

MINUTES: 8/11/2020 OPIATES AND OTHER DRUGS TASK FORCE

12 - 1 PM

Wrangler Skate Park

Co-Chair: Sarah Murdock

Present:

Sarah Murdock

Annie Adams

Peggy Weber

Deanne Swain

Trisha Scott

Meeting Notes:

Sarah Murdock reviewed the current work plan for new members.

Annie Adams, Sublette DFS caseworker presented on risk and protective factors for drug and alcohol addiction for Sublette youth and families.

Risk factor key points:

- Most Sublette DFS cases involve middle school students, 12-14 years old. This could be attributed to the fact that children in this age range are in transition and forming new identities, asking who am I, where do I fit in? Recently there have been more high school student delinquency cases, Annie speculated that the increase in high school students may be due to covid causing kids to be less engaged in activities. There is less supervision. Unknowns due to covid (will there be school, will there be sports, will I be able to see my friends, what does the future look like?) also may increase adolescent vulnerability to risky behaviors..
- In 60-80% of DFS case plans there is a family history of drug and alcohol abuse and childhood trauma to the parents and grandparents. Kids with DFS case plans have often seen drugs and alcohol in the home since they were born. DFS caseworkers write a child's detailed family history for the judge, called a PreDisposition Report (PDR) that the judge uses to make decisions that looks at all family history to make a picture of the child's home life for the Judge.
- 20 - 40% of delinquency cases represent "new freedoms" like getting a driver's license.

Protective factor key points:

- Sublette schools are one of the best protective factors for at risk kids because the school environment is "neutral". Information about drugs and alcohol coming from people other than parents is a protective factor for kids whose parents may encourage their children to try and to use substances.
- Kids identify school counselors, teachers, and other school staff as "safe" in DFS interviews. Kids also identify the library, PAC, and BOCES as safe places. Annie said she has never had kids involved with DFS who are in 4-H and FFA programs. Which could be another protective factor.
- There are media literacy curriculum recommendations for all grade levels starting in 3rd grade on the SPC website under the school resource tab. Media literacy is a field within prevention that focuses on age appropriate ways to teach kids how to distinguish facts from fiction.

Other notes:

Deanne requested feedback on consistent taglines and take away messages for our social media posts.

“Think for Yourself” and “Be a leader in your own life” were suggested.

Trisha will reach out to WDH to see if there are taglines we can use that have been researched with focus groups.

Next meeting: Tuesday November 10

Note: Detectives Danielle Cooper and Karson Turner have been invited to the November 10 task force to share their insights about prevention, and to answer questions about prescription drug abuse and children’s access to prescription drugs.