

Health Advisory Committee &
Safe and Drug Free Schools Committee Minutes
January 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

In attendance were: Natalie Barganski, Jeannette Elliott, Deysi Epley, Kristen LaBaume, Janet Daniel, Edgar VanGeem, Brandon Buchei, Gina Valdez, Cheryl Cannon, Mary Pawelek, Sandra Martinez, Sister Esparanza Seguban, Dr. Mary Jane Garza, Christine Ewing, Lauren Pedrotti, Jennifer Pogue, Meg Straiton, Bryant Gray, Cindy Holder, Crystal Knoop, Molly Nichols, Yajira Uribe, Dawn Evans, Brian Scholz, Margie Garza, Carrie Long, & Nikol Youngberg

Welcome was given by Cheryl Cannon.

Motion was made by Molly Nichols and seconded by Kristen LaBaume to approve last meetings' minutes. Motion passed.

Presentations were given as follows:

1. Presentation was given by Melissa Hofstetter of the Tobacco Prevention & Control Coalition. The goal of the Coalition is to prevent and reduce the use of tobacco products with a special emphasis being placed on reducing use among youth. They target grades 6-8 using a curriculum called Project TNT – Towards No Tobacco Use. There are 8 sessions usually through the P.E. or Health classes and classes are split up between boys and girls. Each student receives a workbook. Some of the youth centered events that take place every month are: Butt Hunt – clearing our parks of cigarette butt litter; Youth Advisory Board meetings and Store Alert – youth-led meetings to assure our youth aren't being targeted in tobacco advertising at retail sites; and quarterly out-of-town conferences that teach tobacco prevention, leadership training and team building.
2. Human Trafficking/New Life Refuge Ministries presentation was given by Minta Moore and Amy Riner. Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the world with the average age of the victims being 12-13 years old. 99% of victims are never rescued. Traffickers can make up to \$200,000.00 per year on a victim. Runaways are at high risk especially if they have no place to go. Corpus Christi is prone to traffickers due to the proximity to the Mexico border, the Port of Corpus Christi, the Eagle Ford Shale oil boom and the military bases in the area. Nationally, Texas has the 2nd largest number of children sold for sex, according to The Department of Homeland Security. In one month alone, there were 625 children being sold in online sex ads in our state. The presenters go into classrooms to educate students about the dangers of human trafficking and how to avoid getting into situations that put them at risk.

Old Business

1. Cheryl Cannon reported that the district is in the process of implementing the MEND program. We are filling out the application and getting recommendations.
2. Mrs. Cannon also reported that Relay for Recess and the Texas A&M Health Science Center Coastal Bend Health Education Center presentations had been approved by committee vote from the November 17, 2014 meeting.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Our next meeting will be held on March 23, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.