


WV's Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being
Quarterly Meeting
10-27-2006 ♦ Charleston Marriott
Meeting Minutes



*Prepared by Michele Burnside of the WV Prevention Resource Center
Approved at January 19 Meeting*

Attendance

- **Partners:** Jennifer Abbott (Proxy for Don Chapman), Jean Ambrose, Jason Carlson, Judy Crabtree, Karen Eskew, Sue Hage, Dave Harris, Mike Lacy, Helena Lee, Steve Mason, Gayle Manchin (Early Afternoon), Bob Musick, Judith Russell, Angela Saunders, Denise Smith, Brenda Thompson
- **WVPRC Staff:** Kristi Adkins, Jamie Albert, Michele Burnside, Michele Bush, Wayne Coombs, Melissa Crawford, Judy Hall, Ed Lanham, Monica McFarland, Carol Moscar, Christy Rose, Laura Sarver, Andy Whisman
- **Others:** Lisa Estep-Bruer (DADA & CREATE), Kathy Brunty (Wyoming Co. Prevention Partnership - Afternoon), Tammy Cook (Wyoming Co. Prevention Partnership), Paula Flaherty (MU Eval Team), Megan Freeland (WV Legislature), Debi Gillispie (Representative of DJS – Partnership Position Currently Vacant), Joyce Harris-Thacker (Upshur Co. Prevention Partnership), Tou Lee (Central CAPT), Emily Rupp (Upshur Co. Prevention Partnership - Afternoon), Anu Sharma (Central CAPT)
- **PARTNERS ABSENT:** Keith Adkins, Joe Barker, Michelle Foster, Andrew Gillette, Steve Heasley, Lew Holloway, Gig Robinson, Karen Salem, Bill Woodrum

Partnership Chair Mike Lacy called for proxies, and Jennifer Abbott presented a proxy for Don Chapman.

Lacy called the meeting to order.

Michele Bush reviewed the contents of the meeting packets (items referenced as handouts throughout this document) and presented Bob Musick with a “Git-R-Done” award for his assistance with the appointment letters.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Tou Lee of the Central Center for the Application of Prevention Technology (CCAPT) announced he is transitioning to a new project and will no longer be West Virginia’s CCAPT liaison. Lee will be replaced by Dr. Neal Holton who is a consulting Physician with Minnesota Institute of Public Health & Central CAPT. Both Lee and Holton will attend the January Partnership meeting.

The retreat minutes were reviewed. Dave Harris moved to approve the minutes. The motion was adopted.

HANDOUT: *Partnership 8-2006 Retreat Notes*

Michele Burnside, on behalf of the Policies & Procedures Workgroup, reported that the workgroup has drafted a Partnership Recruitment Process. The draft process, which was presented within the workgroup's last meeting notes, was reviewed. Angie Saunders moved to approve the Partnership Recruitment Process. The motion was adopted. Monica McFarland, on behalf of the Community and Youth Input Workgroup, reported that the workgroup is drafting a youth Partner job description. The document will be shared with West Virginia's County Prevention Partnerships to assist the Partnership with identifying an interested youth member.

HANDOUT: *Policies & Procedures WG 9-26-06 Mtg Notes*

Laura Sarver provided a SPF SIG Planning Grant fiscal update. The 8 month portion of the planning grant ended in September, and the 4 month portion is underway (October – January 31, 2007). The two small amounts are due to grants being de-obligated to one group, and re-awarded to another. It was requested that the report include counties.

HANDOUT: *SIG YR2 Planning Grant Money*

Melissa Crawford reported, on behalf of the WV Prevention Resource Center, that West Virginia's Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) Implementation Plan Phase 2 was submitted to and received favorably by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). CSAP has requested some additional information, which the PRC is working on providing, but the plan has not yet officially been approved. Until official approval is received, the plan can not be released to the public and plan implementation must wait.

Paula Flaherty, on behalf of the Evaluation Team from Marshall, provided a qualitative evaluation update.

HANDOUTS: *Notes From the Field 10-20-2006 & Regional Learning Opportunities: WV SPF SIG Preliminary Qualitative Analysis 8-30-2006*

Partners discussed the need to better inform the Governor on the topic of substance abuse prevention and the Partnership's activities. WVPRC staff reminded Partners that the Partnership is required by its Executive Order to prepare and present to the Legislature in December an annual report. Chair Mike Lacy requested that WVPRC begin developing this year's report and that it specifically include: bulleted lists of substance abuse facts, Partnership accomplishments. Other Partners suggested that the report include a clear impact statement and examples of evidence-based prevention. Lacy asked that staff report their report progress to him, and he will then meet with them to finalize the report.

A Community Development Specialists from each region provided reports on their regions SPF SIG Planning Grant activity.

Tammera Cook of the Wyoming County Prevention Partnership and Joyce Harris-Thacker and Emily Rupp of the Upshur County Prevention Partnership presented reports on their counties' efforts.

Everyone in attendance broke into three small groups to discuss what the county and state Partnerships would like from one another. Note: Wayne Coombs has condensed the notes taken from these small group discussions and will present them via PowerPoint at the January meeting.

Sue Hage moved to seek one County Prevention Partnership representative per region to serve as an ex officio (non-voting) member of the Partnership. Judy Crabtree moved to amend the motion to clarify that the representative can be from any county including those that did/will not receive planning or implementation grants. The amendment was approved, and the original motion as amended was adopted. Mike Lacy referred development of a process for selecting the County Prevention Partnership representatives to the Policies & Procedures WG.

Angie Saunders moved to request that WVPRC Staff compile and clarify the Small Group Reports into the minutes so the Partnership can address the suggestions at the January 19 meeting. The motion was adopted.

Steve Mason moved that a survey be developed to assess sustainability interest and plans of those counties that are not in line to receive SPF SIG Prevention Implementation Grants. The motion was adopted, and Mike Lacy referred survey development to the Sub-Granting Workgroup.

Partnership Meeting dates for 2007 were selected as follows: January 19, April 20, July 20, and October 19.

The agenda for the January 19 meeting was tentatively outlined as follows: Workgroup Reports, Report on County Partnership Survey, County Partnership Presentations (1 Success and 1 Challenge), Community Development Specialists Quarterly Reports, Small Group Discussion of Small Group Recommendations from this Meeting, Meeting Locations.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm

OTHER HANDOUTS:

Coordinated Planning and Sub-Granting Workgroup 8-18-06 Meeting Notes

Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup 10-02-2006 Meeting Notes

Intervention Workgroup 8-4-06 Meeting Notes

PRIDE 2007: 30th World Drug Prevention Conference Information/Registration Booklet

All meeting notes referenced in this document are available on the Partnership website, which is accessible via www.prevnet.org. All other reports, if not included below, are available by contacting the WV Prevention Resource Center.

REPORTS

Community Development Specialists Region 2 County Reports Submitted by Kristi Adkins

Kanawha:

*(Kanawha County Communities that Care Partnership) Planning mayors meeting to share priorities and strategies and get them to participate by identifying how they can assist in partnership goals. (Hopefully, sign joint resolutions)

*They have held 5 teen focus groups to determine causes for school drop out and correlation to drug and alcohol use

1. Drop Outs
2. At risk of dropping out
3. Alternative School (evening school)
4. Minority Youth
5. Not at Risk (successful)

Clay: They are continually updating and working on the assessment narrative and logic models. Working on partnership roles and responsibilities. Starting to get a better understanding of the evaluation process.

Boone: The Boone Coalition has 30 members; The group decided to change their name to Boone County Stop Watch and to focus on crime, substance abuse prevention and treatment; several public forums have been planned to assist communities to start successful neighborhood watch groups; a substance free youth event was held by several members of the coalition in September in which 72 youth attended.

Putnam: The Putnam County Coalition for Community Wellness agreed to join forces with the Putnam Substance Abuse Coalition. The two groups will officially combine their efforts in January and plan to focus on Substance Abuse and Tobacco Prevention, Obesity, and other health and fitness issues; the group is applying for a tobacco prevention mini grant; the group is still working on developing strategies for their plan.

Cabell: Cabell County is holding there first drug summit on November 30, 2005 from 1-5 pm. They are going to have a working session to brainstorm, identify and prioritize problems, barriers and solutions. Then the next steps is to plan to move forward on the solutions identifies.

Wayne: They have a project director; a 4 month plan; have done CRA; getting up to speed; looking at the data; completed platform of prevention course; attended RLO; have several MOU's signed; next meeting scheduled for Nov. 13th at 4:00.

Roane: They are upset that they didn't get chosen to apply for implementation funding. (Due to the passion behind the project)

Jackson: The Project Director has been asked to stay in the position by the coalition's fiscal agent even though they have not been invited to apply for implementation funds.

Logan: Held a drug summit on October 26th; mailed out 900 brochures; the Governor and Nick Rahall spoke briefly at the summit; attendance 180; strong partnership; key stakeholders at the table.

Mingo

*Limited funding; At times they have struggled with it being a reimbursement grant; They sent out 13 letters to local businesses explaining the purpose of the coalition (goals and objectives); from the 13 letters sent out they have received \$1800.00

*A building has been donated by Gilbert Development Company for Fellowship Home.

Lincoln: Still trying to pull partners together; are going to still stay together after the planning year; has asked for TA from the PRC; developing mission, working on goals and objectives. *Loosely connected

Community Development Specialists Region 3 County Reports Submitted by Ed Lanham

Dianne Batt

Jefferson County:

FOCUS, Jefferson County has been very busy with Red Ribbon week and I have given TA with a lot of these projects. I will be doing Red Ribbon presentation in at North Jefferson Elementary on Tobacco and alcohol.

FOCUS Continues to do great work within the community and offer services mainly targeted for the youth.

Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County is also doing well, as an advisory board member we are looking into a school bus to transport the youth to different places especially during the summer months. At the moment we are looking into insurance cost.

FOCUS Coalition did not get asked to write an implementation grant but would like to continue RLO's. FOCUS is very concerned with high need counties that did make the cut.

FOCUS will be presenter at Share The Vision.

Berkeley County:

Through the PRC I have been offering workshops to the community with CEU's and they have been very successful.

Telamon, SPF SIG partnership, continues to work on a prevention plan but is getting ready in presenting a workshop at Share The Vision.

I have been working with Partners in Prevention to help put together Teen Pregnancy prevention classes and that is working well.

Morgan County:

Morgan County has had a planning meeting with the tobacco specialist for our region, we will be working on projects like enforcing the parents not to smoke at the soccer fields and trying to spread awareness of the dangers of smoking. The clean indoor air regulation will also take effect in the summer of 2007 in Morgan County.

The partnership is also working hard on an implementation grant; they did get invited for phase II. They too have been working on their presentation workshop for Share the Vision

I will be doing alcohol prevention during Red Ribbon Week at PAW PAW school.

Cathy Coontz

Since the last update at the August Retreat---Upshur has decided to hold meetings on Saturdays since our Coord. is in graduate school and cannot come during the week. Was this a deterrent from attendance you ask? NO...Our coalition is going stronger than ever. We just completed Community Cafe II (and facilitator training for the students) and had 60+ in attendance. This county is nearing completion of their plan and is searching for funding to keep the coalition steady until we acquire monies for the plan. The Cafe was just one of the things that this county has accomplished. The coalition has gotten the VP of BUHS trained in Teen Court (CADCA Training) and we are planning to hold trainings and court soon. Also as dictated by our "data" we have implemented many programs that did not require monies to operate, such as AA, NA at our local high school and support groups as well as community education in any arena they can find. After the Cafe II, several high school students approached me to conduct a teen cafe at the high school totally operated by the students! We are going to do this right after the holidays! This coalition is what I would consider a "poster child" for prevention at the grassroots level.

Lewis county has hired its third coordinator. This county has had fits and starts with this process. Our new coordinator however, is a local gal and she is getting her feet wet with the on-line prevention course as well as coalition building. A Cafe (forum process) in in the works for the locals and high school students. Our school

board is on board with the coalition and I am also going to help with getting Peer Mediation started as a result of these meetings.

Taylor county is struggling...This coalition is trying to meet on a regular basis and is working on their logic models. One target project is a PowerPoint to help educate the population on the data components depicting the county's problems...They are trying to approach the SPF SIG with community education first, which is where they are on the Community Readiness Assessment.

Barbour County is moving right along with their plan. They have been approaching the community with face to face contact and have been working diligently on their prevention plan. The SPF SIG coordinator has presented to many different groups on the statistic from the data and has been working to get the school board and police departments to the table for the coalition. The coordinator has also worked on getting target audiences in on the planning parts of the plan where appropriate. This coalition is on track and is excited about the possibility of future funding.

Julia Haines

Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral Counties
October Significant Events

- Facilitated Regional Youth Development Learning Opportunity (youth from 7 counties represented)
- Provided TA to SPF SIG partnerships in 4 counties
- Working with community agencies/HS to prepare/plan MADD “The Spot” assembly
- Provided Regional RLO (8 counties represented)
- Attended county task force/FRN meetings
- Assisted with Community Baby Shower through Partners in Prevention Grant (preparation/implementation)
- Red Ribbon Week Planning & Activity Implementation
- Great Pumpkin Race Assistance/planning (Annual day for health awareness including a cross country run)
- Health Education Fair for Educators
- BABES Presentations
- Continued work with Natural Helper Group
- Promoting Share The Vision & PRIDE conferences as well as STV nomination process
- Attended Phase II SPF SIG meeting in Fairmont
- Information Dissemination at Parent Teacher Organization meetings
- SPF SIG - Attended Site Visits in 4 counties
- Work with various youth groups to fulfill community service hours
- Assisting SPF SIG Partnerships in the search of alternate funding sources
- Region 3 team meeting with guest Matt Smith
- Promote Underage Drinking PSA Contest and provide TA as needed

Ed Lanham

PENDLETON

- SPF SIG Coalition Meeting – 10/16/06. They are completing their comprehensive plan and seeking alternative funding for 2007 and beyond. They want to address alcohol-related problems within the county; especially underage drinking and economic losses associated with alcohol.

- Their Prevention Partnership is encouraging youth to write a Public Service Announcement warning of the dangers of alcohol and to participate in the state-wide underage drinking prevention competition.
 - Am networking with the Prevention Partnership to facilitate a series of informational workshops throughout their county. SPF SIG planning year data reveal a growing Heroin and Meth problem, in addition to the present alcohol problem. Will invite law enforcement officers to attend to share their street-level experiences.
 - The Region 8 Planning and Development Council is hosting a public forum on the development of a public transit-human services transportation coordination plan (November 13, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. – Franklin)
 - Pendleton is working with other counties to provide a series of technology webinars. These web-based seminars, which will be provided during lunchtime and are short in duration (20-30 minutes), are scheduled on Tuesdays between October to mid-November. Five technology topics will be presented:
 - October 17 - Business technology checklist and affordable, innovative technologies
 - October 24 - On-line security tips: how to combat viruses, spyware, adware
 - October 31 - Backing up and safeguarding your company's data
 - November 7 - How to create a web site with on-line template sites
 - November 14 - How to do customer surveys via the web
- There is no cost to participate in a webinar. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, please click here (www.wvconnectivity.net) and complete this on-line form.

PRESTON

- SPF SIG Site Visit (10/10/06) – Jamie Albert
- SPF SIG Coalition Meeting – 10/26/06. They are completing their comprehensive plan and seeking alternative funding for 2007 and beyond. Heidi O'Toole recently announced their coalition may have found alternative funding for their plan. They decided to modify their SPF SIG plan toward achieving one or two realistic goals instead of trying to achieve numerous, as that approach might not be as realistic. They feel this approach is more realistic when considering funding needs and county capacity.
- The Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Law Enforcement formed a drug task force less than a year ago. The Preston County SPF SIG coalition has partnered with them for drug prevention efforts. They gave a joint prevention presentation in Kingwood on 10/17/06.
- I am networking with them to facilitate a series of informational workshops throughout Preston County, to address the multiple substance abuse problems they have. Examples include alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, and tobacco prevention. Would like to begin doing so in December.

RANDOLPH

- SPF SIG Coalition Meeting – 10/23/06. They are completing their comprehensive plan and are excited to be among the 15 counties being considered for an implementation grant. The coalition is networking with county organizations about proposals for prevention services if Randolph County is awarded a SPF SIG implementation grant.
- At the coalition's request, I have provided several Meth Awareness workshops throughout the county. Most recently (10/23/06), I co-facilitated with law enforcement at the Mill Creek Library. Some Mill Creek residents have formed a neighborhood watch group in response to drug activity in the town. Their spokesperson has been very active in recruiting citizens for the cause. She said they are tired of their children being exposed to drugs and it's time to take back their streets!

- Have scheduled to facilitate four drug awareness workshops throughout the county during November and December. Am working with the coalition and school system to get the word out about substance abuse.
- Will be providing PTNDA training to Youth Health Services staff in January, 2007.

TUCKER

- SPF SIG Site Visit (10/11/06) – Jamie Albert
- SPF SIG Coalition Meeting – 10/23/06. They are completing their comprehensive plan and seeking alternative funding for 2007 and beyond. Tucker and Randolph Counties have the same SPF SIG coordinator and she has been instrumental in bridging these two counties together. The FRN Coordinator has played an active role as well. These counties are working together and willing to share information and resources.
- The Community Readiness Surveys revealed a need for raising community awareness about substance abuse. Am networking with the coalition, school system and law enforcement to set-up workshops. Would like to use a community round-table discussion format as they've been successful in the past. The intent is to offer workshops in towns that typically do not have them. Underage drinking and tobacco usage are two big concerns.
- Am networking with RESA 7 coordinator about peer mediation training in the schools.

Community Development Specialists Region 4 County Reports Submitted by Christy Rose

MERCER – Mercer County had a very recent change in Project Directors. Matt Smith, the P.D. for the first several months of the planning grant, was recently hired by the WV PRC to serve as Underage Drinking Coordinator for our state. Jennifer Orien was hired to replace Matt and the local partnership is doing well with this transition in staff. The group is diligently working on putting together their comprehensive prevention plan together. They are in the process of deciding who would be the most appropriate fiscal agent if the group is invited to apply for implementation funding. Concord College is a strong possibility. Mercer County pioneered the process of “study circles” in that county in an effort to give a voice to segments of their population which are sometimes not as well represented when surveys, etc. are conducted. This practice has garnered interest from others across the state and a steering committee has been formed in Mercer County to review the process and hopefully continue this practice.

WYOMING – Wyoming County’s local prevention partnership keeps getting stronger. They are responsible for producing a monthly calendar of events and trainings in an effort to keep interested community members informed of what’s going in the world of substance abuse prevention efforts. They are continuing work on their local prevention plan and plan to seek funding to at least fund a Project Director position for their partnership after planning grant funding has expired. This is a very passionate coalition who is effectively putting their passion to work. Tamera Cook, the P.D. for this group spoke at length at the partnership meeting about what has been accomplished this past year in Wyoming County regarding substance abuse issues, please see that section of notes for more detail.

McDOWELL - McDowell County did not apply for a SPF SIG planning grant despite encouragement from their CDS. Representatives from this county have attended a couple of RLOs during the past year, but this county has not expressed interest in applying for implementation funding.

FAYETTE – Fayette County’s comprehensive prevention plan is close to being completed at this point. It is primarily being “tweaked” at this time. This partnership has worked tirelessly throughout the planning year to gain a thorough understanding of prevention issues as they exist in that county. They have used geographic mapping tools in pinpointing exactly where certain substance use/abuse problems exist, and this information has been utilized in designing very specific strategies for addressing the issues that are most problematic. This county has demonstrated high capacity throughout the planning year. The County Commission has agreed to serve as fiscal agent if/when Fayette County is asked to apply for implementation funding. Fayette County’s Project Director has been instrumental in the success of this coalition.

RALEIGH – This county is working on the final draft of their countywide prevention plan. They have demonstrated high capacity through their work with the planning grant this year. Their project director is adamant about her desire to continue capacity building at the local level through the duration of SPF SIG when this county applies for implementation funding.

POCAHONTAS – Members of the local prevention partnership plan on keeping their partnership going even though they are not one of the counties to be invited to apply for implementation funding. The coalition is planning to continue their work on developing a prevention plan that can be used to apply for alternate funding to address this county’s most problematic areas of substance abuse. Alcohol use is an area that may be targeted. The group is also in the process of developing an action plan to increase their prevention coalition’s capacity and to recruit more partners, both active and passive. They have made this decision based on their county’s community readiness scores and their local partnership’s capacity rating.

GREENBRIER – Greenbrier County’s coalition demonstrates promising capacity and the group plans on staying together to fight the substance abuse issues in their community. This coalition had difficulty recruiting an effective project director, which impeded the progress of the group for a brief period. They now have a project director who is committed to the SPF SIG process and the group is in the process of gathering updated youth data to better inform their decision-making as it relates to planning and developing strategies to target youth substance abuse issues.

MONROE - Monroe County also had a relatively recent change in project directors, which has been an obstacle for their prevention coalition. But the two new co-directors have been very proactive in their efforts to jump in and pick up and go with the process. They have actively sought help when needed and seem excited about the SPF SIG process. Monroe County demonstrates promising capacity and plans on completing their county prevention plan and executing strategies with alternative funding.

SUMMERS - Summers County continues to work on developing their comprehensive county prevention plan and hopes to obtain alternative funding to implement their final plan.

BRAXTON – This county has struggled due to the project director having some other things going on in her life over the past year and not being able to attend RLOs, etc. They are trying to catch up and put together a cohesive prevention plan based on available data. Their coalition is still developing, and the people who are involved are very passionate about prevention issues.

WEBSTER – This coalition developed out of the Health Education branch of the Webster County FRN. This group is still in the process of development, but is interested in tapping into any available resources in an effort to address community problems. The P.D. for Webster County serves as Project Coordinator for Nicholas County. Therefore there have been some “hurt feelings” regarding Nicholas being asked to apply for implementation and Webster not demonstrating the level of need based on data, although community folks feel that Webster certainly has a high need. This situation has highlighted the issue of possible gaps in data collection/reporting in this county, and key stakeholders are now committed to doing something to address this

issue. Webster County plans to apply for funding to address underage drinking issues from alternative funding sources.

NICHOLAS – Nicholas County’s prevention coalition has been in existence for about three years under the acronym CEASE (Community Efforts and Actions for a Safe Environment). Members of this group have exhibited a fundamental shift in their thinking regarding prevention and they seem to “get it” when we talk about “prevention is prevention is prevention...” This group has put together a comprehensive community-wide prevention plan that they hope to fund with SPF SIG implementation funding.

Wyoming County Prevention Partnership Report Submitted by Tamera Cook

The WCPP was formed in December 2005. The partnership was formed in response to the SPF-SIG opportunity announced by the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center earlier in the year. The original partners were: The Wyoming County Family Resource Network, Wyoming County Department of Health and Human Resources, the Wyoming County Health Department, Burlington, Rural Appalachian Improvement League, Megan McMillan, Donald Reed, STOP, Wyoming County Youth Coalition, Wyoming County Probation Office, Mountainheart Community Services, One Voice, and the Wyoming County Day Report Center. The Wyoming County Family Resource Network was the applicant and the fiscal officer was Integrated Resources, Inc.

Once the application was approved and funded, Integrated Resources reneged on their agreement with the Family Resource Network. Unable to handle the grant, due to the lack of a 501(c)3 designation, the FRN was forced to withdraw from the grant, three weeks after being funded. Stop Abusive Family Environments assumed the grant and the partnership was able to begin anew in late April.

During the interim, the hired project director worked the partnership as a volunteer. The partnership began meeting and hosted its first event in March. A Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking was held at the Wyoming County Courthouse, the first such event of its kind in Wyoming County. The event was attended by over 100 people.

Actively recruiting the voices they were missing around the table, the partnership has grown by leaps and bounds. The Wyoming County Sheriff’s Department, the Wyoming County Prosecutor’s Office, the Wyoming County Circuit Clerk’s Office, the Wyoming County Magisterial Office, the New Life Community Church, the West Virginia University Extension Office, David Thompson, Misty Thompson, Dustin Brunty, Devyn Thompson, the West Virginia State University Extension Office, the West Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center, Rite Aid, Corporation, Wyoming County Safe and Drug Free Schools, the Mullens Opportunity Center, Mayor Nola Rose, the Spot Youth Center, Chad’s Place Restorative Home, and most recently Duke and Molly, the county’s drug dogs, signed MOAs to become the first K-9 members of a Community Anti-Drug Coalition in the state. Delegate Richard Browning is also coming on board as a partner.

The partnership became very visible. With the assistance of the Tobacco Coalition, the partners began advertising in the media and have been featured in several stories in the Wyoming County Report, the local weekly newspaper. No daily papers are printed in Wyoming County. The partnership hosted a public forum on Second Hand Smoke which received television news coverage. The partners also secured a mini grant from the Southern Coalfields Tobacco Prevention office in the amount of \$5000. The partners are actively involved with

a Clean Indoor Air initiative and will use the grant to promote the smoke free workplaces. The partners recently attended a Board of Public Health meeting and presented a resolution in favor of Clean Indoor Air.

The efforts of the partnership have begun new organizations in the county. Namely, Wyoming County Teen Court and a new SADD chapter. The youth coalition has expanded to include both county high schools. The partnership also supported the efforts of “The Spot” and “Chad’s Place” and witnessed the opening of both ventures. We are also working with RAIL to provide a safe and drug free place for youth to go “hang out” in Mullens at the MOC.

Faith based organizations are very involved with the partners. One Voice and the New Life Community Church are opening the doors of their churches to 12 step programs and beginning new programs. “Celebrate Recovery”, a nationwide program most prominent in the prison system is now available in Wyoming County. “Stepping into Freedom” is a 12 step program with a scriptural curriculum that occurs weekly in Wyoming County. Lack of treatment options was a concern early on and steps are being made every day to increase opportunity for treatment for the sick and suffering addict in Wyoming County. .

The partners continue to host their own events. In addition to the Town Hall Meeting, the group has hosted a panel discussion on treatment options and availability, a rally for recovery, featuring Chainbreakers’ Andy Palmer, and training for the partners by Matt Smith from Concord University and Community Connections, Inc., and a kick off recovery event hosted by Rite Aid Corporation and One Voice.

The partners have participated in and supported other efforts of the partners. Marches against drug use have been held in both Oceana and Pineville, Faith Friday Rally, Rite Aid sponsored rally, Mullens Community Theater events, Children’s Memorial Flag Day Ceremony, Mullens Opportunity Center events, “In Search of Timothy” Leadership event, Drug Free Kids at the Spot, and most recently a distribution of “Tip Coupons” provided by the Wyoming County Sheriff’s Department. The partnership and the youth coalition partnered with Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center to provide “Red Eye” posters and promote to retail outlets to “make sure they’re 21” before you sell.

The partnership is working with the FRN, the Youth Coalition, the prosecuting attorney, the Board of Education, Judge John Hrko, and others to build a Teen Court. By the end of the year, this will be a reality and restorative justice will be available for youth offenders. This effort is being aided by a \$1000 grant from Community Connections.

The project director and several partners have attended the RLOs sponsored by the PRC.

The partners also seek out other training when it is available and have attended : The Faces of Leadership Conference, The WV Suicide Prevention Conference, Brushy Fork Institute, In Search of Timothy, Family Centered Practice, Wellspring sponsored Grant Writing Training, Substance Abuse 101: Values and Reorientation, and will attend Share the Vision and All Star Kids in November.

In the meantime, the partners were busy gathering local data. Consequence data was gathered from the 911 logs, the Wyoming County Sheriff’s Department, the Prosecutor and other local attorneys, and the Wyoming County DHHR. Consumption data was obtained via the PRIDE survey from the Wyoming County Board of Education and the Southern Coalfields Tobacco Prevention Office. Ten of the partners completed the online prevention course.

The partners completed a capacity assessment early in March and have requested to have that assessment repeated. That has yet to be done on a state level. However, the partners will repeat it for themselves in late October.

The partnership is working with Community Connections and COFY to host “Drug Free All Star Basketball Games” in all the middle school programs in Wyoming County.

The Wyoming County Prevention Partnership gained membership with CADCA this year. Thanks to Greg Puckett of Community Connections, the first year’s membership was provided as an in kind donation.

The WCPP has formed relationships with McDowell County HOPE Coalition, Mercer County COFY, Community Connections, and McDowell County FACES. The WCPP is currently working with Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center and Welch Community Hospital to explore the possibility of duplicating the very successful crisis unit that SHCMHC operates in Mercer County at the hospital in McDowell County.

Several of the partners are now participating as members of a Sustainable Communities Team. This is a cross county team for Raleigh and Wyoming Counties encompassing the Winding Gulf area of the Upper Guyandotte Watershed. The team is being sponsored by the Coal Heritage Highway Authority.

Delegate Richard Browning (D-Wyoming) supports the efforts of the partnership and attends our events. He recently presented greetings from the governor at a celebrate recovery rally in Oceana. He is now a full partner.

The WCPP requested that the county commission sign a proclamation declaring September 2006 Recovery Month in Wyoming County. The proclamation is on display at the Wyoming County Courthouse and the offices of the FRN and the WCPP. The MOAs signed by Duke and Molly are on display at the Sheriff’s Office and the offices of the FRN and WCPP.

The WCPP Project Director recently presented at a McDowell County HOPE Coalition retreat. The WCPP has assisted partner, One Voice, with making connections in other counties to begin chapters of One Voice. McDowell County is beginning their chapter soon, and interest has been expressed in Fayette, Kanawha, Mingo, and Logan counties as well.

The Wyoming County Prevention Partnership’s grant committee is working on the compilation of an implementation grant that most likely will not be funded by the SPF-SIG grant dollars. However, we intend to submit the grant for consideration when the announcement is made for Drug Free Communities Grants in 2007.

Our momentum is too great, our passion for our project cannot be quashed, and our commitment to a drug free Wyoming County is tenacious and steadfast. We have a long term strategic plan that includes the opening of a community center sometime late next year, an additional restorative home, and some ideas about economic and community development. We understand that if we truly want to prevent substance abuse in Wyoming County, then the quality of life in Wyoming County must improve. The well being of our children must improve. The poverty level must improve. The economy must improve. We are looking for systems change, community change, and personal change to occur. And we will witness that change....one day at a time. We’ve already seen it happen.

1. What can the local partnership do for the state partnership?

We can provide the state partnership with a bird’s eye view of what’s happening on the local level. In short, we can present the truth. We know that some counties are not up to snuff on reporting to the UCR, including Wyoming County. The Sheriff said that they report to the UCR, “when Ray has the time to enter the data.” There are only 19 deputies in Wyoming County.

We can work with the state partnership to insure that their initiatives are implemented in the way intended. We are on the front lines working everyday and we can attest to what works and what doesn't.

We can put a face on the problem at the local level.

2. What can the state partnership do for the local partnership?

Invite us back to state partnership meetings. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to see how the partnership works and increased our understanding of the objectives. Other counties should be afforded this same opportunity. Great things are being done in prevention all across the state.

Short of money, the state partnership can become more visible to the local partnership and continue to provide support and technical assistance to local partnerships, funded or not.

Unfunded partnerships need the state partnership more than others. The expertise that sits around the table is worth its weight in gold to local partnerships. The opportunity for networking with people who can make things happen is a plus.