

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

**SRSLY Coalition Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 3, 6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**Chelsea District Library McKune Room**  
**Minutes**

**1. Welcome, Introductions**

We welcomed six new members, introduced ourselves with our name, grade or job, and favorite animal, and reviewed the agenda. All new members received a SRSLY New Member Packet, explaining SRSLY polices, events, and projects. Because there were so many new members this month, the whole group spent a few minutes going through the packets and answering questions. New members and those who invited them each received their choice of prize, a button, or wristband.

**2. CTZN of the Month & Kudos Awards**

- **Emily Stewart** is our adult CTZN of the Month for October, for her outstanding work during her 6-month internship with SRSLY. Of particular note are the multiple events Emily planned and led, including the Family BBQ, Volunteer Appreciation Party, “What’s Your Anti-Drug?” Contest, and the Youth-Only Event. Emily also helped enter and analyze data, chaperone and clean up after SRSLY Cinema, and facilitate coalition and YSC meetings. Emily has been a great addition to the SRSLY team. Thank you Emily!
  - **Sandra G.** is our youth CTZN of the Month for October, for going outside her comfort zone and trying something new. Sandra, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student and new YSC member, signed up to help lead classroom anti-drug activities during Red Ribbon Week, even though she wasn’t entirely comfortable public speaking. But she gave it a shot, and did a fantastic job! She even signed up to help lead activities on a second day, since the first day went so well. Sandra demonstrated confidence and commitment, sure signs of a leader. Thank you Sandra!
  - **Kudos Awards:** Volunteers that helped at the Youth-Only Event and classroom “What’s Your Anti-Drug?” activities were recognized for their service with a Kudos candy bar, and a round of applause. They included: Ananth, Sandra, Howard, Madisen, Julia Renae, Rachel, Teddie, Malley, Sam, Kaylin, Kathy, Emily, Ellen, Katie C., Katie D, Cathy, Edith, and Karen.
- 3. What’s Your Anti-Drug? Contest Winners** – Hundreds of posters, stories, poems, and goals were submitted by 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Members worked in teams to select the five best entries from each grade. These students will receive a gift certificate to Zou Zou’s café, and have their pictures posted on the SRSLY website. Some entries will be used to make SRSLY posters and/or buttons.
- 4. Guest Speaker** – Brian Callanan of Dexter talked with SRSLY members about his experiences in the war on drugs at the local, state, national and international levels. Brian is a retired Detective Lieutenant from the New York Police Department, and

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marine. Having worked in the field of narcotics, he has a unique perspective and understanding of drugs and how they impact communities. He talked about prescription drug abuse, and the misperception that prescription drugs are safe to abuse. He then explained the link between medicine abuse and heroin addiction, and the economics of creating and selling drugs, and how the drug cartels of Mexico and South America use expensive prescription drugs to cultivate heroin addicts and increase sales.

When asked what SRSLY members can do to make a difference here, Brian encouraged us to be aware of what's going on around us, and to speak up if we see or hear about people abusing prescription or other drugs. We need to educate ourselves, so we know what it looks like, and can talk about how dangerous it is. We can also continue to demonstrate that you don't have to drink to have fun. He emphasized that it is our youth members who can make the difference, by showing that we won't accept youth substance abuse.

Brian also talked about courage, and what that word means. "Being a young person, and having the courage to be different, and to do the right thing, when your peers are doing the wrong thing and trying to get you to do the wrong thing; that's real courage... The most courageous are those who are willing to do the right thing."

#### 5. **Project Planning – New Year's Eve Party**

- This will be our fourth SRSLY New Year's Eve Party. The group discussed what they have liked about previous parties, and how it can be improved. Things we like and want to keep: live music in the cafeteria, video game room with Rock Band, Family & Friends Olympics, and people scavenger hunt. The group agreed it is important to make sure the party is well-organized, since we have so many volunteers helping at so many different activities. Some of the older teens felt we might be able to attract more of their peers if we had a DJ playing dance music in a separate area of the party, for teens only. Some of the younger members felt we should also have an area of the party for "tweens" only. Briefly discussed marketing, including announcing the party at DJ skate at the Coliseum, and putting up lots of posters at the schools. We can also send home fliers with K-5<sup>th</sup> graders if we get it to the schools by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

6. **Other Discussion** – Devin W. presented his idea for a SRSLY building with space for offices, hanging out, meetings, events, and an area for homework/studying. The building would include a special area for YSC members only. Members shared ideas for locations (near the schools, or on hospital property), and decorating (with pictures of SRSLY members, and from events). Also discussed getting a SRSLY bus for transporting members to and from the building.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, December 1, 2011, 3:15 – 4:45pm, Beach Middle School Media Center

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