



Columbia County Connects Newsletter

Circulation: 1100

Fall Edition, 2009

Inside this issue:

Genevieve Kirchman Receives 2009 Lifetime Achievement in Prevention Award	2
Advocacy Action of the Quarter	2
Annual Teen Court Training	3
First Teen Adventures Leadership Summit held in August!	3
CCC Information	4

Underage drinking is not just something law enforcement deals with but is truly a societal issue.

CCC Members & Local Law Enforcement Attend National Leadership Conference in Dallas

Utilizing funding from *The Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future*, this year's National Leadership Conference on Underage Drinking was attended by two local law enforcement officers and six coalition members. Dallas was the conference destination for Officer Jason Stenberg, Officer Travis Clausen, Nancy Schaper, Karen Nelson, Liz Miller, Heather Stenberg, Meg McCullough, and Paula Enger. The conference hosted approximately 1500 attendees from around the country.

Officer Clausen stated that attending the conference helped him realize that underage drinking is not just something law enforcement deals with but is truly a societal issue. He was motivated by the number of people, other than law enforcement, who are working on the underage drinking issue. Liz Miller came away from the conference excited to get our

youth more involved (than they already are) in coalition work. Nancy Schaper attended a breakout called "Hollywood comes to Town" where youth groups put together short films that can be shown to their peers about consequences of alcohol and other drugs. Heather Stenberg attended an important breakout on the various products on store shelves everywhere-from alcopops to flipflops - that market to teens. Officer Stenberg shared a powerful quote from the conference: **"Juveniles are 25% of the population, but 100% of our future"**.

As funding for sending members to this worthwhile conference comes to an end, Columbia County Connects hopes to look for creative ways to still be a part of this great event. Who knows, you may see us as future presenters!!



Front row: Meg McCullough, Liz Miller, Karen Nelson, Nancy Schaper, Travis Clausen
Back row: Jason Stenberg, Heather Stenberg, Paula Enger

Genevieve Kirchman Receives 2009 Lifetime Achievement in Prevention Award

Genevieve Kirchman recently received the 2009 Lifetime Achievement in Prevention Award at the 2009 Wisconsin State Prevention Conference. A number of Columbia County Connects Coalition members nominated Genevieve for this award. She has been a tireless leader in the field of ATODA prevention in Wisconsin for over 23 years. For the past 13 years, she has been the Coordinator for the CESA 5 ATODA Prevention Network. She is an advocate for the Strategic Prevention

Framework, Model Programs, and Evaluation. She is not only a source of inspiration, but possesses much knowledge and wisdom about what and how to make prevention work. Most important is Genevieve's positive, enthusiastic, never-get-discouraged, never-give-up, never-stop-working-to-change-the-status-quo leadership style that helps others from losing their enthusiasm.



Staff Members: Paula Enger, Tim Belleau, Genevieve Kirchman, Meg McCullough and coalition member Karen Torgerson

Advocacy Action of the Quarter

For the past year, as requested by the Coalition Steering Committee, there has been an Advocacy Action of the Quarter in each of our newsletters. For this quarter, we, the staff, would like to find out which of the following you have acted on:

- Did you check with your town or city board to find out if there is a penalty for liquor establishments who fail compliance checks multiple times?
- Did you contact any state legislators in support of the statewide smoke free ordinance?

- Did you watch for, and note, the coalition WE ID stickers and window clings in local establishments who serve or sell alcohol?
- Did you thank your local and county law enforcement officers for all the work that they do to keeping alcohol out of the hands of those who are underage?

Please email Meg at (mcculloughm@cesa5.k12.wi.us) or call her at 608-742-8814, #242 and let her know what type of advocacy actions you have taken!

Have you taken any advocacy actions?

Teen advocacy against underage drinking, tobacco use, and illegal drug use.

First Teen Adventures Leadership Summit

On August 18-20, a group of high school teens from Columbia and Marquette Counties came together for a Teen Adventure Leadership Summit at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette. They worked together to increase youth leadership for teen advocacy against underage drinking, tobacco use, and illegal drug use. Three of the four groups of students decided to work with their school youth group on an ad watch campaign to see how often youth in their communities are exposed to alcohol advertisement(s). The group brainstormed community service and fundraising ideas and also developed a Facebook page. They improved leadership skills through team building activities such as geo-caching and rock climbing.

Participants included students from

Montello, Pardeeville, Portage, and Rio. The students who attended were 100% in agreement that the summit was a worthwhile use of their time. Some of the responses regarding what they would do differently because they attended the summit are:

*I will try to inform people and advocate instead of letting nothing get done.

*I will try to participate more in my group and bring more ideas to the table.

*I will try harder to make a difference in my community because I know I can.

*Be more confident in what I believe in.

These students will take back the knowledge they gained to improve their schools and communities. The youth summit was a pilot program that the coalition hopes to repeat next summer as well as provide that service to other coalitions and groups.

Annual Teen Court Training

On Saturday, August 29, twenty-one volunteers, (adults and youth), took part in a six-hour Teen Court training. The volunteers had an opportunity to refine their skills as jurors, learn about their personality types, and take part in some team building exercises. Columbia County Circuit Court Judge; James Miller, stopped by to administer the Oath of Confidentiality to the volunteers.



Front row: Hailey W, Kaitlin S, Alanna S, Aaron W, Devin N; Second Row: Judge James Miller, Karisa H, Betsy H, Kayla B, Brittany H, Brittany B, Holly H, Karen N, Meg M; Third row: Blake B, Liz M, Jessica L, Jessica M, Robbin K, Luke M, Cassie M, Jaclyn C, James B, and Ethan O. (Not pictured, but in attendance: Kendalynn L)

CESA 5
P.O. Box 564
626 E. Slifer St.
Portage, WI 53901
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 608-742-8811
Toll Free: 1-800-862-3725
Fax: 608-742-2384



The Staff

Columbia County Connects Project
Director /Youth Coordinator:
Tim Belleau, ext. 225
belleaut@cesa5.k12.wi.us

Communities in Action Coordinator
Paula Enger, ext. 243
engerp@cesa5.k12.wi.us

Community Advocacy
Coordinator / Teen Court
Coordinator:
Meg McCullough, ext. 242
mcculloughm@cesa5.k12.wi.us

Advisor:
Genevieve Kirchman, ext. 247
kirchmang@cesa5.k12.wi.us

Support Staff:
Laurie Deakins, ext. 275
deakinsl@cesa5.k12.wi.us

Brenda May, ext. 301
mayb@cesa5.k12.wi.us

Andrea Schneiter, ext. 293
schneitera@cesa5.k12.wi.us

Columbia County Connects

The Columbia County Connects Coalition is made up of members that represent school districts and communities throughout the county. This coalition was established through the Columbia County Juvenile Justice Committee.

Funding is provided by Columbia County Health and Human Services, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), a Federal Drug-Free Communities Support grant, Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future and the STOP grant.

The two main programs are Youth Connects (teen leadership) and Community Connects (community education). The 40 Developmental Assets play a major role in our programming. The following are the top 4 assets we are currently addressing:

- **Caring School Climate** - School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
- **Safety**-Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood.
- **Restraint**-Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to

use alcohol or other drugs.

- **Youth as Resources**-Young people are given useful roles in the community.

Community Advocacy

The Community Advocacy Department works with the Community Liaisons to provide community education on prevention, hold responsible beverage server classes for community groups, alcohol compliance checks, coordinate Community Action Teams, work with Project Northland teachers on 6th grade Poster Fairs coordinate Project Northland 7th grade Amazing Alternative activities and media advocacy campaigns.

Youth Connects

The Youth Connects Coordinator works with the Youth Liaisons in the individual schools in creating service programs and leadership opportunities with students. An adult from each school district supports the local youth efforts.

For more information visit our website at: www.webcccc.org.

Please feel free to post this newsletter or share it with a friend!