

# SAPP Network News

June 2005

## **SAPP Wrap-Up**

It's that time of year again - when multi-tasking is all the rage and daydreaming of zero-tasking during the summer months keeps us moving ahead. We at the SAPP Office are all about educators getting that much needed solstice break. So consider this newsletter a little missive you can read while lounging in the sun, pre-vacation. Heck, you'll still get credit for working but you can ease into the June – August break this way. I hope you'll make yourself a lemonade and maybe take the time to reflect with the SAPP Office on the great year we've had, and look forward to our next year together.

This past year, we've accomplished a heckuva lot (apologies for the slang - I'm just preparing for that more relaxed time!). Bully-Proofing Your School programs are up and running in many schools, we've trained an additional 42 people in the ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) model, worked with PEN on three powerful community events around substance abuse and suicide prevention, spent a year with Fairview and came up with recommendations to address YRBS data through their pilot program, sponsored our annual retreat, ran a successful peer education program with high school students talking to middle school students about substance use, and much more. So pat yourselves on the back.

Suicide is a complex problem and it deserves a multifaceted approach. Next year, ASIST will be offered through the St. Vrain School District, but we will provide scholarships. Also, mark June 13 on your calendars as we'll be offering 2 three-hour sessions of the SAFE: teen suicide prevention model. Teachers, paraprofessionals and administrative assistants will be paid to attend the three hour training. Next year we will co-sponsor a communitywide suicide awareness event at CU with money from the Barnett Foundation.

We'll also continue to work with PEN (Parent Engagement Network), individual schools, and students to put a dent in our substance use issues. Stay tuned - I'll have more details on this in the Fall. Finally, with the help of the Equity Office, we'll look at our "risk behavior gap" and address issues facing our Latino and GLBTQ youth.

And now to the toughest news of all: the budget update. The current federal budget has proposed that the entire Safe and DrugFree Schools and Communities Act grant be cut. Safe and Drug-Free is in the 05-06 budget, and we hope to offer our annual prevention retreat (although it may be on a more limited basis). We also hope to provide a "SAPP Sampler" of topics in prevention, bully-proofing training, NOT (Not On Tobacco), and "Understanding and Meeting the Needs of GLBTQ Youth" (which we will offer with subs again this year instead of on a Saturday as we have in the past). We hope you'll all attend our annual kick-off, even if it is a smaller, gentler kick-off than usual.

More than any other profession, those of us in education have a very direct and powerful potential to make positive impacts on the youth that will contribute to our future. Participating in any of these programs optimizes our potential for positive impact. Budget issues aside, I will always believe that each and every one of us can make a difference in these issues. Thank you for making these beliefs a tangible reality. Have a wonderful break!

Lisa Cech