

SAPP Network News

September 2007

Welcome Back

The Safe and Drug Free Schools Office is alive and well. It's been a while since I've been in touch, but it's time for an update. Here is what we have been up to in the last year.

We are in the final year of two three-year grants: the Colorado Trust grant and a Department of Education grant. Colorado Trust has been supporting middle level school climate liaisons and bullying prevention efforts in BVSD. That grant has provided us with necessary funding geared toward the middle level, including materials, training, and one person per school (the school climate liaison) dedicated to climate concerns.

The Department of Education grant, totaling 1.5 million dollars over the three years, focuses on substance abuse reduction at the high school level. BVSD has turned some heads in Washington, D.C.! We were selected by the US Department of Education as an "exemplary" program - one of only 8 in the country. We were also honored with two invitations, one to present at a Department of Education briefing on underage drinking. Our partnerships with Boulder County Healthy Youth Alliance and our Peer Education program were highlighted at the briefing. At the National Safe and Drug Free Schools Conference, we presented a session on parent engagement, featuring our own Parent Engagement Network (PEN). It was a standing-room-only crowd, and we received high marks from the participants.

Outcomes from the DOE grant have been positive overall. The FAST program has been a highlight: of the 55 families involved in FAST, there was a 17% decrease in difficulties parents experienced in the families and a 23% increase in the cohesion of the family unit. This is significant change for these families. Project TND, a drug alcohol curriculum delivered through Health / LOYO, had strong outcomes: binge drinking was reduced by 3%, and the percentage of students who disapprove of alcohol use was up 7 percentage points.

The future of SAPP is uncertain after our grants wrap up. The federal block grants that have funded the office in the past continue to be trimmed. We will continue to seek funding to support our efforts. Under the leadership of Chris King, I believe there will be a district focus on the social/emotional needs of students. The future is bright.

Please see page 7 for our upcoming trainings. Heartfelt thanks for your continued support of our office. We have a busy year ahead of us.

Lisa Cech

