

**Wisconsin Prevention Network
Minutes
September 21, 2005**

New number to join WPN teleconferences:

- 1. Dial 1-218-936-6660 (your regular long distance charge will appear on your phone bill).**
- 2. When given a choice, press the '2' key on your phone.**
- 3. When prompted, dial the access code 811811 followed by #.**
- 4. Announce yourself when joining the conference.**

Members present: Shel Gross, Ron Biendseil, Ken Ramminger, Sue Allen, Karen Knudsen, Kathy Wolf, Chris Wardlow

Unable to attend: Ronda Kopelke, Jill Gamez, and Gabrielle Smith

I. Approval of minutes from Annual Meeting held on August 11, 2005:

- Sue moved to accept minutes
- Ron Biendseil seconded
- Motion carried

II. Discussion was held on those issues identified during the annual meeting as being priorities for WPN in the upcoming year. During the annual meeting, members brainstormed a list of issues and then voted on which were the most pressing at this time. The September 21st meeting focused on those issues receiving three or more votes on August 11th. Issues were discussed in order of the number of votes they received. In reviewing each issue, any action taken since the 11th was discussed and next steps were identified.

Issues (number in parentheses indicate number of votes received):

1. Support continued funding (competitive or non-competitive) of WI Prevention Clearinghouse (9)

Actions taken:

- Shel Gross, Chris Wardlow and Ronda Kopelke are drafting a letter to Secretary Helene Nelson on behalf of WPN to communicate our appreciation for the valuable leadership and invaluable support WCH provides to the field of prevention in our state;
- When the state releases the RFP for the services WCH has provided to this point, WPN will write a letter of support for WCH.

Next steps:

- Ron suggested, and will begin drafting, a letter to WCH from WPN thanking them for the terrific prevention conference and letting them know that we look forward to assisting them with next year's conference. This letter will be copied to key people with oversight of the Clearinghouse;
- Sue will recommend to the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth that they also consider writing letters.

2. Establish connections with other prevention-focused organizations like the Wisconsin Public Health Association, Wisconsin Council on Children & Families, and the Public Health Law Association (9)

Actions taken:

- Shel suggested that Chris report on the September 19th meeting he attended in which MADD and the Injury Research Center of the Medical College of Wisconsin proposed the formation of a statewide coalition to address underage drinking. This meeting may have direct bearing on this issue and some of the other issues being discussed as priorities for WPN.
 - If there is enough interest, MADD of Wisconsin and the Injury Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin will collaborate to organize a coalition to work to reduce the burden of injury Wisconsin you sustain due to alcohol.
 - To help organize and coordinate the coalition, MADD and IRC are willing to submit a proposal to the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program. HWPP is a component of the

permanent endowment established by MCW with the proceeds it received when Blue Cross & Blue Shield converted to a stock insurance corporation.

- The grant will be used to provide a staff person dedicated fulltime to the work of the coalition.
- The initial plan is to have two subcommittees. One will focus on raising awareness of the burden of alcohol-related injuries and deaths in Wisconsin and local communities. The other will be to raise awareness of effective policy approaches to reduce the burden of alcohol-related injuries and death in youth.
- Goals
 - Short-term
 - Increase public knowledge about the burden of alcohol-related injury and death
 - Increase public knowledge about at-risk alcohol use and abuse
 - Increase involvement and understanding of youth about the consequences of underage drinking
 - Achieve significant policy discussion on policy priority areas through bills introduced, hearings held, etc.
 - Intermediate
 - Reduce at-risk use and abuse of alcoholic beverages
 - Achieve local or state level policy change related to at least one policy priority area of the coalition. One example may be raising the beer tax, or any number of environmental strategies
 - Long-term
 - In general, reduce the burden of alcohol-related injuries and deaths in Wisconsin
- Barriers
 - MADD and IRC acknowledge that the challenge for such a coalition will be to push for these environmental changes without engaging in direct lobbying.

Next steps:

- The Coalition being proposed by MADD and IRC
 - Chris asked if WPN should write a letter of support for the MADD/IRC proposal, thus communicating our interest in being a member. Sue Allen moved to have Chris write the letter. Shel seconded. Motion carried.
 - In further discussion of this issue, Sue suggested that WPN approach Deb Knippel to serve as WPN's representative. All agreed and Sue indicated that she will propose this to Deb. Sue will ask her to get in touch with Chris if she is interested.
 - Ron and Sue also suggested that Chris inform the Listserv of this initiative, as well as encourage MADD/IRC to invite WCH to the table.
 - Ken Ramminger agreed to share this information with the 10 counties that he knows of that are working on jail diversion options those convicted of offenses where alcohol abuse was a contributing factor.
- Connecting with other organizations
 - Sue and Shel will meet with WCCF to discuss ways to partner and collaborate
 - Kathy and Ron will meet with folks from Tobacco Control to do the same
- The State Incentive Grant Advisory Committee
 - Sue Allen reported that the SIG Advisory would be dissolved at the end of December, which is the end of the state's SIG grant project.
 - The SIG Advisory Committee, which is a subcommittee of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA), will be proposing to SCAODA that the Council reconvene the Prevention Subcommittee, which was replaced by the SIG Advisory Committee when the state was awarded a SIG grant.

- The SIG Advisory Committee would like input from WPN on what the mission and goals of the Prevention Committee should be.
 - Kathy Wolf offered to help with this.
 - To help prepare for this, Kathy and others will work to bring WPN up-to-speed on the main goals and objectives of the state’s prevention plan, which was developed by the SIG Advisory Committee and awaits the governor’s approval.
- Also, as the state begins to address SAMHSA’s desire for states to develop a comprehensive data collection and reporting system for ATODA stats, it will be important for WPN to be represented on the Prevention Committee so that it can have input into how this will take shape in Wisconsin.

3. Increase beer tax (8), and educate the public and policymakers on the cost of alcohol abuse to the state (5)

Actions taken and next steps:

- It was agreed that these two issues would also be addressed by WPN’s involvement in the statewide coalition being proposed by MADD and IRC

4. Find better ways to keep rural communities apprised of state level changes and opportunities (5), post prevention-related success stories on the WPN website (5), and post conference ideas on the website (3)

Actions taken:

- The WPN website and Listserv are both in use

Next steps:

- The status of our current Webmaster is uncertain. He has been unable to do the work on the website that has been requested. It was agreed that Sue, Ron and Chris could pursue other options for these services if things don’t work out with Nowicki Networks.
- Ron also recommended, and it was agreed, that WPN convert the current Listserv as a self-subscribing service that anyone can subscribe to via the WPN website. For information that needs to be communicated to members only, Chris, with the help of Sue, will maintain a distribution list of current members. The Listserv will be a vehicle for the public to network and share prevention-related information. The WPN distribution list will be used to communicate internal WPN business to members only.

5. Sponsor training on advocacy skills and lobbying (3)

Actions taken:

- No action taken yet

Next steps:

- Sue Allen will see if the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth is interested in co-sponsoring such training.
- Kathy Wolf indicated that WCH would be interested as well.
- Kathy also reported that the next edition of the Prevention Outlook focuses on advocacy.

III. Public Policy Committee – Shel Gross

1. Committee will be meeting with Dr. Sheri Johnson, Administrator and State Health Officer, Wisconsin Division of Public Health, on October 7th.
 - The meeting will focus on introducing Dr. Johnson to WPN and sharing with her WPN’s priorities as they relate to the state health plan.
2. Ken inquired about the status of the recommendations that were proposed by the workgroups that evolved out of the governor’s State Call to Action summit.
 - It was reported that the final draft is close to completion and will then go to the governor for his approval
 - Shel agreed to follow up with Mary Ann Snyder to get more details
3. Shel provided an overview of Sen. Neal Kedzie’s Bullying Bill (SB 310)
 - The bill would direct DPI to draft model policies on bullying as well as require school districts to adopt a policy on dealing with bullying.
 - A hearing on the bill has already been held.
 - WPN decided to take some action in support of the bill. Shel will coordinate this effort.

- Ken shared a story about a workshop Sue Allen presented to Montello Schools and how positive it was received by students, teachers and administrators. Ken indicated that it was pro-social approach to preventing bullying. Ken expressed concern that the proposed bullying bill doesn't take such an approach. Shel suggested that it would be DPI's job to include such strategies in the model policies they develop once the bill is passed. Kathy and Shel will work with Steve Fernan, DPI's point person on this issue, to advocate for the inclusion of pro-social, preventative measures to be included in the model policies.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Karen Knudsen

Beginning Checking Account Balance as of August 1, 2005: **\$7280.22**

Aug. 15, 2005	Payment of \$695.07 to Pre-Action Awareness Comm – Conf expense reimb.	\$6585.15
Aug. 23, 2005	Payment of \$320.23 to Hotel Mead – luncheon / annual meeting	\$6264.92
Aug. 23, 2005	Deposit of \$255.00 (memberships)	\$6519.92
Aug. 24, 2005	Deposit of \$25.00 (membership)	\$6544.92

Ending Checking Account Balance as of September 21, 2005: **\$6544.92**

6 month Certificate of Deposit - Waukesha State Bank

(Earned interest so far in 2005 of \$78.10)

*Certificate Balance as of 2/25/05 = **\$6,176.07***

V. Board Update

Kathi Kocs is on extended medical leave from WCH. She will not be able to resume her role on the WPN Board. Kathy Wolf offered to serve out the rest of Kathi's term on the board and be WCH's representative to WPN. WPN asked Kathy Wolf to extend our best wishes to Kathi Kocs as she deals with her health problems. WPN is also very grateful to Kathy Wolf for stepping in as WCH's representative. Regarding Kathi Kocs' term on the board, Chris indicated that it might be time by the November meeting for general board elections. Chris will check in the bylaws, and any formal action on Kathi Kocs' board seat will be taken in November. First and foremost though, WPN would like to thank Kathi Kocs for her passion and enthusiasm for prevention, and for the knowledge and insight she brought to WPN meetings. Thank you very much Kathi!

VI. Next WPN Teleconference will be November 16th from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.