

Preventing destructive behavior in Chelsea youth.
Action. Prevention. Seriously!

SRSLY Coalition Meeting*

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Minutes

*Special spring youth-only meeting, while parents attend Drugs 101 in the auditorium

Present: Jacquelyn Barbour, Sam Blackledge, Ellen Christie, Katie Christie, Howard Cooper, Katie Dewyer, Sandra Gofton, Natalie Gofton, Alexa Lauretano, Reiley Lewis, Nikki Liedel, Katelyn McKinley, Zack McKinley, Lauren Oliver, Erin Murphy, Julia Porter, Madisen Powell, Allie Reynolds, Georgie Reynolds, Teddie Reynolds, Mitchell Taylor, Sara Stamper

I. Announcements

- Each youth in attendance got to vote on outdoor movies for SRSLY Cinema. The lineup of movies will be announced at the May meeting.
- Superbowl Survey Results – Madisen and Julia tabulated and analyzed the results from the Superbowl Survey that was conducted at the middle and high schools in February. Of the students who watched the Superbowl, 68% noticed beer ads, and 17% said the beer ads were their favorite. The group discussed the impact of alcohol advertising on youth.
- Community Photovoice – Katie Christie and Erin Murphy talked about Photovoice, and announced that the deadline for submitting pictures is extended until Monday, April 12. A full description of the project, and instructions for photographers is posted on the website, at www.srslychelsea.org/photo_voice.
- Walk the Line – The deadline to join the SRSLY Relay for Life team is Tuesday, April 13. Register online at http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=21388.

II. Presentation of SRSLY CTZN of the Month

- **Katie Dewyer:** Katie is a new member of the Youth Steering Committee this school year, but she is already taking on responsibility as the SRSLY Historian, and volunteering for events. For St. Patrick's Day, Katie had an idea to hide gold coins in classrooms, and announce to the school that anyone who found a gold coin could get into the party for free. Katie and her mom Sheryl went in before school started and hid coins in all the rooms. And it really worked! Lots kids brought the coins with them to the party. Katie and her family also helped set up before the party, and kept things running smoothly throughout.
- **Iva Corbett:** Iva got involved with SRSLY in January to help the coalition apply for the Drug Free Communities Support Program. Iva used to be the Assistant Superintendent in Chelsea, and she has a lot of experience

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SRSLY A Coalition with support from Chelsea Community Hospital
and the Coghlan Family Foundation

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grant writing. She volunteered her time and expertise to lead the grant-writing team. We won't find out if we got the grant until August, but if we do, it's all thanks to her!

- **Kudos Awards:** All youth and adult volunteers at the St. Patrick's Day Party, the Photovoice project team, Katie Christie, Taylor Cooley and Ella Fritzeimer, Ellen Christie for work on Walk the Line, Erin Murphy for helping the YES project teams, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Siegrist, Mr. Ingall and Sara Wild for helping apply for the Drug Free Communities Grant, Jacquelyn Barbour for joining the YSC, and Devin Wild for working on Bag n' Tag over spring break.

III. **Team-Building Activities led by YSC** – The Youth Steering Committee led games designed to promote teamwork and cooperation.

IV. **Group Discussion led by YSC** – Youth discussed the issue of peer pressure, and the prevalence of youth substance abuse at the elementary, middle and high schools. Younger students did not know of many kids their age who were using drugs or alcohol, and did not feel pressured to use by their peers. Some elementary school students knew of kids who were using tobacco.

High school students discussed how the abuse of alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs is widespread among teenagers in high school. However, they explained that once you say no to drugs or alcohol a couple times, people understand that you are not interested, and they do not continue to pressure you to use. Older students also talked about the difficult transition to from middle school to high school, and how hard it is to see some of their friends make the choice to try drugs and alcohol. They also said there are plenty of “cool people” who don't do drugs or drink, and that it's still easy to find people to be friends with who don't use. Some insightful quotes from the discussion:

- “It's not easy; there is peer pressure. But ever since SRSly started, people feel more comfortable coming out of their shell and saying ‘no, that's not cool, I'm not into that [drugs and alcohol].’” – CHS student
- “It's not really one group of kids [who use drugs] in high school. It's kids that get good grades, kids you wouldn't even think of. You wouldn't believe it. It's everywhere, and a lot of times, you don't even know.” – CHS student
- “Pills are the big thing in Chelsea right now. It's so easy to get a hold of them because they're in the house. Girls are crushing and snorting pills, but they don't even know what they're doing. It's so dumb.” – CHS student
- “In my grade, there's not any pressure to use drugs or alcohol, but there are some kids who have tried cigarettes.” – South Meadows student

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- “Sometimes kids who are lonely, who can’t find a place to belong, try drugs because they think it’s cool. They think that they’ll get friends, but really it’s just going to ruin their lives. So if you guys see someone who is lonely, go try to be their friend. You could save a life.” – CHS student

V. Upcoming Events

- **SRSLY Friday** – April 9, Wear your SRSLY shirt!
- **Community Photovoice** – Pictures due Monday, April 12; Gallery Event is Friday, April 23, 7 – 9 pm, Chelsea Center for the Arts
- **April YSC Meeting** – Monday, April 26, 6 – 7:30, McKune Room, Library
- **Project Sticker Shock** – Wednesday, April 28, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, CHS
- **May Coalition Meeting** – Thursday, May 6, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, WSEC