

SAPP Network News

October 2003

Full Swing

And away we go. We look forward to working with and supporting all of you this year. SAPP has an eventful year planned. Here are some highlights.

The Substance Abuse Task Force held its first meeting of the year. The group decided to continue and expand our efforts. The feeling is that the group is too important to disband, and we would like to broaden our focus to address other risk factors of our youth. This recommendation came from our extremely active Parent sub-committee responding to requests from parents. The group, which will be renamed something like "Boulder Community and Parent Engagement Network" will look at a strength-based or Assets approach. Our efforts last year alone reached 4500 parents and 1500 middle school students and resulted in significant policy change to address substance use.

The Youth sub-committee of the Task Force already held its two-day retreat in Estes Park. Sixty high school students attended the retreat that included facilitation/teaching skills, diversity training, and information about the three peer education programs in Boulder: Interpersonal Violence Prevention, Sexual Health, and Gateway Drug Prevention. The youth were treated to a performance of "Until Someone Wakes Up," a play dealing with the issues of date rape, gender role socialization, and sexual harassment.

With our tobacco grant, we have focused some of our efforts on smoking cessation among youth. We offered a N-O-T (Not-On-Tobacco) training with 10 attendees. Although smoking may not seem as "cutting edge" as some other SAPP issues, it is vital. Tobacco still kills more people each year than all other drugs combined (450,000).

We will continue our work with the Office of Equity to create ties between the mandated (at Elementary) ADL curriculum and the "Bully-Proofing" curriculum. I want to congratulate so many of you on implementing and being creative with the "Bully-Proofing" program.

The SAPP retreat will be October 28 and 29 in Estes Park - one session only this year, so reserve your spot! Currently scheduled sessions are: "Instant Replay," teaching youth to solve conflicts through theater and improv; FAST, an interactive session about the Families and Schools Together Program; a brush-up "train-the-trainer" for Student Assistance Program Teams (tentatively scheduled), to include all the latest on identification and interventions; and more TBA!

We will take a year off of our partnership with the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools to get us on a Spring Cycle with the rest of their grants. This year, SAPP will go with its standard mini-grant program to support your school-based projects. The deadline for Safe Zone grants is Spring, and the money will be awarded the following Fall. Stay tuned for more details.

Kendra and I look forward to working with you this year.

Lisa Cech