

Report from: Justice System Response to Underage Drinking: Roadmap to Improvement

Event Date: June 20, 2011

Attendance: 60 Total [Representatives: 10 Court, Law Enforcement 19, Policy 14, Advocate/Other 17]

Group ideas: The following represents highlights of conversations around 3 questions/statements captured by participant breakout groups, (in no particular order):

1. What is currently working for preventing underage drinking?

- Instill values
- Communication (targeted, effective messaging, consistent)
- Youth friendly, alcohol-free events
- Comprehensive community mobilization around shared goals
- Consistent policies
- Highly visible enforcement
- Parent education
- Court mandated youth/parent involvement
- Compliance checks
- Safety checks
- Police/citizen partnerships (reporting incidents/responding to calls, ie. noise complaints result in party dispersal operations)
- Change norms by developing partnerships and calling attention to issues
- Student referrals to “program” for assessment, education or treatment (violators referred by campus police and RA’s)
- Campus parental notification policies
- Raising fines, strengthening sanctions/consequences
- Policing the cyber world to gather intelligence for underage drinking incidents
- Improve cultural competency of agency staff
- Community policing
- 12-step recovery programs
- DARE, GREAT, Parent-to-Parent, PTA programs
- Cobb Safe Neighborhood Safe Homes Campaign
- Alcohol Edu
- Zero tolerance (suspension and counseling)
- KSU substance 101 class

2. Identify system barriers &/or challenges to preventing underage drinking.

- Permissive parents
- Media influence
- Alcohol industry marketing/advertising
- Denial
- Lack of understanding of the scope of the problem
- Turning a blind-eye

- Lack of government support
- Youth access to alcohol is too easy
- Lack of resources
- Resistance of policy makers
- Social/cultural norms that support underage drinking
- Schools treat alcohol different than other drugs
- School/community waiting too late to intervene
- Diversion programs are inconsistent
- Weak enforcement of policies
- Policies are inconsistent across jurisdictions
- Justice system consequences are not uniform, consistent, significant enough to effect change
- Emphasis on brain development
- Youth are bored
- Youth see alcohol as necessary to being cool and having fun
- Perceptions vs. fact (effective communication methods/messaging)
- Weak peer supports
- Lack of medical community involvement
- Campus 3-strikes programs

3. Innovative ideas to improve system efforts for preventing underage drinking.

- Train school administrators (on-site)
- Early interventions
- Share ideas and collaborate across jurisdictions
- Surveys to collect local community stats
- Social norm campaign (youth majority non-drinkers)
- Solicit/engage youth (listen to their ideas)
- Youth empowerment
- Peer supports, K-12 and college
- Train youth spokespersons
- Improve cultural competence
- Outreach to medical community
- Influence KSU nursing curriculum to include brain research and public health/environmental prevention strategies
- Community support for law enforcement, court and policy efforts
- Strengthen laws, court/campus sanctions and policies
- Develop court diversion program standards
- Improve intelligence sharing among jurisdictions/agencies
- Increase visibility of enforcement and judicial practices
- Media advocacy

Resources: The following resources were made available and are also available for download at the following websites;

- www.udetc.org see Publications and Judicial Project pages to find...

- Regulatory Strategies for Preventing Youth Access to Alcohol: Best Practices
- Environmental Strategies to Prevent Alcohol Problems on College Campuses
- Case Studies from the Judicial-Probation Outreach Project
- www.cobbat.org see Facts and Resources and Cobb Safe Homes pages to find...
 - GA Alcohol Regulatory Best Practice Report (and for local Cobb jurisdictions)
 - 2 Reviews of Campus Alcohol Policy Research (College and K-12)
 - Judge Bogle's presentation slides
 - Special Agent Nancy McGee's presentation slides
 - Social Host position paper, FAQ's, and letter to leader
- www.stopalcoholunder21.org see pages titled as below...
 - The Worst Drug of All Video
 - Parenting Manuals

Thanks:

To the following organizations and individuals who helped make the event a reality:

- Center for Sustainable Journalism at KSU; Carole Arnold, Marketing and Logistics Specialist
- Cobb Alcohol Taskforce; event planning team, law enforcement and policy teams, board members, volunteers and staff
- Cobb County School District, Cobb Prevention Intervention Center, Jeff Inman, Coordinator
- GA Department of Revenue; Howard Tyler, Director Alcohol/Tobacco Division
- Governor's Office for Children and Families; Robert Clark, Special Projects Coordinator and GA EUDL Grant State Coordinator
- Juvenile Justice Information Exchange at KSU; John Fleming, Editor and Ryan Schill, Reporter
- Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation and Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center; Mary Gordon, Program Manager, Aidan Moore, Judicial Program Manager, Judge Ronald Bogle, Retired Superior Court Judge and UDETC National Trainer, Nancy McGee, Special Agent Missouri Department of Public Safety and UDETC National Trainer
- The Council on Alcohol and Drugs; Dr. Gregg Raduka, Director of Prevention/Intervention
- Panelists; Tim Lee, Cobb Commission Chair - Barry Morgan, Cobb Solicitor - Greg Poole, Cobb Juvenile Court Judge - Albert Rodney, Cobb Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator - Michael Sanseviro, KSU Dean of Student Success - Howard Tyler, GA DOR Alcohol Division Director - Bill Westenberger, Kennesaw Police Chief
- Special thanks for comments provided by; Sam Olens, GA Attorney General - Winston Quin, MADD volunteer/advocate - Jessica McPhail, KSU student
- Exhibitors; MADD GA, Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, The Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Cobb Alcohol Taskforce, Chad Helper

Evaluation:

Results of 38 evaluation forms collected from participants in attendance.

1. System sectors represented:

Advocate, 8

Court, 1

Law Enforcement, 15
Policy, 5

Other, 5

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about today's event?
(Response range - 1 "not at all", 3 "somewhat", 5 "very much")

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
a. It was well worth my time & energy.			3	16	16
b. I learned new things that will benefit me.			4	19	11
c. I learned things I can do to improve the system's response to UD.		1	9	13	11
d. I networked with others in important ways.		3	5	11	15
e. Event presentations were engaging & stimulated thoughts/ideas.		1	2	14	17

3. What was your most favorite activity/presentation? Why? [responses captured as written, below]

Panel - to be able to ask questions of those who make policy decisions and for the courts; Speakers and breakout sessions; Breakout sessions provided opportunity to express my ideas; Breakout sessions; Talking with panel; Breakout sessions were informative; Special agent from Missouri; Meeting new people; Breakout groups, because they were interactive; Expert speakers - exchange of information; The young man who spoke; Panel discussion - liked the interaction with the group; Panel was informative - group discussion was great; Presentations by 3 invited guests - very informative; Breakout session and panel; Breakout session - great way to interact with others and share ideas; Panel presentation - actual representation among variety of professionals; Great exercise for stimulating thoughts/brainstorming of ideas/collaboration; Panel - great information and ideas on how we need to develop relationships; Panelists/speakers were great - more time dedicated to questions would have been great - the speaker (KSU student) at end; Panel discussion; panel - good information and interaction; Panel - needs more time, very enjoyable and closing speaker - well done; Panel and speakers were very good; Judge Bogle & McGee - informative and students sharing their stories/experiences; Breakout session - we were able to talk more in-depth; Last speaker of the day (the charge); Sitting down during the breakout session - because ideas were on a smaller level; Ronald Bogle - good stats/information; Special agent McGee - gave lots of information

4. What was your least favorite activity/presentation? Why? [responses captured as written, below]

All was good/pertinent to seminar; 2nd presentation - not enough time allotted; Panel; Enjoyed it all; None; Panel - already knew them, so they didn't offer any new information; Focus on problem outdated; Group breakout - was too big, could not have in-depth conversation, a few people dominated the group; Breakout sessions could have been more productive; Beginning activity with handheld device; Meet & greet MADD table - rep. was not friendly/warm, ran off when I was trying to get needed information; Panel - not really enthusiastic about presenting, more conversations would be helpful; Roundtable panel - lack of time; Agent McGee was not given enough time to finish up; Not enough resources

5. What will you do to improve the system's response to underage drinking? [responses captured as written, below]

Be more proactive; Research more to further educate students on the negative effects of drinking; Educate friends/family to discourage underage drinking; More compliance checks; Continue to bring attention to the problem; Review and update campus policy; Let's do it again; Work closer w/students and use effective programs that are out there; Take this information back to my school; Be a part of the taskforce; Continue to talk to adults about the dangers of alcohol; Better cross communication with other departments and inside/outside the university; More compliance checks; Continue to fight the fight; Build up stronger community coalitions; Include information learned in presentations to community; Refine and create persuasive interventions at various stages and opportunities for prevention based on goals, ??? and judgment - educate community groups, churches, parent groups, etc. - promote assertive communication; Talk to judges in our county about possible collaborations; More discussion outside of work on campus and speaking more about other aspects of MIP such as drinking and driving; Educate students earlier and more consistently throughout the year; Remember that students are not a statistic; Create public service announcements for parents - like the tobacco is required to do; Show up at the next CAT meeting; Review policy/make recommendations, collaborate with community, implement alcohol programs on campus and compliance checks in community; Implement more programs for youth; Educate parents and students; More education and programs on campus; Continue parent education and educate others on underage drinking