

**SIMI VALLEY TASK FORCE ON HEROIN PREVENTION
MEETING NOTES – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013**

- Task Force Chairman Mike Judge called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Task Force members were present except for Member Nolan who arrived at 6:05 p.m.

- Presentations:

Chairman Mike Judge presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mike McCaffrey and to Janice DiFatta, whose certificate was accepted on her behalf by Rob Collins, for their service on the Task Force.

- Public Comments:

- Stuart Birnbaum, Director of Recovery Advocates Treatment Center and Lakehouse Sober Living, extended the facilities' resources to the community.
- Aaron Hightower; Director of Clinical Services for Aegis Medical Systems, discussed his work with opiate addicts and his partnership efforts with the Conejo Valley Prescription Opiate Forum, schools, and Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

- The September 12, 2012 meeting notes were reviewed and received by the Task Force.
- Presentation on the Juvenile Justice Court and Reclaiming Futures Program by the Honorable Judge Manual Covarrubias:
 - Treatment reduces recidivism.
 - The program was started 10 years ago by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is in 37 communities throughout the nation.
 - Collaboration with the juvenile justice partners is the key. The program model includes six phases: initial screen; initial assessment to measure the severity of the use; service coordination; initiation of treatment; engagement; and transition services.
 - The program includes the Seven Challenges Model developed by Robert Schwebel Ph.D. and asks the patients to do critical thinking about why they are using drugs and the consequences of that behavior.

- Rob Collins inquired about the percentage of County residents in the program. Nationwide it is approximately 10%.
 - Participants receive treatment while they are incarcerated and the goal is to continue treatment following incarceration.
- Update on Drug Enforcement Activities in Simi Valley by Captain John McGinty:
 - Arrests for heroin are up 18% from 2011 to 2012, and up 6% for methamphetamines.
 - Since the beginning of the Prescription Drug Drop-Off program at the Simi Valley Police Department, 1,700 pounds of unwanted drugs have been collected.
 - Since the beginning of the school year, there have been six K-9 searches of parking lots and lockers at five schools that led to three arrests.
 - Dr. Scroggin indicated that the Simi Valley Unified School District updated their policy to permit searches on campus when students are not present.
 - The Police Department has two School Resources Officers.
 - There have been three recent arrests; two at Hillside Middle School and one at Sinaloa Middle School for marijuana. Dan White requested that statistics for school arrests be provided.
- Discussion of Agencies' Updates Regarding Implementation of the Recommended Strategies to Combat Heroin Abuse:
 - Cheri Toyen, Tobacco Use and Prevention Education Coordinator, of the Simi Valley Unified School District, provided an update on the activities of the School District related to the use of drugs. In partnership with the PTA, the School District has been hosting forums on drug use and is making more information available on their website, in addition to working with the City of Simi Valley on the anti-drug posters placed at bus shelters throughout the community.
 - Larry Peterson, General Manager of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD), reported that RSRPD has started recreation programs in middle schools, activity based lunch hours, and minimum day programs at Hillside and Sinaloa Middle Schools. RSRPD updates their website and seasonal activity brochure, "The Reporter," with information on heroin and drugs, and includes a resources section with contact

information. Free programs are also included in “The Reporter,” including mental health training classes, which have been full. Students who need to complete service hours may now do so by working with RSRPD. On-going efforts include public education via written materials, social media, the RSRPD website, the creation of a list of rehabilitation centers, public service announcements, and coordination with the faith based community. Mr. Peterson also reported that the Park District has evaluated the use of Narcan by its Park Rangers and has determined that it can be best administered by emergency health care professionals.

- The City of Simi Valley has been collaborating with the Simi Valley Unified School District and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District on its efforts to prevent the use of heroin in the community. The City has also been updating educational materials, the Police Department has been actively working with the Simi Valley Unified School District, and the City partnered with RSRPD on the Youth Services Meet and Greet event. The City updated its Social Services Directory, placed it on its website, and distributed it to the School and Park Districts. Drug prevention information will be incorporated into the Youth Summit, which occurred February 28, 2013.
- Rob Collins stated that more information needs to be distributed to students. The Dr. Phil Show’s profile of Simi Valley’s efforts to combat heroin abuse has been positively received.
- Pat Montoya provided an update on NOM’s activities. 150 youth have signed up for the NOM Awareness Clubs on the local school campuses. NOM has participated at school assemblies, including one at Apollo High School. NOM has spoken at Sinaloa Middle School, and has been working with individual families to provide access to information, counseling or rehabilitation support that were not able to get help through their insurance companies. NOM started a Family Focus Group that meets every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. NOM meets monthly at the Simi Valley Town Center. NOM placed a “Tree of Remembrance” at the Simi Valley Town Center to bring awareness to those lost to drug abuse.
- Susan Klimusko provided an update on some of the individuals that NOM has worked with and their efforts to stay sober.

- Task Force Reports:
 - Mayor Bob Huber stated that the Dr. Phil Show was interested in Simi Valley's efforts to address heroin abuse in the community and as a result of the coverage of Simi Valley on the Dr. Phil show, he has been contacted by individuals across the country. Additionally, he stated that a local business owner is donating \$10,000 to conduct outreach to the business community on this issue.
 - Task Force members expressed their appreciation for the collaborative nature of the Task Force and the efforts made to educate the community by the City, School District, Park District, Chamber of Commerce, and Not One More.
 - Dan White thanked Not One More for their efforts and requested additional School Resource Officers.
 - Kate O'Brien would like to see the outcome of those individuals arrested and the programs that were successful for them.
 - Gene Hostetler would like pamphlets of resources circulated more widely to those who are arrested either by the arresting officer or when they are released from their arrest. He would also like to see trends on drug related arrests.
- Audience Comments:
 - Kathy (no last name provided) stated that her son is a heroin addict and is disappointed that the community is not taking a more active role in the prevention of drug use. She emphasized the need for youth to put peer pressure on each other to not abuse drugs. She also wants the Police Department to follow through after arrests.
 - Linda (no last name provided) stated she attended a Not One More (NOM) meeting, which is where she learned about the Task Force on Heroin Prevention. She stated that she learned about her son's drug use when she was cleaning his room, and wants more education for parents so they know what to look for. She offered to donate money to assist in the distribution of flyers to students.

- (No name provided) inquired about the anonymous reporting available on the SVUSD website and stated that a teacher was not aware that anonymous reporting was available.
- Dr. Scroggin stated that all District teachers have been advised of anonymous reporting.
- Mickey Jones offered to assist the efforts of the Task Force and stated that youth must be educated about the dangers of drug abuse.
- Pat (no last name provided) is a member of Ventura County's Alcohol and Drug Board in Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long's District.
- Melissa Sievers suggested that videos be shown in the schools to educate students about the dangers of drug abuse and the consequences. Dr. Scroggin suggested she speak with Cheri Toyen.
- Valerie (no last name provided) stated she lives in Upland, California and thanked those involved with the Dr. Phil Show. She commended the community for taking a proactive approach to the issue.
- (No name provided) stated that the community needs to understand why youth are abusing drugs. She also recommended that Police Officers spend time on campus out of uniform.
- It was the consensus of the Task Force members that another meeting would be held at the conclusion of the school year to provide an update on the status of the efforts made to prevent heroin abuse. Staff will contact the Task Force members to identify a suitable date.
- Mayor Huber requested that the incoming City Manager, Superintendent of the Simi Valley Unified School District, and Executive Director of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and the Task Force representatives meet prior to the next meeting to discuss opportunities for partnership.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.