

ALCOHOL PRIORITY GROUP MEETING

January 25, 2008

1:00-2:30

Attending: Carol Seager
Diana Robertson
Heidi Garcia
Kara Boston
Michelle Smith
Bill Larzalere
Wendy Rohleder-Sook
Kelly Chesire, Law School Intern attending w/Wendy Rohleder-Sook
Amber Long
Leslie Rhoton
Schuyler Bailey
Chris Stoppel
Mindy Rendon
Jenny McKee
Chris Dyba

Guest Speaker: Carol Seager introduced guest speaker **Matt Harms, M.D.** He is a hospitalist at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Dr. Harms spoke of the impact of alcohol on people visiting the ER. He presented two handouts to the committee in regards to alcohol-related visits. One handout identified the number of college students admitted through the ER with alcohol poisoning as the primary diagnosis. The second form listed admissions with other forms of diagnoses that could have been related to alcohol use. Dr. Harms stated when students are admitted to the hospital with alcohol-related conditions, he (and other hospitalists) counsels them on the poor choices they made that led them to the hospitalization.

Dr. Harms was asked how we as a university can help our students to understand when a dangerous amount of alcohol has been consumed and medical intervention/assistance may be required: What are the signs? How can students help as opposed to letting someone “sleep it off” and by providing information to physicians and/or emergency responders regarding consumption and recent behaviors/activities.

Dr. Harms was asked if the hospital reports underage drinkers being treated in the emergency room to the police—no—patients or friends. He stated they treat the student from a medical standpoint. He stated the hospital only calls the police if a violent crime has taken place while the student was drinking, not just because of the alcohol. Schuyler Bailey indicated that 911 responders follow this same guideline. Dr. Harms also stated a patient would not be released from the hospital if they were felt to be a threat to themselves or others.

Dr. Harms stated it would be helpful to know the University’s resources. Schuyler Bailey presented Dr. Harms with a handout regarding Alcohol on Campus.

Dr. Harms stayed for the remainder of the meeting to listen to the presentation.

**Report from committee members who attended NASPA Strategies Conference
2008: Alcohol Abuse Prevention & Intervention:**

Chris Stoppel—Chris stated the conference was good. He felt the number one message is to find ways to do more to reach drinkers in the 80% category. He stated 20% of students are high-risk drinkers, 80% are mid-to-low drinkers (1-5 drinks over 5 hours) and non-drinkers. Some suggestions were to find other venues for activities or ways to spend their down time other than going to bars/parties and also modeling responsible drinking.

Tailgating was brought up as an example of an activity where alcohol consumption was accepted and part of the pre-game activity which should be examined and possibly work to change acceptance of activity.

Heidi Garcia—Heidi stated other universities are trying to identify high-risk students through a self-assessment they must fill out as soon as they arrive at school. If the student answers 7/10 questions positive on an assessment, the student then is considered to be high-risk. The student is then contacted by a university official.

Carol stated students refer to parents, peers, and the internet for information on alcohol which is often inaccurate. Heidi suggested ways of helping students with alcohol issues such as making information available through SHS website which is accurate and adding other links the student may use on the internet as many students use the internet as a resource. Heidi also suggested round-table discussions with students asking them for ideas for alternative activities which are drug free, late at night, offer food/snacks and other incentives to avoid using alcohol.

Carol Seager—Invest resources in identifying high-risk students such as a form/survey to be a part of entire battery of forms students fill out when coming to KU, then have a staff person speak to the student after the survey is completed face-to-face so they establish that contact before getting to the university setting, allowing the university to know this person is a high-risk student. Carol also suggested folding questions regarding topics such as alcohol and/or depression into advising sessions as preliminary encounters.

The majority of resources need to be devoted to the environment:

- Have a clear policy in place, readily accessible, and apply it consistently.
- Remove alcohol advertising from campus locations (i.e. chalking on sidewalks, newspapers, fliers, etc).

Carol brought up the subject of parental notification. At this time parents are not notified by KU but some schools practice this. Schuyler asked the students for their opinions on parental contact. Some responses were:

- some students feel close enough to their parents to discuss the issue without university input
- some parents are the root of student's alcohol problem because drinking is treated as a "rite of passage" or the parents themselves supply the alcohol
- students feel it is not necessary for their parents to know

Reports from Sub-committees:

Review of Current Practices and Programs at Peer Institutions, Chris Stoppel:

Chris stated his group is wrapping up their report, but he did state that KU peer institutions all have policies in place, but they are not always easy to locate. He stated that even though there are policies in place there is little tangible data to support what is working and a lack of measurement, resource, or publication to reference. What information is available supports a holistic approach to alcohol issues on campus.

Leslie Rhoton stated the University of North Carolina website is easily accessible in terms of finding policies and practices.

Wendy Rohleder-Sook stated Ohio State has a substantial plan in place.

Best practices and Literature Review, JohnWade:

Bill Larzalere presented a handout and Mindy Rendon went through it with the committee. Please refer to handouts.

Review of current policies at KU, Schuyler Bailey: Schuyler will present at next meeting due to time constraints.

Review of current practices and programs at KU, Heidi Garcia: Heidi will present at next meeting due to time constraints.

Diana Robertson stated a student panel will be at the next meeting.