

SAFE General Membership Meeting
Indian American Cultural Center
September 12, 2018 – Kick-off
11 AM - 2 PM

Attendees: Albert Gay; IPRC, Debbie Matthys; School City of Hobart, Natalie Schnoor; LCCC, Jena Bellezza; IPI, Paul Sines; Griffith PD, Paula Minard; Crown Counseling, Amanda Morrison; SAFE Program Manager, Renee Moy; Prevention Assistant, Sonia Magallon; President of Geminus, Karen Bonner; Clean Slate Centers, Jason Hayes; Hobart PD, Eric Evans; Director of Prevention Services; Geminus, Anne Lemon; School Town of Highland, Michael Green; Freedom House, Danny Lackey; Merrillville Schools, Jamie Rogers; Heartland Recovery, Scott Tokach; Lake Station Schools, Matt Valukis; V as in Victor, Simone Barron; Clark Road Genesis, Bradley Carter; Lake County Prosecutors, Victoria Charleston Hanley; Regional Health Systems, Orlando Drummond; Boys and Girls Club of NWI, Susan Galante; WDS, Richard Hayes; Hayes and Associates, Taye Leftridge; Great Lakes Labs, Janice Malchow, Jason Maupin; Crown Point PD, Angela McFerrin; LC CP, Dawn Pelc; Porter County SAC, Erica Rios; Griffith Public Schools, Camilla Trevino Olivera; Lake County Coroner's Office, Chris Watt; Campagna, Tanisha Patterson; Boys and Girls Club of NWI, Kelly Buckley; Lake County Coroner's Office, Shaeron Buckingham, Rachel Ellis; Hobart PD, Christine Castaneda; Lake County Probation, Stephanie Ellis; Lake County Probation, Marcos Zuazua; Lake County Probation, Edward Rysiewicz; DEA Intel, Laura Smith Wynn; IPI, Kelly Bittorf; LCC C, Darius Brannon; FSSA, Lonnie Brittingham; LCCC, Kia Dawson; Gary City Court, Susanna Enslin; Hobart PD, Robert Forsell; Cedar Lake PD, Justin Fronek; Highland Schools, Al Gandolfi; SHAPE, Nina Hankins; Edgewater Health, Scott Janson; Gateway Foundation, James Markle; NILEA, Michelangelo McClendon; ICJ I, Jerry Patrick; Lake Central Schools, Christian Pearson; Clark Road Genesis, Arleen Peterson; Sojourner Truth House, Brittney Pickett; Anthem, Velma Sellers; Goodwill Industries, Stephanie Shostok; Recovery Works, Ronald Williams; Edgewater Health, and Haley Flag; Recovery Works

Keynote presentation speaker: General Barrye Price, PH. D, Executive Vice President and COO of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America)

Welcome: Albert Gay Chairman of SAFE called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM. He welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance. He also thanked everyone for being dedicated to the cause of lowering substance use and abuse as well as making sure the youth and adults are safe and supported in an environment that is drug-free. The SAFE Coalition (Supports Addiction Free Environments) For Lake County. For life.; is our tag line. Albert introduced the Board members of SAFE. Albert asked the guests at the tables to introduce themselves to each other. Albert asked Renee Moy to introduce herself as the assistant of the coalition as well as Amanda Morrison to introduce herself as the coordinator of the coalition. Albert asked the coalition to support Amanda and Renee. Albert acknowledged Geminus Corporation as the financial administrators of the Coalition. He acknowledged Sonia Magallon, President of Geminus Corporation and also Eric Evans as a Director of Prevention Services of Geminus.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Natalie Schnoor made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as written; Susanna Enslin seconded. All were in favor. The **MOTION** was approved.

Icebreaker: Albert introduced Debbie Matthys. She asked everyone to turn their pieces of paper over and write down their laundry list of things to do. She then went through some breathing and relaxation exercises. She explained that taking a few minutes to ourselves is good for our beings and for SAFE as a whole. She explained the icebreaker to the audience and told them to have fun.

Coalition Corner: SAFE strives to create a healthy stable and substance free community, that is our vision statement. Albert asked the audience if their jobs aligned with this vision. Our mission statement is; fighting for substance for youth, families, and communities by bringing together individuals, organizations, and agencies from within our community to engage in community-based, risk focused, partner driven strategies, For Lake County. For life. Albert asked the audience to reflect on the statements throughout the year and how we will work together as partners to make the vision come to pass. He also acknowledged how there are cities and other agencies that are missing from the table and we need to think how to bring them here. Schools expect great outcomes with their students and we should as well with our coalition. Albert talked about the name change we went through. We went from Lake County Substance Abuse Council to SAFE - Supporting Addiction Free Environments. We transitioned this year with our marketing with the help of Matt Valukis. We've also had some training events and campaigns.

2018 2019 will be a great year. We have Tall Cop presentations coming with the Merrillville and Gary DFC's. We will have our annual Red Ribbon Poster contest, lunch and learns, coalition trainings, social norm campaigns, an alcohol awareness event and much, much more.

Albert recognized the DFC's and the importance of their work in the county.

Albert talked about our SAFE member action items. Albert asked the audience to complete the Coalition Membership Agreements and to hand them into Renee. She will also send out a Coalition Member Survey and please complete those by October 17th. At our November meeting we will have a workshop. The name of the workshop is SOAR which stands for Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results this will be facilitated by Jenny Bell from Praxis.

Jena came up and gave a brief Prevention Committee update for 2018. The committee is working on school media kits for school principals and superintendents, they will be finalizing their speaker's bureau; it is a professional development tour concept, they will be working on a stigma reduction plan, the PSA is almost done and will be presented at the October meeting.

Keynote Presentation: Before Albert introduced General Price to the audience, he asked who helped discover him. Amanda and Renee stood up and Albert asked if they would share their story with the audience. They stated it was very simple, you never know how an

everyday conversation about the Cubs at CADCA Mid- Year could lead to this. SAFE is honored that General Price could join us today.

Major General (Retired) Barry Price is the E VP and COO of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) in Alexandria, Virginia. He is a 1985 Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Houston's College of Business Administration, he earned a Master of Arts Degree in History in 1994 from Texas A&M University and in 1997 he became the first African-American to obtain a Doctorate from the Department of History in the 141-year history of Texas A&M University. He also earned a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University in 2004. Once again we are honored that he is here to share the afternoon with us.

General Price was greeted with great applause. General spoke of his background and of a wonderful friendship with his friend Carl. For 30 years' wonderful things were happening to the General but not to his friend Carl who was addicted to crack cocaine. His friend Carl died in October of 2015. Carl's death is the reason the General is in the business he is. The General came here today to talk about community activism. Our nation is facing the greatest epidemic today with drugs. The General talked through some data points on the USA. He then talked about the drug problem with teens in the USA. The General discussed the United States historical approach to the drug problem and how through the 1950s through the 1980s they didn't work, the 90's showed some promise and from 2000 to the present with evidence-based programs, they have showed success. The General used a stadium setting filled with 71,000 people as a diagram. The people are there to have a great time. In 2016 there were 71,000 deaths from drug overdoses, that is everyone in the stadium. He really made us think long and hard about that number. Everyday 198 people die from drug overdoses. The General discussed different risk factors one example is how parents are providing alcohol to their teenagers. He then talked about how CADCA is dealing with this. He stated the Prophet Mohammed said that there are four things that support this world; the learning of wise; the justice of the great; the prayers of the good; the valor of the brave and we need all of these things if are going to get through this crisis. The company he works for adopted a multi sector and collaborative approach; they build coalitions. A coalition is a formal arrangement for cooperation and collaboration between groups or sectors of the community in which each group retains its identity but all agree to work together towards a common goal of building a safe, healthy and drug free community. He discussed the many ways CADCA works in the community by ways of assessing, capacity building, planning, implementation and evaluation. We have to look at cultural competence as well and that is the ability to interact effectively with members of diverse populations. CADCA has 719 Drug Free Coalitions. This is an all in campaign, all communities have to have skin in the game. General Price talked about that the Deterra Drug Deactivation Pouch by Verde Technologies. You open the pouch, pour the drugs in, add hot water, seal and shake. It makes the drugs inert and it is biodegradable. General Price gifted us 21 pallets of these which is worth a half a million dollars. He closed with, his organization is CADCA and he is here to serve us. He then spent time with questions and answers. Albert thanked him for delivering the message of coalition work and how important it is especially right here at home. He also thanked him for the gift of the drug pouches. General Price was given a great round of applause.

SAFE Presentations: Cpl. Monte White; Hobart HS SRO and Too Good for Drugs Instructor and Susanna Enslin; Hobart Police Department Public Relations presented the program they give to fifth-graders in the Hobart Schools. They gave a brief introduction of themselves and went through wonderful PowerPoint presentation of their program. This is an evidence-based program that is funded through SAFE. In the presentation there are many quotes from the children regarding drugs and the different things they learned. It is a 10-week program for the children. At the end of the program there is a graduation for the children with the guest speaker.

Matt Valukis from V as in Victor came up and spoke about SAFE's new website. Matt spoke about how we worked with the committees and board of directors to come up with our new name. SAFE (Supporting Addiction Free Environments) For Lake County. For life. The coalition against substance use, abuse and misuse. He spoke about the three pillars, prevention, treatment and law enforcement. He asked the audience to check out the new website and if there's anything that needs to be changed please contact him. The website talks about who we are, what we do and how to contact us. This is the ultimate resource for Lake County.

Announcements: A myriad of announcements were made regarding different trainings that are going on in the community.

Next meeting – October 24, 2018 @ 9 AM, Geminus Corporation

Adjournment: Danny Lackey made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 1:44 PM; Victoria Charleston Hanley seconded. All were in favor. The **MOTION** passed.