

**Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance
Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, 2009 @ Noon
Family Justice Center**

Attendees

Sue Carrigan – HCADA, Executive Director

Lisa Assetta – HCADA, Assistant

the attendance sheet was not collected

Opening (Sue Carrigan)

- Sue started the meeting by asking for introductions and then moved to the agenda

Speaker: Sergeant Tom Bobrowski/USFPD – Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP)/Training and Certification of Drug Recognition Experts (DRE)

- Sergeant Tom Bobrowski spoke about how law enforcement can use DREs in DUI, sexual battery, child abuse, and robbery arrests
- DREs are called on when impairment is substantial but a breath sample is .000 or is low, indicating a possible impairment due to drugs
- 40% or higher of DUI arrests involve impairment with drugs such as Xanax, Valium and Cannabis
- On scene, a DRE evaluates blood pressure and pupil size in order to classify a drug category and requests a urine sample which is necessary for a toxicology report
- A DRE can advise attorneys and speak in court as their testimony has held up in supreme court cases
- Law enforcement budgets play a part as to how many DREs are utilized; Pinellas County has three times more DREs but Hillsborough County has more DRE arrests
- Helen Justice/DUI Counterattack said from a DUI perspective, 85% of DUI offenders are on other drugs and that we are not capturing/changing the DUI profile of the offender; she also mentioned that ignition interlock only tests for alcohol
- There is a grant-funded DRE Program but it may be at risk due to budget cuts
- The prerequisites to becoming a DRE are the SFST and ARIDE courses as well as recommendations from an active DRE and a prosecutor
- Andrew McFarlane/DACCO said he feels DREs could be helpful to treatment agencies and would consider funding a class taught by Sergeant Bobrowski; Sue Carrigan offered the support of the PDA Task Force and Helen Justice offered a space to hold the training
- Contact Sergeant Tom Bobrowski for more information at TBobrow@admin.usf.edu

Dr. Miguel's Email regarding Public Forum on 8/26/09

- Jim Walker/HernandoCSO and Theresa Miller/StopRxDrugAbuse attended Dr. Miguel's meeting on 8/26/09 of the pain clinic regulation portion of the recently passed Prescription Drug Monitoring Bill (SB462)
- Many doctors and non-physicians were present to support efforts to ensure pain clinics are properly certified

Focus Group for PSA with Purdue Pharma (Andrew McFarlane)

- Andrew/DACCO informed he has not received a response from Purdue Pharma since they informed him of a stumbling block they encountered with an actor in current PSA that prevented them from modifying it

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Press/Prescription Drug Abuse Grant Funding (Sue Carrigan)

- Sue advised she was recently interviewed for an Parenting/tbo.com and The Oracle (college campus publication) that are to include information on prescription drug abuse
- Sue believes grant funding will be made available for prescription drug abuse research/programs and wants to be prepared to act when it does; she has already created a logic model that includes data collection and strategies and would like the PDA Task Force to partner with each other to obtain this funding
- Theresa Miller offered that her website www.stoprxdrugabuse.org has an informative slide show and links to a government site that contains data
- Helen Justice, Ellen Snelling/TAC and Gina Firth/UT added they could provide local data collected from their studies to take place in October; Andrew McFarlane said treatment agencies could assist with self-report assessments from clients
- PDA Task Force members agreed to use their resources to assist with data collection

NOPE Candlelight Vigil on 10/29/09 (Ellen Snelling/Deputy Ben Tillis)

- Deputy Ben Tillis informed that Deputy Patricia Cephas is now coordinating the vigil to be held at the Faith Outreach Church on Sheldon Road at 6:30 pm on 10/29/09
- The purpose of the vigil is to increase awareness and bring media attention to the cause of preventing prescription drug overdose
- Organizers need help at the event and to obtain a list of people to invite (such as HCADA board members)
- The program is to contain a fact sheet with prescription drug abuse statistics and is to include HCADAs name/logo
- Helen Justice offered to modify/update the brochure created for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Bill and is to finalize it by 10/15/09 and print a minimum of 400 copies
- NOPE would like to start a parent group in Tampa
- The link to the NOPE website is <http://www.nopetaskforce.org/>

Kidfest at MOSI on 10/3/09 (Sue Carrigan/Regina Birrenkott)

- The Kidfest and the I Am Too Good for Drugs Walk is to take place at MOSI on 10/3/09
- Regina thanked Jennifer Fuller/USF for her assistance with finding student groups to help
- Information about Kidfest can be found on the HCADA website at www.hcada.com

Other Items

New York Time Article/TBT

- The article informed that sustained-release pain pills like OxyContin are being crushed and snorted to get a faster high
- King Pharmaceuticals and other pharmaceutical companies are developing innovative opioids to thwart tampering

Next Meeting Date and Agenda

- The next regular meeting of the task force is scheduled to be held at Noon on Wednesday, October 28th at the Family Justice Center (prior to the HCADA General Membership Meeting)