

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

**SRSLY Coalition Meeting
Thursday, January 7, 2010
Minutes**

Present: Brooke Blackledge, Sam Blackledge, Bill Christie, Katie Christie, Tracie Christie, Howard Cooper, Marc Dehoorne, Katie Dewyer, Paul Heck, Ben Ingall, Joey Ingall, Reiley Lewis, Todd Mutchler, Olivia Outhwaite, Julia Porter, Madisen Powell, Morgan Powell, Devin Wild, Sara Wild

I. Announcements

- Todd Mutchler of the Manchester Voices coalition joined us to learn about how we run our meetings, and get ideas for involving youth.

II. Presentation of SRSLY CTZN of the Month Award

- **Adult – Sara Wild:** Sara lead the planning and coordination efforts for the New Year's Eve Party. The party was a huge success, thanks to her hard work over the past two months. She also organized a fun afternoon of Wii Bowling with residents at Silver Maples in December. Sara is a Guiding Good Choices facilitator, and has been a dedicated SRSLY volunteer on many projects since the fall of 2008.
- **Youth – Katie Christie:** Katie has been a dedicated member of the Youth Steering Committee for the past year. She has demonstrated her strong leadership skills and work ethic most recently by continuing to plan and prepare for the Community Photovoice project.
- **Kudos:** New Year's Eve Party volunteers Ben and Joey Ingall, Marc Dehoorne, Devin Wild, Katie Dewyer, Katie Christie, Julia Porter, Madisen Powell, Howard Cooper, Judy Kim, Regan White, Kerrie Leonard, Ellen Christie, Pam Powell, Morgan Powell

III. Sub-Committee Breakout Session: Due to weather-related small turnout tonight, we worked on projects as one group instead of having breakouts.

- **Wii at Silver Maples:** Youth who attended this event enjoyed meeting residents at Silver Maples and playing pool Wii bowling. Everyone agreed they would be interested in doing this again, perhaps periodically throughout the year. One suggestion was to have some sort of icebreaker activity to encourage youth to interact more with residents.
- **New Year's Eve Party:** Everyone who attended the party shared their favorite parts, and their suggestions for improvement next year.
 - **Party Highlights:** Variety of activities, including open gym, library and video games, arts and crafts, live music, and just walking

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around the school with friends. Group also liked the activity cards, and felt they encouraged people to participate in more than they otherwise would. The activities at the end of the night – freeze dance and the toast – were also highlights.

- **Suggestions for Improvement:** The main thing we can do to improve is have more volunteers, especially adults, scheduled in shorter shifts so no one gets stuck working one station all night. Also, we could make the chili cook-off bigger by having more announcements during the party; or we could make it more exciting by having entrants actually cook their chili at the party in the foods room. We need to make sure we have all the equipment and cords we need for the video game rooms, and that someone who knows how to set them up is available to help before the party starts.
- **SRSLY Cinema:** Indoor cinema has had mixed results since it kicked off in November. SRSLY Cinema at Chelsea Lanes has been very popular, with so many people in attendance (over one-hundred) that lane reservations are now required. One member commented that the event needs more of a “SRSLY presence.” Reiley will work with Eddie to add signage or previews featuring SRSLY before the movies.

SRSLY Cinema at the Washington St. Education Center (WSEC) has not been well attended (twenty people or less each week). Group discussed possible reasons for the low turnout, suggested we talk with families in the target age range for this event (early elementary and pre-school children) for feedback. Another possibility is partnering with groups to show movies, and allowing them to use our license.

- **Bag n’ Tag:** Devin gave an update on his prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse prevention project. The large PowerPoint poster he developed with the U of M Pharmacy student is being printed by CVS. Julia, Madisen, Marc and Katie volunteered to join the project team and help Devin develop the next set of information pieces. Devin and Reiley will work with Mrs. Morris to set up a project team meeting at Beach Middle School.
- **Testimonial PSAs:** Julia and Madisen gave an update on their “What’s Your Anti-Drug?” video. They have raw footage filmed during Red Ribbon Week at Beach, but they do not have parental permission to post on Youtube or show in public from all the students featured in the short.

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Reiley will send Julia and Madisen a media release form that they can send home with all the students in the video. The students who do not return their form will be edited out of the final version before it is posted to Youtube or shown in public.

- **Community Photovoice:** Katie gave an update on her team's progress in planning this event, which brings youth and adults together in capturing images that represent youth substance abuse in our community. Katie and Janie have defined the criteria for submitting photographs. Ella and Taylor are working with the Chelsea Center for the Arts to plan the exhibition event, which will take place later this spring or summer. One suggestion is to ask teachers to offer extra credit for their students to participate in the project.
- **Walk the Line:** Ellen was not present tonight, so Reiley briefly explained that the vision for this project has changed. Instead of holding our own walking event, Ellen is forming a team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in May. The team name will be Walk the Line, and will promote community service, and substance-free fun. Olivia, Brooke, Sam, Howard, Madisen, Julia, Morgan, Katie and Sara are all interested in joining the team.

IV. Conclusion – Getting youth involved in prevention

Questions to youth: Why did you decide to join SRSLY? And what makes you keep coming back?

- "It's fun, and I like being a part of the community. It makes me feel good to be a part of something bigger." – Julia Porter
- "It's a fun thing you can do with your friends, and it's a good way to make friends, and be an actual part of the community and work to make it better." – Marc Dehoorne
- "The activities, like SRSLY Cinema and the New Year's Eve Party, made me think SRSLY is fun for kids and parents." – Ben Ingall
- "It's fun deciding about all the activities." – Katie Dewyer
- "We keep it balanced between doing work to improve the community and having fun at activities." – Madisen Powell
- **Other Tips:** Get the right people involved, meaning the kids, teachers and parents that others look up to and want to emulate. Once you get kids involved, make sure they are involved in the decision-making, so they know that they are important to the success of the coalition.