

CHI – Red Wing Council Meeting
December 14, 2011
Red Wing High School

Members present: Tim Sletten, Lars Lidahl, Preston Blaney, Patrick Orr, Matt Trainer, Jo Seton, Dave Borgen, Kris Blaney, Stacy Larson, Kjurstin Langer, Susan McCammon and Julie Hatch,

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kris Blaney. Introductions were made.

Seven Strategies: Julie Hatch reported on the history of the Target group in the school. The program ended when the school lost the staff to coordinate the program. There were 135 kids in the group the last year. Julie mentioned she could assist in getting the group up and running again. Our council does want more student involvement. Kjurstin Langer reported that she is still exploring if Youth Outreach would undertake a leadership role with the group but the organization has not made a decision yet. Many members of the group voiced their support to get something started with the youth again. We feel we need the support of the school district too. There was consensus that we need a plan. A subcommittee of Matt Traynor, Susan McCammon, Lars Lidahl, Patrick Orr, Preston Blaney and Julie Hatch will work on a proposal to present to Karsten Anderson after the new year.

School Activities: The 8th and 9th grade dance was held December 9th. Only about 25 kids attended. The dance made \$119 for the scholarship fund. Thanks were extended to Lars Lidahl (and Alex Rosenow) for DJ'ing the dance. Their very reasonable rates are what allowed the dance to generate the proceeds.

Community Activities: Stacy Larson reported on the advertising projects. She is working with Laura Blair and the City of RW's Channel 6 to get some messages there but there are problems with the size of the file trying to be loaded at the channel. Last year, CHI – RW bought an ad in the Red Wing paper with a reminder about the holidays and responsible use of alcohol. The cost this year would be \$216 for a one-time ad. Tim Sletten made a motion to go ahead with the ad. There was a second from Lars Lidahl and the motion passed.

Paraphernalia Ordinance: Tim Sletten reported on the drug paraphernalia ordinance. He introduced an ordinance that would make it illegal to sell or possess drug paraphernalia. The City Council did not support the ordinance. He was instructed to bring the ordinance to the Council workshop in January. Hastings and Morehead have both recently passed very similar measures. He thinks it will eventually pass here. Tim asked for individuals as well as groups like CHI to send letters of support to the council. Tim asked that letters be given to him and he will get them to the council before the Jan. 20 workshop.

Twin Bluff Winter Activity: Jo Seton offered some dates for our CHI to again offer the winter cross country and snowshoeing event at Twin Bluff. It was decided to offer the event on Feb. 17 (an early release day). The ELC and Community Rec will cosponsor the event. The event is

free to youth and will run from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. There will also be hot chocolate and snacks for the participants. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this fun event.

Mission Statement: Jo Seton presented a reworded mission statement for our CHI group. The new mission statement is: *The Red Wing Chemical Health Initiative Council is here to identify the risk factors involving drugs and alcohol that exist within our community, and to promote ways to create a safe and healthy environment for local youth.* Kris Blaney moved to accept the new statement. A second was made by Kjurstin Langer and the motion carried.

Sharing: Stacy mentioned Bellechester is voting tonight on their social host ordinance. A drug drop off box is being donated by Mayo Clinic in Cannon Falls. Jo Seton shared with the council an article on the development of the adolescent brain she found in National Geographic.

Patrick Orr shared his experience with drugs in Red Wing. He said hard drugs are easy to find in Red Wing including heroin, cocaine and prescription drugs. He felt that 18 – 23 year olds are the prevalent group using these right now. The current increase in robberies and other crimes in Red Wing is linked to this drug use. He thinks the drugs are coming to Red Wing through Hastings or River Falls. The group encouraged Patrick to write a letter to the City Council and to include his experiences and his support for the drug paraphernalia ordinance.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Borgen