

## **STOP/GEAR UP Meeting** **1-8-09 @ 10:00 am CST**

Present: Dr. Linda Doran, Katie Tone, Dr. Jo Edwards, Tara Light, Joseph Sanders and Jill Thomas

We welcomed Tara Light as an official member of the STOP Program!

Gary Skolits will be sending out survey results to each of the nine counties. He will also send a press release to the LEA's on how to give out results.

### Action Plans

Gary also wants to make sure action plans have been sent to him from all nine counties. The county coordinators will use the action plans, surveys results and mid year reports to help guide them into the next 6 months.

### East TN Region

Cocke County – Action plan needs some work, Marshal Knight, county coordinator, needs some help. Katie Tone has put Marshal in touch with Steve Costner, Coordinator, from GEAR UP. He will be a great resource for Marshal.

Union County – The County is in good shape.

Dr. Linda Doran went to Maynard and met advisory group and Lisa Carter, county coordinator, has made good connections.

Johnson County – Christine Robinson, county coordinator, is very familiar with the school system in Mountain City as well as the county.

### Middle TN Region

Jill confirmed that action plans have been sent in from both Grundy and Meigs County.

### West TN Region

Joseph confirmed that an action plan has been sent in for Wayne County.

### How can the Regional Coordinators assist the counties?

Katie Tone reported the system that GEAR UP has in place:

TN is split into 2 regions rather than 3, like STOP. East TN has five counties and Flora Craig is the regional coordinator. West TN has 4 counties and Stephanie is the regional coordinator. The regional coordinators make a site visit every other week, or if there is difficulty, every week. Each region has monthly meetings at a neutral location, so it's even for everyone. The meetings allow each county coordinator to help one another and have really helped develop a sense of camaraderie.

The biggest way the regional coordinator role has developed in GEAR UP is the regional coordinators are 'supervisors' to the county coordinators. They are the first point person, so all paperwork/any emails are sent to the regional coordinator so she

can look at everything first. The position of regional coordinator has become a good liaison between the county coordinator and State of TN.

One time per year for the past 3 years, Dr. Rhoda has visited each county to say hello and meet the people in central office. It's a good way to keep their finger on the pulse of the program and let everyone know there is support.

**STOP will do the following:**

- 1) Routine County visits at 2 - 3 week intervals or as appropriate.
- 2) Monthly regional meetings at a neutral location to share ideas. Notify the state of date and location of meeting to allow for their possible attendance. Agenda ideas for upcoming meetings – 1) how to distribute & use survey results and 2) determine what the mid year report tells us about successes and opportunities for additional activity, particularly around assurance that all five core components are addressed.
- 3) Communication and review of reports and emails to the state to give the regional coordinators the opportunity to review documents and stay one step ahead of what should be happening. This helps strengthen this 'supervisory' role.

The regional coordinator job description will be re-defined so everyone is clear on the responsibilities. Also, it formalizes the process to support the regional coordinators.

GEAR UP will be stopping in each county the last week of January/1<sup>st</sup> week of February to check on the STOP program and meet with the county coordinators. Regional coordinators are encouraged to be there if at all possible.

Three years ago, Dr. Jo Edwards designed county profiles of health behaviors. Using a model from University of Wisconsin, data was reported on the health of the residents of each county and how each county ranked within the state. We would like to include the tobacco data that has just been collected. We could also use data from Coordinated School Health on obesity (BMI) and tobacco use.

THEC annually produces a demographic profile of each county and gives to each county as well as legislature. This time, the county commissioner will combine health profiles and demographic profiles of each county in TN.

Discussing upcoming February 18 training at MTSU, the agenda should include time for everyone to familiarize themselves with the county profiles, youth summit planning and survey results.

The next meeting will be a teleconference call for the Management Team of STOP on January 20 at 10:00 am CST.