

**SIMI VALLEY TASK FORCE ON HEROIN PREVENTION
MEETING NOTES – Monday, June 17, 2013**

- Task Force Chairman Mike Judge called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Task Force Members were in attendance except for Mike Nolan.
- There were no cards submitted for Public Comments.
- The February 27, 2013 meeting notes were reviewed and received by the Task Force.
- An update on Drug Enforcement activities was provided by Sergeant Meyer from the Simi Valley Police Department:
 - Two School Resource Officers (SROs) are assigned to the schools and work closely with school administrators.
 - A third SRO is assigned to diversion cases to determine eligibility for the diversion program and contract compliance. By participating in the diversion process, the case is not filed with the District Attorney.
 - There were 32 drug related arrests last calendar year at schools.
 - Approximately 75% of the arrests at schools were marijuana related, 20% were for pills/prescription medication, and 5% were “other”. Most arrests were made following the receipt of anonymous student tips. Reports indicate drugs are brought to campus and sold to other students.
 - The following methods help combat drug abuse in schools: SRO’s; Crime Stoppers/posters for anonymous tips; Reality Parties educating parents on drug use and abuse; drug awareness presentations/education in conjunction with PTA’s; Parent Project courses; working closely with school staff to enforce zero tolerance; and K9 searches.
 - Kate O’Brien requested clarification on Reality Parties. Reality Parties simulate party scenes in a home with student actors organized by Straight Up Ventura County. During a Reality Party, parents tour a house with a simulated party in progress to educate them as to what one would find at a party and on warning signs parents should look for.
 - NOM Member Pat Montoya suggested staging a Reality Party at an assembly perhaps, at Back to School Night.
 - Trustee Collins asked how can we get the word out that We Tip is anonymous and students/staff won’t be disclosed. Rewards are provided for accurate information.
 - NOM member Pat Montoya asked for more information on the diversion program. Officer Meyer explained that in many instances the students are first-time offenders and with intervention from the SRO and a contract in place, students can be “diverted.” Currently there are

approximately 45 youth in the program. Those who do not qualify for the diversion program are referred to the District Attorney's office.

- An update on K9 searches was provided by Sergeant Buckley:
 - Three dogs active, Rocco, Ace, & Titan (new dog being added). Dogs are dual duty with apprehension and narcotics detection, or apprehension and bomb detection. Dogs are not cross trained for drugs and explosives.
 - Narcotics dogs hit on five odors: marijuana, methamphetamines, heroin, cocaine, and ecstasy, but do not alert on prescription medications or alcohol.
 - Parents are notified at the beginning of every school year that random searches will take place at middle and high schools. K9 teams search lockers, parking lots, classrooms, quad areas, and restrooms. Drugs stored in cars give off a strong odor due to the heat, and dogs search and alert in parking lots.
 - Dog presence on school campuses prevent drugs from coming to school and ultimately, protect children. For safety & liability reasons and due to the distraction (for classroom and the dog), the method of search is to empty the classroom, search, and then return students/staff to the classroom. Searches are also training exercises for the dogs.
 - K9 dogs are a community investment – When dogs are on campus or in the community it opens the door to approach the Officers on friendly terms
 - Collaborative effort between SRO's, patrol officers, narcotics teams and K9 teams working with school administration to keep drugs out of schools and keep students safe.
 - Results: In the 2012-13 school year, there were nine K9 searches yielding two alerts for marijuana at middle schools. Between February and June 2013, there were four school searches covering six middle and high schools.
 - Trustee White suggested he would like to see two additional SROs with dogs on campus. Officer Buckley indicated that it would be difficult to have dogs with SROs at all times because of the variety of incidents SRO's deal with.
 - Sergeant Buckley stated due to liability issues, dogs do not sniff people. If it is suspected the drugs are being hidden on the person, a school administrator can search the student, or with probable cause, or consent, the Police can search the person.
 - Trustee Collins stated the Board and School District are pleased with the effectiveness of the K9 program and believe it is a deterrent for kids to bring drugs to school.

- A discussion of the Santa Clarita “Drug Free Youth in Town” (DFYIT) Program was held.

- The Heroin Task Force Members each received a copy of the DFYIT DVD for review prior to the meeting. Mayor Huber suggested a sub-committee to research the effectiveness and cost of the program. The Task Force unanimously agreed and the sub-committee will report on this item at the next meeting.
 - Superintendent Scroggin stated earlier in the year SVUSD had investigated and found that in Santa Clarita, the city had received a grant and partnered with their school district to purchase, fund, and implement the DFYIT program. Dr. Scroggin stated SVUSD is working with a teacher at Santa Susana High School who is replicating a similar program to DFYIT, but any funding to support this program would be appreciated.
- Discussion of Appointees from the Faith Community to the Task Force on Heroin Prevention:

On June 5, 2013 Mayor Huber met with representatives from the local Faith Community to discuss how they may assist the Task Force in addressing heroin use in Simi Valley. Over 20 churches in Simi Valley committed to assist the Task Force in order to provide an organized channel for communication between the Task Force and the Faith Community. The Task Force discussed appointing two members from the Faith Community to the Task Force – Pastor Kevin Dieckilman of Simi Hills Christian Church, and Pastor Paul Weir of Simi Community Church.

Chair Judge made a motion to appoint Pastor Kevin Dieckilman and Pastor Paul Weir to the Task Force on Heroin Prevention. The motion was seconded by Mayor Huber. Pastor Dieckilman was not present at the meeting but assigned a spokesperson on his behalf; and Pastor Weir was invited to join the Task Force on the dais.

Ayes: 11 Noes: 0 Absent: 1

- Mayor Huber shared he found much support from Pastor Kevin and congregation and that there is much power in the Faith community.
- 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 drug prevention education:

- Keepin' It Real (sixth grade).
- Project Alert (eighth grade).

- Presentations to students by the Director of Emergency Services at Simi Valley Hospital.
 - “Why Try” drug education classes.
 - Peer groups including a NOM peer/support group have been formed.
 - Showing of the documentary “Overtaken” provided by NOM to tenth grade students.
 - Resources and documents on the SVUSD website are continually updated with current drug/alcohol information, programs and events, including links to RSRPD and the City’s website.
 - Anti-drug posters designed by Santa Susana High School Graphic Design ROP students for display at bus stops.
 - Anti-drug posters designed by 7th grade students displayed at middle schools.
 - Implementation of Saturday School for first time offenders, implementation of Intervening with Teen Tobacco Users (TEG) and Tobacco Awareness Program (TAP).
 - Groups run by Action Family Counseling.
 - Letters to parents informing them of drug resistance programs offered at schools.
 - Successful “Kick Butts” Day activities.
 - Hosted a Reality Party in conjunction with Straight Up Ventura County, and other agencies.
 - Flyers available indicating where to get help for the prevention, intervention, and treatment for drug abuse.
 - Positive activities offered, such as sports, clubs, performing arts, and campus wide events.
 - Public Service Announcements during morning announcements and PSAs on the SVUSD website.
- Larry Peterson, General Manager of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District (RSRPD) provided the following updates:
 - A tri-fold brochure was prepared and distributed, which contains telephone numbers and website addresses for various organizations that provide aid to those in need arising from drug or alcohol abuse. Member Hostetler requested law enforcement hand these out in the community.
 - Park District “Reporter” includes informational articles to raise awareness of drug and alcohol abuse.
 - Partnered with Ventura County Behavioral Health for Mental Health First Aid USA training offered through RSRPD.
 - RSRPD website updated to include links for various trainings and events to provide support and alternatives to drug abuse such as Mental Health First Aide USA training; Triple P Parenting; 2013 Teen Travel Camp; open gyms and sports activity schedules;

cyberbullying brochure developed by Ventura County Behavioral Health; Transitions Program (TAY); Parent Project, and the Youth Employment Service Job and Career Expo.

- Attended Community Coalition United meetings.
 - Networking with Ventura County Behavioral Health to explore methods and services provided by Ventura County and the value of a community coalition, and other coalition models.
 - Worked with the Ventura County Probation Agency to explore probation services provided.
 - Added a website counter to RSRPD's "Drugs Destroy" page.
- Samantha Argabrite, Assistant to the City Manager, provided the update for the City of Simi Valley:
 - The Youth Council provided input to the SVUSD for proposed programming.
 - The Youth Council partners with SVUSD to print the Teen Crisis Resource numbers on the backs of student identifications cards.
 - The Youth Council hosted a Teen Addiction and Resources Panel and co-hosted a Reality Party.
 - Continues to offer Parent Project classes.
 - The Simi Valley Library will open a Teen Lounge on July 1.
 - LaserTag Extreme will host a monthly Teen Scene.
 - The City hosted a Youth Employment Service Job and Career Expo.
 - Completed the update to the Directory of Social Services.
 - Mayor Huber reported that the Mayors and City Managers from Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, and Simi Valley meet regularly and discuss a regionalized approach to combating drugs.
 - Task Force Reports
 - Member Hostetler requested a simplified form providing the updates from the last Task Force meeting.

The Taskforce was in agreement to continue the current matrix as appropriate and add a summary page of activities.

- Pat Montoya and Susan Klimusko provided an update on NOM's activities:
 - NOM provides support for families who are un-insured or under-insured.
 - Actively supports recovery houses working with youth.
 - Supports and encourages individuals who struggle with drug issues.
 - Provide support to families who have lost loved ones.
 - Educate and share "Overtaken" videos with schools.
 - Meeting with local churches to implement a "Welcome" program.

- Looking into NarCan – a heroin reversal drug that reverses action of heroin overdose.
 - Looking into a safe needle exchange.
 - Held community meetings with an E.R. doctor and nurse addressing overdose situations; and, a reporter from the L.A. Times who addressed the Mexican drug cartel and their business plan to market to suburbia.
 - Applauded all agencies for their hard work with flyers, websites, programs at the schools, involvement of the police, support of the City, through social media, websites, email blasts, forums, Reality Parties, Straight Up Ventura County, and other programs.
 - Stated PSA's entitled "MirrorMirror" are being developed by young people for distribution, including a documentary and movie.
 - Stated this is a nationwide/worldwide problem referring to the Russians who confiscated 20 tons of heroin from Afghanistan.
 - NOM is starting groups in other cities nationwide.
 - Member Klimusko stated another young person, 19 years old, was lost to drug overdose.
 - Mayor Huber asked Member Klimusko to remind everyone of the "Good Samaritan Law" that states one won't get arrested if they call 911 for a friend who has overdosed.
- Mayor Huber thanked all the agencies for their support and referenced *USA Today's* April 24th edition which addressed the heroin epidemic. Mayor Huber welcomed the Faith Community and is pleased to include them on the Task Force.
 - Audience comments
 - Mr. Kukubo, resident of Simi Valley thanked the Task Force. He advocates a free public skate park be provided in Simi Valley as a positive activity for youth. He urged the Task Force to stay focused on prevention. He proposed three areas of focus: promote positive activity for youth; build peer pressure to keep kids off drugs and tobacco, and coordinate regional efforts. Mr. Kukubo indicated he started a petition to support a free skate park in Simi Valley.
 - Simi Valley resident and NOM member Melissa supported the idea of prevention before enforcement. She thanked the School Board for showing the "Overtaken" DVD to tenth grade students and hoped every student had seen it and requested it be shown in middle schools. She also requested the DVD be shown at the beginning and end of the school year for 2013-14. She would also like a program offered to elementary age students. Dr. Scroggin stated the District has not finalized their plans and invited Melissa leave her input with Ms. Toyen following summer break. Dr. Scroggin also stated the

materials are reviewed for age-appropriateness and were shown only to tenth grade classes.

- Member Susan Klimusko questioned the process for students who are suspended from school – is there an alternative to sending them home? such as community service; Member Klimusko supports speakers addressing our student population who are recovering addicts; she requested better communication between agencies to target a larger population for the Reality Party concept; and, is excited the Faith Community has joined the Task Force.
- RSRPD Member Kate O'Brien suggested we start educating students in sixth grade. Dr. Scroggin stated SVUSD staff is seeking materials that would be appropriate for younger students.
- Future Meeting Date – Monday, September 23, 6:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers
- The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.