



*(established in 1988)*  
102 W. MARKET STREET, SUITE 205  
BLUFFTON, IN 46714

## CITIZENS AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

**February 12, 2015**

### **4-H Community Building**

**In attendance:** Vicki Andrews (Southern Wells Schools), Vicki Bell (Boys and Girls Club), Lonnie Biberstine (Wells County EMS), Kim Butcher (Park Center), Angie Dial (Family Centered Service – Teen Court), Ted Ellis (Bluffton Mayor), Zach Gaskill (Wells County EMS), Alicia Hill (House of Hope), Molly Hoag, (Wells County Extension Service), Deane Holderman (DCS), Nathan Huss (Bluffton Police Department), Colten Jones (Wells County EMS), Brian McClish (Ossian Police Department), Jennifer Meadows (Wells County EMS), Rick Mettler (Bluffton Middle School), Mark Misch (Northern Wells Community Schools), Stacy Morrison (Bluffton High School), Rick Peperbrink (Wells County EMS), Renee Phillippe (Registered Nurse), Roger Scherer (Purdue Extension), Greg Werich (Probation)

**Welcome, Introduction and Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:30 by President Molly Hoag. An introduction of attendees was made.

**Presentation of Minutes:** Minutes of January 8, 2015, presented and accepted with no changes. Motion made by Stacy Morrison, seconded by Kim Butcher. Minutes approved.

**Grant Program Reports:** Report was given by Rick Mettler, Bluffton Harrison Middle School. He reported that the drug testing program started in 2008-2009 school year. Extra-curricular and co-curricular students are in the pool as well as parents can request their child be in the pool. This year they have tested 32 students, with one positive result.

**New Members:** none

**Treasurer' Report:** \$60.84 balance in checking account. The Wells County Auditor has reported \$750 posted to the grant fund in January.

**Unfinished Business:** The grant committee met and reported their recommendations. There are \$6806.72 available from the grant for distribution. Molly explained the division of funds to the different categories. Once funding is approved, Molly will go before the County Council for appropriating the funds. She will also report to the County Commissioners. Greg made a motion to approve the grant distribution as presented, seconded by Kim. Motion was approved.

**New Business:** The Comprehensive Plan revision is due the year and the committee needs to get together to start work on the plan. Education committee is working to get drug awareness to the community. These committees will meet. Riders will be coming to Bluffton June 27, 2015, for DARE awareness and will have a benefit to raise money for the DARE program. CADA group may be participating in this program.

**Community Concerns/Trends:** Mayor Ellis attended and asked the group for information as he will be giving his State of the City address in March. He asked for information, since the death of Owen Collins has brought much awareness as to drugs and abuse in the area. The question was asked as to what resources are available and are they being used to the fullest. Kim reported that Park Center has seen more abuse of females and severity of addictions in the last six months. Park Center is limited as what they can do, because of psychiatric professional and money, and would like to see something open up so counseling could be done locally. Nathan Huss expressed the concerns about the community being quiet about people on drugs and not saying anything until something major happens. No one wants to point the finger at their neighbor because of the need to live beside them. DCS reported they get calls to go to the homes and look into the matter regarding children. Substance abuse has been up for heroin, opiates and meth. Many abusers start with nicotine or pills, then marijuana then harder drugs. Education of the families and neighborhood involvement would be helpful. Stacy reported that schools are finding more children with drug issues at an earlier age. Some students are 17 years old and their parents accept it easier, sometimes the parents are using, so they use drugs with the child. It is a disease and needs medical treatment.

**Membership Sharing:** How do we get information out to the people? Nathan stated that heroine is cheap and coming from Dayton, Ohio as well as other places and is makes less trash. Rick Mettler said a lot of kids are in families who use and the children start at an early age and continue. Spice has been very hard to control in schools as it is not picked up by the drug testing. Prescription drugs alter their behavior. Children will have prescription pill parties where they through them together and pop pills as they grab them out of a bowl. The Mayor said he feels after care-after treatment is very important as well as prevention and treatment.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:50. Protocol manual is available by CD or on line. Wells county.org, citizens against drug abuse and posters are all available.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, March 12, 11:30, at the Wells County Council on Aging/WOW (225 Water Street, Bluffton)

Submitted by: Vicki Andrews