

**SIMI VALLEY TASK FORCE ON HEROIN PREVENTION  
MEETING NOTES – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012**

- Task Force Chairman Mike Judge called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Task Force Members were in attendance with the exception of Member DiFatta, who was teaching at Moorpark College.
- Public Comments:
  - Carla Kurachi thanked the Task Force for their work on heroin prevention and stated the Task Force should not be used as a political platform.
  - Becky Savell found drug paraphernalia near her home and office and submitted pictures to the Task Force. Mrs. Savell thanked the Simi Valley Police Department and Ventura County Sheriffs' who responded quickly and thanked the Task Force for their efforts.
  - Jodi Johnston attended the Mental Health First Aid training sponsored by Ventura County Behavioral Health and Community Coalitions United (CCU) and recommended it highly. She thanked the Task Force for
  - June Ewart stated that Community Coalitions United (CCU) provides support tools for families.
  - Rosie Alvarez wants Narcan to be available to families. She thanked NOM for what they have done for her and her family.
- The July 31, 2012 meeting notes were reviewed and received by the Task Force.
- A video was shown entitled *Heroin Kills*. The video may be viewed on the City, Park District and School District websites.
- City Manager Laura Behjan presented feedback from the City, School District, and Park District regarding the Recommended Strategies to Combat Heroin Abuse.
- City Manager Laura Behjan thanked Chief McCann, Simi Valley Police Department, who combined the School Resource Officer program with the Youth Services Officer program to expand service and increase Officer presence in schools without increasing costs.
- The Task Force discussed the recommended strategies:
  - Member McCaffrey supports a method to evaluate drug education programs.

- Dr. Scroggin stated that the Simi Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) Intervention Counselor will create a survey for students and parents regarding the curriculum implemented throughout SVUSD. Dr. Scroggin also suggested that a formative and summative evaluation be conducted with a checkpoint midway between now and the end of the school year.
- Member Klimusko stated 115 students joined or inquired about Jr. NOM clubs on school campuses. She explained Narcan nasal spray reverses the effects of narcotic medicines and may be used to treat narcotic drug overdoses. NOM received a PSA video entitled, “*Overtaken*” which is available for viewing on YouTube.
- Member Huber would like to investigate copyright license to share the “Overtaken” PSA on other agency websites.
- Member Hostetler suggested the strategies be implemented as proposed by each agency and a progress update be provided in a few months.
- Member Collins thanked NOM and encouraged everyone review the current drug prevention curriculum on the School District’s website, stated that studies show a direct link between tobacco and drug use, and that the School District would implement a number of the recommended strategies immediately.
- Following discussion, the Task Force planned to meet again in early 2013. The next meeting date will be chosen based on Task Force member availability.

Member Klimusko made a motion to adopt and implement the strategies as presented by the agencies, which was seconded by Member Hostetler.

Roll call Ayes: Huber, O’Brien, Hostetler, McCaffrey, Klimusko,  
Montoya, Peterson, Collins, Judge                      Absent: DiFatta

The motion carried.

- Task Force Reports

- Superintendent Scroggin stated Back to School nights will have information tables with resources for parents as well as a PowerPoint presentation regarding the dangers of drug use.
- Member Klimusko reminded the community about two events:
  - 1) A walk scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>, proclaimed as Heroin Awareness Day, will start at 9 a.m. at City Hall.

2) An Anti-Drug Community Forum will be held at the Boys & Girls Club on Thursday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.

- Member Hostetler suggested that the agencies call upon each other should they need assistance with the implementation of any of the strategies.
  - Member O'Brien suggested that a progress report be developed to identify how the strategies are helping.
  - Member Huber encouraged the community to participate on September 15 in the Heroin Prevention Day.
  - Mike McCaffrey stated that the Chamber is considering a partnership with local business people who may have had past involvement with drugs or alcohol and are now successful businesspeople in order to reach at-risk youth.
  - Member Hostetler requested a report from the Simi Valley Police Department on enforcement activities related to drug use at the next Task Force meeting.
- Audience comments
    - Josie Hirsch would like the drug prevention message to reach younger children and encouraged participation in the next Mental First Aid Class.
    - Becky Savell stated that there are a number of films available on the internet regarding drug use and abuse, such as the documentary "*Behind the Orange Curtain*." She suggested that a series of films be shown in order to educate a broad audience.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.