



**Date:** August 8, 2007

**Subject:** Drug Free DeSoto Task Force Meeting

**Location:** Board Chambers

**Attending:** Superintendent Adrian Cline, Sara Spas, Bob Hrstka, Rev. Dr. Sharon Goodman, Cathy Miller, Lt. Curt Mays, Fred Carter, Charlotte Carter, Dawn Hilaire, Penny Kurtz, Dottie Yost, Jan Lewis

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

Superintendent Cline called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM. Members were welcomed and thanked for attending.

### Committee Reports

#### Speakers:

Lt. Mays reported that the recent drug awareness training held at the Fort Ogden Baptist Church went well; the church was approximately half filled with community members.

Superintendent Cline stated that through the combined efforts of Lt. Mays and Lt. Aument the first drug/gang training which took place Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Family Service Center Annex was a success. The training session was both enlightening and informative. Attendance was good despite the many DOE workshops and activities scheduled during the summer months. Another training may be scheduled during one of the professional development days for those who could not attend.

Dr. Sharon Goodman and Sam Morgan recently gave a Drug Free DeSoto presentation at the Rotary Club. Many members expressed their interest and indicated their desire to schedule another presentation at a later date.

#### Website:

Activity on the website is slightly down, receiving less than 100 hits during the summer months compared to the usual 200-300 hits. Emails continue to be checked several times a week.

#### Youth Activities:

Mr. Hrstka thanked Sara Spas and Jill Maassen for their efforts in getting the word out regarding a possible Back-to-School activity for high school students. A meeting will be

arranged after the first week of school to see if students are interested in following through with an activity in 2007.

Cathy Miller distributed a handout referencing the upcoming 5K Walk. Many suggestions were discussed including; ways of organizing school and community teams, soliciting community involvement, sponsorship ideas, and methods for promoting the event. A luncheon meeting to brainstorm and finalize plans will be held at the Last Chapter, Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM. The 5K Walk will be held Saturday, November 10, 2007.

#### Drug Treatment for Youth:

Mr. Hrstka reported that Community Care will not be a resource for drug treatments for youth as previously hoped due to the fact that they are not licensed to do so. Penny Kurtz indicated that she will be in contact with DeSoto Health Resources, Inc., a non-profit organization, who may be able to be used as an avenue for approaching Coastal Recovery (Coastal Behavior) for assistance in this capacity. Superintendent Cline mentioned contacting Dr. Page at DeSoto Memorial Hospital for input and direction indicating that Dr. Page has agreed to oversee the school district's implementation of the new Student Random Drug Testing policy which will take effect this school year. Superintendent Cline went on to further explain the Student Random Drug policy and procedures.

#### Public Relations:

Superintendent Cline complimented Sara Spas, along with Jon Sica, on a fine job in putting together the Back-to School tab. Sara Spas reported that she is working on an article regarding the recent gang/drug training that took place. A mention of the Drug Free DeSoto website will be included in this article.

A request for Drug Free DeSoto participation in parades and community events was made and agreed upon. The first parade will be the Veteran's Day parade in November.

#### Gangs:

Lt. Mays reported that it has been a reasonable summer; no gang-related crime activity.

#### Task Force Member Reports:

Dottie Yost indicated that the Health Occupation students will focus on tobacco education during the first semester with the alcohol initiative program being taught during second semester. Both semesters will include a student-teach-student program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

A suggestion was made to consider spending some grant money on a billboard sponsored by Drug Free DeSoto similar to the one already in place paid for by the alcohol initiative grant funds.

In reference to raising much needed funds for Drug Free DeSoto, a suggestion was made by Mr. Carter for all members to donate \$50.00 as start-up money. Members in attendance agreed; checks were collected, made payable to Drug Free DeSoto.

Mr. Carter wished to express his appreciation to Superintendent Cline for his years of dedication, support and concern for DeSoto County students. Mr. Carter went on to say that under Superintendent Cline's watch many students have become doctors, lawyers, and upstanding citizens of the community. This success can only be attributed to Superintendent Cline's leadership and commitment to education. Dr. Goodman suggested Mr. Carter give a brief presentation on Drug Free DeSoto at the next school board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 14.

Next Meeting Date:

The next Drug-Free DeSoto Task Force meeting will be held Wednesday, September 5, 2007, at 11:00 AM in the board chambers.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.