

Summary

Northeast Seattle Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking

General Meeting

Monday, November 17, 2008

8:15-9:45 a.m.

Attending

Lisa Steenson, YMCA

Kipp Strong, Seattle Police Department

Reema Ziadeh, Eckstein Middle School Counselor

Lee Martin, Parent, Writer

Christine Talianis, Prevention-Intervention Specialist

Alysia Johnson, Parent

Carolyn Bernhard, Parent

Ed McKenna, Seattle City Attorney

Liz Wilhelm, Snohomish County, WASAVP

Ruth Herold, Changes Parent Support Network

Inga Manskopf, Community Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Proposed Changes to Alcohol Regulations

Liz Wilhelm provided information about the Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Preventions (WASAVP) and possible changes to Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) regulations that would have an affect on underage drinking prevention.

- ❖ WASAVP is the state coalition that looks at legislative issues dealing with prevention. It employs the only state lobbyist for prevention in the nation. Generally, they lobby for more money for prevention but, with the state facing funding cut-backs, WASAVP is looking to maintain current funding levels this year.
- ❖ The State Legislature formed a Joint Select Committee on Beer & Wine Regulations after Costco's lawsuit about being able to sell large amounts of beer and wine at a discount. The committee's task has been to review regulations and suggest changes to the Washington State Legislature.
- ❖ The WSLCB regulates three tiers: alcohol manufacturing, distribution, and retail.
- ❖ As part of the Joint Select Committee, the focus of WASAVP has been on pricing and marketing of alcohol.
- ❖ Since studies have shown that higher prices of alcohol is attributed to lower underage drinking rates, WASAVP recommends that the WSLCB keeps minimum mark-ups (10%). They also recommend that no quantity discounts be allowed.
- ❖ To better track youth accessibility to alcohol, WASAVP recommends that 30-day price posting continues.
- ❖ WASAVP is concerned about marketing practices because many seem to target youth. Items such as giant inflatables should not be displayed at community/family events.

- ❖ Novelty items, such as t-shirts, should not be given to youth. Liz noted a study that shows that middle school students who wore alcohol-related t-shirts were three times more likely to drink than their peers. Items such as coasters, posters, banners, key-chains, etc. should not be available at family restaurants, only establishments that solely serve adults.
- ❖ Internet sales of alcohol should continue to be allowed but heavily regulated. Fines and an adult accepting delivery of alcohol are good ways to regulate.

Concerned citizens may become involved by testifying in Olympia when regulation changes are being considered. Liz noted that because of budget cutting measures, the Family Policy Council, treatment funding, and mentoring programs may be eliminated next year. Drug court funding is expected to be cut. On the positive side, prescription drug abuse prevention programs may receive funding. Also, 2% of taxes collected on alcohol sales go to county prevention and treatment programs.

Proposed Changes to Nightclub Licenses

Ed McKenna from the Seattle City Attorney's Office provided information about a proposal that would create a new nightclub license. The WSLCB is considering a new type of liquor license called a Spirit/Beer/Wine Nightclub License. This new license will apply to businesses

- ❖ whose primary source of revenue is the sale of alcohol,
- ❖ has its primary business between 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.,
- ❖ has an occupancy load of 100 persons or more,
- ❖ and provides entertainment.

Currently, licensees have to serve food, even if it's just microwavable tv-dinners for \$99.00 each. The new license would better reflect what is actually happening in alcohol-serving establishments.

Regarding minors in such establishments, the wording of the proposed regulation states, "Minors may be allowed on the licensed premises but only in areas where alcohol is not served." The wording does not make it clear who, if anyone, can restrict them. However, local government may petition the WSLCB for further restrictions in the interest of public safety. Examples are provided, including, "No minors on the entire premises", submitting a security plan, or signing a good neighbor agreement. Areas designated for minors are separated from the alcohol-serving area by a 42" barrier.

There are safety concerns regarding minors in nightclubs and police and prosecutor resources that are needed are limited. There are also concerns about the modeling of alcohol consumption.

The WSLCB may cap the number of nightclub licenses if they determine that the number of nightclub licenses already granted are adequate for the reasonable needs of the community.

Updates

- ❖ Media Advocacy: www.PreventionWorksInSeattle.org is up and running and coalition members are encouraged to blog on www.PreventionWorksInSeattle.blogspot.com.
- ❖ Guiding Good Choices: More facilitators were trained last week and more sessions are scheduled for the new year. KING5-TV is doing a story on the GGC classes being offered at the YMCA.
- ❖ Youth: The YMCA will host a middle school teen “take over the Y” night on February 27.
- ❖ Enforcement Roundtable: Due to local budget cut-backs, minor misdemeanors may fall by the wayside. The county prosecutor’s office is facing a reduction in staff.
- ❖ Parenting: A parent forum about monitoring children is in the stage of early planning. To tentatively take place in March.
- ❖ Life Skills Training: Eckstein 6th grade health teachers have agreed to teach parts of the curriculum this year. Parents can show their support of Life Skills by emailing Eckstein’s principal.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Remaining 2008-09 General Meeting Dates

Date	Time
December 15	12:45 p.m.
January 26 (place tbd)	8:00 a.m.
February 23	12:45 a.m.
March 23	8:15 a.m.
April 27	12:45 p.m.
May 18	8:15 a.m.
June 8 - recognition luncheon	12:30 p.m.