rates (2006/2007) for alcohol compliance checks. Our baseline rate of compliance was 84% (320 licensees checked) and it is now 99% (215 licensees checked). Individual current rates for Lansing, East Lansing and Meridian Township Police Departments and the Sheriff's Office were also listed. Karen stated that the Meridian Township Police Department has recently been featured in local newspapers due to a 99% rate of compliance. (Current East Lansing Police Department alcohol inspections indicate that their vendors are also at an individual rate of 99% compliance). Karen distributed copies of a letter of support and appreciation from ISAP to Sergeant Scott Dawson of Meridian Township Police Department. He has been our contact person at that department and is their alcohol officer working under an Office of Highway Safety Planning/Safe Communities Grant. Karen stated that in their discussion of this report, the Executive Committee had decided that Sergeant Dawson might be a good person to speak to the Coalition about youth alcohol use. Karen said that he had been very informative during the law enforcement interviews last year. He had indicated that, while youth retail access appears to be under control in Meridian Township, youth social access routes to alcohol are a constant challenge.

Discussion:

- Marie stated that Mike Tobias has heard about problem vendors at off-site establishments, during meetings in Lansing.
- Mike Botke stated that youth going through Lansing Teen Court are often there for a charge of retail fraud. He said that retailers inform him that alcohol and tobacco products are often what are being stolen. Marie stated that some of these thefts have to do with product placement. She said that chewing tobacco is usually more accessible than cigarettes are due to current product placement restrictions.
- Micki Fuhrman asked how outlet density fits in to this. She asked who the gatekeepers in Lansing are that determine how many liquor and tobacco licensees can exist in any given area. Mike Tobias stated that outlet density is determined by local units of government. He added that in a recent meeting, Chief Michael King of the Stockbridge Police Department expressed concern that he does not receive local violation results from MLCC.
- Marie stated that we need to think about how much media coverage we want regarding this issue.

Decision: Sara Lurie moved to accept the report and the 2 suggested action steps:

- 1. Send letter of appreciation and support from ISAP to vendors who passed their last controlled buy/inspection.**
- 2. Provide on-site technical assistance to "problem vendors".**

Barry Kaufman seconded. The motion was unanimously accepted.

b. Discussion: Community Norms Survey Results

This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

III. New Business

a. Discussion and Action Item: College Presidents petition to lower national drinking age to 18

- **Link:** <http://www.cnn.com/2008/Health/08/18/college.drinking.age.ap/>

In 1984 Congress passed the *National Minimum Drinking Age Act*, which imposed a penalty of 10% of a state's federal highway appropriation on any state setting its drinking age lower than 21. The act will come up for renewal in 2009. For at least the last two years, there have been initiatives to lower the drinking age to 18 once again. The most recent of these is the Amethyst Initiative, initiated by John McCardell and comprised of College Presidents. Approximately 105 of them have now signed a petition to have the drinking age lowered again.

Discussion:

- Marie stated that raising the drinking age is a proven effective strategy. She gave some history of the drinking age in Michigan. She stated that Michigan is in a different space because constitutional law rose our drinking age to 21 in 1978. Our drunk driving rates for 17 to 20 year olds had doubled and then tripled between 1972 and 1978. After the legislation was in place it took until 1990 for them to go down again. Between 1997 and 2007, past 30 day use for this age group dropped significantly. Marie stated the current statistics are a result of the 21 year old drinking age as well as efforts to make law enforcement more consistent, the Michigan Model curriculum, and other factors.
- Mike Tobias stated that he has spoken to Becky Allen about the Amethyst Initiative. Becky referred him to the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Dennis Martell, also of Michigan State University (MSU) Health Services, has recently come out in support of the initiative. Marie stated that she sits on MSU's Get Home Safely Workgroup with Becky, and the initiative will be discussed at their next meeting.
- Barry asked if there has been any feedback from law enforcement people regarding the initiative and Marie stated that there has not. Amy Moore stated that she would like to see East Lansing Police Chief Tom Wibert join this discussion.
- Marie stated that Lou Anna Simon has come out against the initiative. She added that the only college president in Michigan supporting it is the one from Saginaw Valley State University.
- Sara stated that part of the justification for lowering the drinking age again appears to be that data indicates an increase in alcohol poisoning since the drinking age act was put into place.
- Harriett Dean stated that legislation lowering the drinking age again would shift the burden of enforcement off of college staff and on to the community.
- Marie stated that John McCardell appears to believe that binge drinking among college students is proof that raising the drinking age "didn't work". She added that college students tend to binge drink more than their counterparts who are not attending college.
- Dawn Kepler stated that Henry Wexler, who has done most of the research on binge drinking, is opposed to lowering the drinking age.
- Mike Tobias stated that an initiative like this that took place in New Zealand, the "New Zealand Experiment", had resulted in high rates of alcohol-related offenses involving youth.
- LaClaire Bouknight proposed that ISAP send Lou Anna Simon a letter in support of her opposition to lowering the drinking age. Amy stated that the letter should contain current research on effects of alcohol to the adolescent brain, as well as pointing out that changing the drinking age would shift policing efforts from colleges on to the community. Marie stated that we should also send the letter to Lansing Community College and Davenport University, as well as cc'ing the Board of Trustees of all 3 universities. She said that Becky and all ISAP members will be notified that we are sending the letter. She said that she would also like ISAP to write a newspaper article about this topic.

Decision: LaClaire Bouknight moved to send a letter opposing the lowering of the drinking age from 21 to 18 to Michigan State University, Lansing Community College and Davenport University. Barry Kaufman seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

b. Progress Report: Court/Law Enforcement Interviews

For the second phase of the law enforcement report, Marie, Karen and Amy recently interviewed representatives from 54A Court in Lansing, 54B Court in East Lansing and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Marie distributed copies of the Michigan Judicial Branch, outlining courts of limited jurisdiction, courts of general jurisdiction, intermediate appellate court, and court of last resort, and copies of Ingham County Courts, listing all of the judges that sit on each court. She stated that we are now covering tobacco as well as alcohol in our interviews, but remain focused on youth. She said that still on our schedule to interview are representatives of 55th Court, which covers all of Ingham County except Lansing and East Lansing, and court referees who interview the offending youth.

Discussion:

- Marie described some of the court processes in the flow chart she had distributed. She said that youth who are 17 years old and older go to 3 different courts: 54A, 54B, or 55th Court. They always go back to District Court, which handles misdemeanors, ordinance violations with sentences less than one year, and felony preliminaries, as well as civil litigation and jury trials. Each court handles juvenile and underage offenders differently. Youth who are arrested in Lansing have to pay 54A Court \$320.00 as part of their sentence, while part of the sentence for the youth arrested in East Lansing (54B) is to take a breathalyzer test every day for 3 months. The Lansing City Attorney also gets involved with youth arrested in Lansing.
- Marie stated that one of our interviews was with 54A Court Magistrate Laura Millmore, who handles 17 year olds. She stated that Mike Botke will be helping us in understanding what happens with offenders of this age. Mike stated that Lansing Teen Court gets some violent offenders such as youth who have committed assault and battery or domestic violence.
- Amy stated that juvenile courts may or may not be doing assessments. She said she is concerned that youth are often in trouble before they end up in the court system, such as when a police officer has them empty out the alcohol they are carrying and sends them home. Marie stated that this is one of our biggest concerns; are interventions actually being enforced. Amy added that law enforcement people have not actually seen family-strengthening treatment programs so do not know that they are really effective. She stated that when you have a criminal justice mindset, it seems like a good thing when the crime is not violent. She said that often law enforcement people and the youth's parents do not appear to see an arrest as an opportunity for education.
- Sara asked if it is our goal to have 17 to 20 year olds in particular go to licensed, standardized programs. Marie stated that she would say that ISAP is in favor of best practices and evidence-based programs.
- Mike stated that youth who go through Lansing Teen Court are ages 11 to 16. He said that, whatever their offense, they are screened in 7 different domains. The screening takes less than 10 minutes and they do not do an actual drug test. Their screening instrument is the Massachusetts Youth Screening tool (MAYSI). Mike stated that the courts use the YSL screening instrument. Dawn stated that she had attended a YSL training. She said that the YSL looks at the level of need in all domains. Mike stated that he does not regard youth who have

committed only one crime as “criminals”. Barry added that Lansing Teen Court is more about change in the youth than about punishment.

- Amy advised ISAP members present that our end goal is to have the court people sit on our Environmental Committee as it is established this year.

c. October Action Item: Work Group assignment – Review Implementation Plan, review where workgroups are and where they go next

Harriett stated that ISAP workgroups have taken their work plans and focused on youth, adults, families or community norms (depending on what the workgroup is). She stated that she will send the 2009 Mid South Substance Abuse Commission Implementation Plan, as well as the work plans, to ISAP members. Marie stated that this will give ISAP members the opportunity to see what we are doing and decide if they want to switch groups. She stated that some of the workgroups have been more involved in their process than others. She said that we need to have all workgroups doing all of the work, rather than staff doing the work and reporting back to the workgroups.

IV. Mid South Announcements

- a. Sara stated that Ingham County has received \$5000.00 in gambling prevention funding from Mid South.
- b. Sara also stated that Mid South has requested SPF/SIG funding from the State of Michigan for counties like Ingham who do not currently receive SPF/SIG funds. She stated that we will have to write an amendment to our 2009 Plan in order to receive the funding, which amounts to about \$25,000.00.

V. Other Announcements

- a. Barry stated that the Nurturing Fathers Program will begin meeting at Maple Hill School on October 15, 2008, for ten weeks.
- b. Amy reminded ISAP members that John Underwood’s “Life of an Athlete” Program will take place on September 23, 2008 at Eaton Intermediate School District in Charlotte. Sara stated that they are trying to get coaches to participate.
- c. Karen stated that we have received official notice from SAMHSA that we will be receiving our Drug Free Communities Continuation Grant funding in the amount of \$100,000.00.
- d. Mike Tobias stated that Michigan Prevention Network will be holding a convention on November 6, 2008.

VI. Adjourn:

1:40 pm

September 22, 2008 Amendment to the Minutes

Becky Allen: I would ask that the minutes reflect that Dr. Simon's decision to not sign the Amethyst Initiative is not to be interpreted as opposition to re-opening the dialogue and scientific exchange on the matter. Nor should it be interpreted as support for the current drinking age. She is simply staying open to the matter until an examination of the current science reveals the wisdom or lack thereof of our current social policy regarding the minimum drinking age.