



Date: June 6, 2007

Subject: Drug Free DeSoto Task Force Meeting

Location: Board Chambers

Attending: Superintendent Adrian Cline, Sara Spas, Bob Hrstka, Rev. Dr. Sharon Goodman, Mary Kay Burns, Sheriff Vernon Keen, Lt. Curt Mays, Fred Carter, Charlotte Carter, Dawn Hilaire, Glenda Lewis, Jan Lewis

AGENDA ITEMS

Superintendent Cline called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

Superintendent Cline advised members that as of this date there are approximately 550 students enrolled in the extended school year programs. A newly implemented summer program, basic sign language, taught by Shasta Grimes, is being offered to elementary and middle school students.

Committee Reports

Speakers:

Lt. Mays reported on an upcoming drug awareness training scheduled for the first Wednesday in August at the Fort Ogden Baptist Church. Lt. Craig Aument will be the speaker for this event. Training will focus on drug awareness and gang activity in the community.

Website:

The website is up and running and receiving hits as well as emails daily.

Youth Activities:

Mr. Hrstka reported that the essay contest went very well. First place winners will be highlighted in the paper this month.

Letters of support from high school students for a possible teen night were not received. Another attempt for input will be requested at the beginning of the 07-08 school year.

Mary Kay Burns reported PACE-EH activities in full swing. Kick-off for movie night, supervised by Kadesch Altidor, was a huge success. Babysitter-Pro, in partnership with the Health Department, Red Cross and DeSoto Memorial Hospital has begun.

Participants will be learning basic life support and techniques on how to care for children properly. Activity is being geared toward teenagers and young adults.

Superintendent Cline commented on the fine job Kadesch Altidor is doing at the Health Department.

Sheriff Keen stated that the summer day camp, supervised by the School Resource Deputies, has begun with approximately 40 participants attending. This main focus is on harmony in the streets and how to stay out of gangs.

Mr. Carter tentatively scheduled the golf fundraiser for February 16, 2008. More information will be forthcoming.

Mrs. Carter reported that she spoke with the program director at WINK News who seemed very receptive in reporting any DeSoto Drug Task Force news.

Drug Treatment for Youth:

Mr. Hrstka is in receipt of a letter requesting monetary support from the County Commissioners for the proposal for drug treatment. He will be speaking with Susan Cobb of Community Care for input.

Public Relations:

Sara Spas asked that anyone needing additional Drug Free DeSoto brochures please contact her as there are plenty available.

Gangs:

Lt. Mays reported no new gang activity. The department will be focusing on targeting youth and convenience stores this summer. Sheriff Keen gave a brief summary on capacity load at the jail. He indicated that at this time there are approximately 53 females ranging in age from 18-60; of which several are Meth abusers. Sheriff Keen explained that Meth is fairly easy to make as ingredients for manufacturing Meth are readily accessible.

Mary Kay Burns stated that she will attempt to retrieve a list from local stores of individuals who have purchased Sudafed and/or medications with such ingredients.

Glenda Lewis stated that most of the increase in DJJ case loads within the past two to three months has been related to burglaries and batteries; not drug or gang related activity.

Task Force Member Reports:

No reports given.

Next Meeting Date:

The next Drug-Free DeSoto Task Force meeting will be held Wednesday, August 8, 2007, at 11:00 AM in the board chambers.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.