

# Brighter Futures

**Meeting Summary • June 17, 2008**

C/o Community Advocates, 4906 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee WI 53216  
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## Men's health affects family; prevention strategies outlined

**Brighter Futures  
Meeting Report**  
June 15, 2008  
Aurora Family Center

Often overlooked is the status of men's health, and that is why the June meeting of Brighter Futures featured a presentation dedicated to June as "Men's Health Month."

**Darryl Davidson** of the Milwaukee Health Department noted that men die at much younger ages than women, in all categories, in spite of the fact that more boys are born than girls.

"Men's health affects the family," he said. "High hospital bills will bankrupt families." He added: "If we change the health status of men we will improve life standards for all in Wisconsin."

Some of the health issues facing men — such as prostate cancer and colon cancer — can be addressed by early identification strategies and prevention. Both cancers hit African-American men with particular incidence, with one in four African-American men being at risk of prostate cancer during their lifetime.

It is recommended, too, that screening for colorectal cancer (in which polyps develop in the rectum or colon) begin for men and women at age 50, and at age 45 for African-Americans. Early detection is the key to preventing the cancer from spreading.

A partnership, the Men's Health Workgroup, was formed by the Wisconsin Department of Health and is coordinated by the Milwaukee Health Department, Davidson said. The group is aiming at improving male access to health care in a context that men are twice as likely not to have health insurance as women.

The strategies of the Partnership are to 1) Collect data; 2) Develop a strategic plan; 3) Foster health education; 4) Support additional screening activities; and 5) Energize government involvement.

The goal of the Men's Health Workgroup also is to increase the physical and mental health of men to improve their life

style. The coalition meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mills St. The group will soon have website at <http://menshealthworkgroup.org>

He showed public service announcements concerning prostate cancer prevention, including the need for men to be regularly screened. The announcements had a humorous theme, and Davidson said such humor is needed to get the message to men.

The group is involved in screening activities such as those done at Miller Park with the Milwaukee Brewers and Froedtert Hospital where some 14 positive screens were detected. Davidson said the coalition is looking for partner organizations to participate.

Several issues were made during discussion, including the difficulty for men to apply for GAMP or other insurance programs to access health care. Norma Madison said GAMP rules require that you must be homeless to have the application fee waived. "You gotta be sleeping in a car," she said. "We always had things for women but rarely for men."

Davidson said that mental health is also a factor in men's health, but that so far there is not a "standard for what mental health looks like," and that needs to be defined.

The age of involvement for the men's health group is 13-14, he said, because younger children tend to have other benefits. The biggest gap is when you go from 18 into their 20s, and men rarely feel a need to see a health care provider, he said.



**Darryl Davidson:**  
*June as "Men's Health Month" discussed at Brighter Futures meeting.*

**How to get a man to care about his health. . . See next page**

## How to get a man to care for his health? Some ideas

In a later discussion at the June meeting, Jan Buchler of Parenting Network wondered whether anyone had ideas to encourage men to be more health conscious. She suggested one idea would be to tell men to look forward to their children's weddings and grandchildren.

Chuck Unger of West Allis police said that he stopped smoking when his first grandchild was born.

Another said that men are protective of their children and the best way to do that is to be in good health. "It's about

being there for the family," he said. Another suggestion was to talk with men about things they are interested in doing, such as sports, according to one woman. Emilio Lopez of the Milwaukee Christian Center said the "eye-opening thing" for him has been to experience the loss of male friends.

To encourage a wife to be involved in her husband's health status, Michael Bersch of Horizon House suggested that forms be signed that provides access for the spouse to be informed of her husband's health status.

### Drug Free Communities Report.

## 'Odds are' and 'You are invited' dramatize drinking effects

Karen Kolberg and Maria Kolda of IMPACT presented two interactive exercises, the first being the game, "The Odds Are ..." Participants were to guess the likelihood that a person would experience such events as being struck of lightning (1 in 576,000), dating a supermodel (1 in 88,000), winning grand prize in Powerball lottery (1 in 146,107,962) and getting a hole in one in golf (1 in 5,000). Included in the list were items of youth behavior, as follows:

- 1 in 17 Odds that an MPS student drove after drinking alcohol.**
- 1 in 8 Odds that you will become alcoholic**
- 1 in 3 Odds that alcohol use will be factor that will lead to divorce**
- 1 in 20 Odds that female will be sexually assaulted while intoxicated**
- 1 in 2.5 Odds that you will be involved in an alcohol-related motor vehicle crash.**

The exercise showed how prevalent alcohol and drinking can negatively affect one's life.

The second exercise, "You Are Invited," involved getting ten audience members to take the roles of various youth who are invited to a party. The kids were identified with having varied backgrounds, some quite responsible, others with irresponsible habits. When alcohol is brought into the party, the kids react in various ways, with some leaving the party early or refusing the alcohol to drink soda. Others react differently: One boy loses his basketball season due to going home with a drunken friend; another girl passes out from drinking; a boy loses driving privilege due to getting drunk; another boy starts drinking to get courage to ask girl out, but throws up in her lap; another loses activities in school due to drinking.

The group chose "Educated Erica" as making the best decision by going home with her friends, renting a movie and eating popcorn. "Locked Up Larry" who drove home drunk hit a bicyclist and was sent to prison while "Show-Off Stanley" got so drunk he fell off the balcony and died.

Kolda and Kolberg said the exercises can be used with various groups and urged the use of such exercises to get home the lesson that students going to parties may face all sorts of consequences.



**BF members in small groups (above) make judgments on decisions of "youth" in "You Are Invited" exercise. Those chosen to play "youth" read their parts (below).**



# Brighter Futures Notes:

## *Reports of Key Committees*

**Milwaukee Child Abuse Prevention Services Coalition (MCAPS) report was given by Jan Buchler, of the Parenting Network.** The Public Policy Committee has prepared a response to the request for recommendations on what the state's new Department of Children and Families should be doing. The new Department was to become active on July 1.

The proposed recommendations included: 1) Developing services that are structured to meet the needs of families as defined by the families themselves, thus developing policies based on a holistic approach, streamlining of access to services and to eliminate obstacles caused by funding streams and "silos;" 2) Outcomes should drive the new department; and 3) The various systems within the new department should be structured to be efficient and effective.

The committee is to meet at 3 p.m. Monday, July 14 at United Way to discuss that issue and others. The committee has endorsed the need for full funding of the Housing Trust Fund by the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin.

The next meeting of the Family Resource Connection/Program Commit-

tee of MCAPS will be at 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 29.

**Brighter Futures Policy Committee, reported on by Ken Germanson.**

The committee is meeting monthly to develop strategies that will encourage greater parental involvement in the educational development of their children. So far the committee has looked at existing programs of home-visiting and school involvement from various private agencies, such as COA and Parents Plus. The committee is expected to involve MPS as well in the project.



**Part of the audience at the June Brighter Futures meeting. The meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Aurora Family Services, 3022 W. Highland Blvd.**

**Visit our website:**

**<http://milwaukeebrighterfutures.org>**

**June 2008 Brighter Futures Meeting Attendance**  
*(Listed alphabetically by agency name)*

Kasandra	Tarkington	AGAPE Community Center
Priscilla	Neal	Aurora Family Service
Rita	Flores	Bethany
Makisha	Biles	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Sandy	McLine	Boys and Girls Club
Darryl	Davidson	City of Milwaukee Health Dept.
Racquel	Bell	Community Advocates
Aricka	Evans	Community Advocates
Kenneth	Germanson	Community Advocates
Joe	Volk	Community Advocates
Christina	Morris	Counseling Center of Milw.
Natasha	Blum	CUPH
Mark	O'Neil	Diverse & Resilient
Peggy	Neal	Heartlove Place
Karen	Kolberg	IMPACT
Bob	Waite	IMPACT
Duncan	Shrout	IMPACT Inc.
Maria	Kolda	IMPACT, Inc.
Clarence	Rice	Innerworks
Michael	Bersch	Journey House
Yolanda	Espino	Latino Community Center
Sandy	Dotson	Managed Health Services
Deborah	Bryant	Milwaukee Adolescent Health
Emilio	Lopez	Milwaukee Christian Center
Darryl	Davidson	Milwaukee Health Dept.
S.	Senay	Milwaukee Health Dept.
Julie	Bock	Milwaukee LGBT
Norma	Madison	Milwaukee Urban League
David	O'Day	Modjeska Youth Theatre Co.
Jody	Rhodes	Neu-Life Community Res. Ctr
Kayla	Murphy	New Concept Self Dev. Ctr.
Avis	Nichols	New York Life
Tia	Hatchett	Next Door Foundation
Jan	Buchler	Parenting Network
Trudy	Ranallo	Parents Plus, Inc.
Marge	Kreuser	Perez-Pena, LTD
David	Scholl	Planning Council
Charles	Reese	Safe and Sound
Pastor Lee A.	Shaw	St. Gabriel COGIC
Greg	Lewis	St. Gabriel's COGIC
Theresa	Post	Task Force on Family Violence
Lisa	Gumm	The Counseling Center
Erin	Ebert	The Parenting Network
Georgann	Moore	United Health Care
Shaunte	James	Urban League
David	Bowen	Urban Underground
Jeannie E.	Berry-Matos	Vincent Family Center
Kelly	Young	Vincent Family Center
Marissa	Lopez	Walkers Point Youth and Family Ctr.
Capt. Chuck	Unger	West Allis Police Department
Lt. Edward	Benish	West Allis Police Department
Sally	Ladky	WI Abstinence Coalition

**Please send any corrections to [keng@communityadvocates.net](mailto:keng@communityadvocates.net)**  
**NOTE: All Brighter Futures funded agencies are expected to attend monthly MYFDA meetings, according to their contract.**