

SAFE General Membership Meeting
Geminus Corporation – Rooms B 15 & 16
February 28, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendees: Albert Gay, Debbie Matthys, Natalie Schnoor, Myra Dixon, Jena Bellezza, Paul Sines, Amanda Morrison, Renee Moy, Robert Black, Karen Bonner, Felisha Brown, Victoria Charleston, Garrett Ciszewski, Brenda Comer, Sandra Cotton, Linda Curley, Orlando Drummond, Kia Dawson, Justin Fronek, Susan Galante, Nina Hankins, Jason Maupin, Danny Lackey, Mikayala Henderson, Jim Markle, Jan Parsons, Jerry Patrick, Arleen Peterson, Lauren Peterson, Jaime Rogers, Stephanie Shostok, Gary Sutton, Scott Tokach, Marty Vagenas, Chris Watt, Jim Woestman, Bob Forsell, Stacy Zembala, Michaelangelo McClendon, Jack Hamady, Erica Rios, Irene Boone Phillips

Welcome and Introductions

Albert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed everyone and introductions from around the room were made.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Scott Sefton made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as presented; Victoria Charleston seconded. All were in favor the **MOTION** passed.

Presentation – Michaelangelo McClendon, DMHA

Albert introduced Michaelangelo McClendon from DMHA to the audience. He was welcomed with a round of applause. He gave a brief introduction of himself and told of his background. He spoke on what Synar is and how it looks on the state level. Synar is a law in the state of Indiana (you have to be 18 to purchase tobacco products in the state of Indiana and if you have a smoke shop you cannot allow minors in the establishment). If you are one of these retailers, you must have signage that states that you will not sell to minors. Synar has been around for about 30 years. Before this the job of checking this was outsourced by the state. Synar looks at the retailers that sell tobacco and Synar prevents underage tobacco sales. In Lake County we have 507 retailers of tobacco, in the state as a whole there are 5,421 retailers. We almost cover 10% of the state. Synar's inspections are random. There were 62 visits done in Lake County last year with a violation rate of 14.5% that sold to minors. This is for all tobacco products, not just cigarettes. There are three tobacco programs running in the state; TRIP (inspects every store in Indiana), FDA (inspects every store in Indiana), and Synar (random inspections in Indiana) but Synar is tied to federal funds (which is very important to the coalition). If you are a recipient of Substance Abuse Block Grant Funding, this percentage rate is very important to you. In the State of Indiana, we need to keep below a 20% violation rate. If it goes above that we will lose 40% of our dollars in the Substance Abuse Block Grant Funds. The State of Indiana was at 17.9% violation rate at the end of last year. We are at a fever pitch to act on this. We cannot afford to lose 40% of our funding. We need to have community awareness on this issue, we were one of nine coalitions to have this personal visit, and there are posters available for retailers to remind them of the law. There is also a curriculum for retailers and

every state has this law and every state is having the same problem. They will ask the Retailers Association to join this cause. Irene Boone-Phillips spoke on all the efforts the TPC (Tobacco Prevention Coalition) is putting into action. Their inspections are random as well and with the information they gather, they're looking into new policies. Michael also spoke of the Partners that work in conjunction with him; Alcohol Tobacco Control (ATC), IPRC (Indiana Prevention Resource Center), ICJI (Indiana Criminal Justice Institute) and TPC (ISDH Tobacco Prevention and Cessation). Hopefully working together, we can make some policy changes or framework for it. There were great questions, answers and discussion that went on. We learned that Dollar General (also owns Family Dollar and Dollar Tree) is the retailer with the highest tobacco and product sales. Albert posed the question... how can we work together to combat this issue? He asked that we bring this to our committee meetings for further discussion.

SAFE Coordinator Report

Amanda spoke on the Grant Cycle and Workshops coming up. We have three confirmed members for our Grant Selection Committee; Dr. Janice Malchow, Shannon O'Brien and Dawn Pelc. We have four Grant Workshops coming up; morning and afternoon sessions on March 29th and April 2nd. Please see Amanda or Renee to see if you qualify for applying for this Grant Cycle. We have 9 law enforcement, 13 prevention, and 9 treatment organizations are eligible to apply. Organizations that were on the cusp of qualifying were notified. She then explained the process of the grant cycle and timeline.

Committee Updates

Myra spoke on getting trainings together. Some training ideas are; John Breslin, Licensure Updates and or Gambling Awareness, After-care Re-entry and Opiates. You would earn CEU's with all of these. These would be open to everyone. Myra told the coalition if you were interested in a specific training to email Amanda or Myra.

Paul said they are working on sponsoring a DUI checkpoint this summer.

Jena said they are working on a speaker's bureau list. They are also working on a way to remove "stigma", because we want everyone who needs help to receive it without feeling bad about it. They are continuing to work with Mr. Crouch from the Hobart Schools regarding the PSA and it is a wonderful work in progress.

The PSA is hoping to be done for Prom season. She also spoke with Matt Valuckis in regards to a media kit for schools and a cling for businesses and schools to say that they partner with "SAFE". Jena is hoping to attend a School Superintendent's Meeting to present this media kit to them.

Albert recognized Jena Bellezza on her chair appointment by the Governor for Martin King Day 2019.

Renee spoke on the CADCA Forum trip in DC and that they had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Pete Visclosky and Senators Donnelly and Young.

Our representatives are behind us in the funding of the opioid crisis we are facing. She also spoke of the DFC Alcohol Awareness Event coming up on April 14th and reminded the audience of Tall Cop coming in September.

New Business

Bradley Carter from the Prosecutor's Office attended the SAFE Board meeting. He said he would take all the information he was given and see how he could help us increase our funds.

Announcements/Open Discussion

There were many announcements made regarding trainings, presentations and conferences. Justin Mount from Senator Donnelly's office gave an update on the opioid crisis and the funding that was approved among other items the Senator is working on.

Next Meeting – March 28, 2018**Adjournment**

A **MOTION** was made by Scott Sefton at 10:02 a.m. to adjourn; Victoria Charleston seconded. All were in favor. The **MOTION** passed.