

# Brighter Futures

**MYFDA Meeting Summary • March 18, 2008**

C/o Community Advocates, 4906 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee WI 53216  
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## Drug Free Communities Report:

### ***‘Hollywood Squares’ game highlights issues with abuse of prescription drugs***

The need to educate youth about the dangers of abuse of prescription drugs was the theme of the March Brighter Futures meeting held at the Kosciuszko Community Center.

Maria Kolda and Karen Kolberg, of Impact, Inc., opened the session by discussing the bowl of candy that was placed at the entrance to the meeting room next to a placard that read, “Help Yourself.” They said the various types of candy that filled the bowl represented what goes on at so-called “Pharm Parties” – a slang term used to describe a party where a variety of pharmaceuticals are shared with the sole purpose of getting high.

The parties, although they are not as prevalent as some news stories indicate, are usually attended by youth who do not know the risks of misusing prescription medications and don’t realize the combination of these drugs can be dangerous, even fatal. They mistakenly see the use of prescription medications as socially acceptable. The “Pharm Party” exercise dramatized the need for parents to be aware of the many places where teenagers can obtain the pills, such as a bathroom medicine cabinet, a purse, a briefcase, from the Internet, or from being tossed into a garbage can.

Later, Kolda and Kolberg had the Brighter Futures participants join in a “Rx Hollywood Squares” game where two contestants had to guess whether the answers that nine “guest stars” gave to the questions about prescription drug use were the correct answers or a bluff. While the exercise prompted both laughter and some good fun, it highlighted important information which can be passed on to youth.

Some of the questions, with their correct answers and further explanation, are shown below:

Q. Why do youth say they use prescription drugs without a doctor’s prescription?

A. Usually, to deal with their problems in life and also to self medicate feelings of stress, depression or anxiety.



**The two ‘contestants’ in the exercise were Janeen Boone, of Agape Community Center, and Emilio Lopez of the Milwaukee Christian Center.**

ety. (They also use the drugs to help make their bodies more attractive or to help with school work.)

Q. What group is the greatest abuser of prescription medications?

A. Girls are most likely to intentionally abuse prescription drugs to get high, and they also have higher rates of dependence from their use. (Prescription drugs are the most commonly abused drug among 12 and 13-year-olds.)

Q. What’s the best way to talk to preschoolers about drugs?

A. Tell them: “Never put into your mouth anything you don’t know what it is or what it will do.” (It was suggested to simply explain to them that medicines are not like candy and can cause harm.)

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# 'Hollywood Squares'

(Continued from Page 1)

Q. What is an effective strategy for preventing youth from abusing prescription drugs?

A. Teaching youth resistance skills or ways to resist peer pressure. *(More than one-third of teens have said they feel some peer pressure to use prescription drugs and 9% have said that using prescription drugs plays an important part of fitting in with their friends. Role-playing can be a good way to teach youth how to resist the pressure from their peers, however subtle, to engage in harmful behavior.)*

Q. What do 80% of the drugs purchased on line have in common?

A. They were bought without a doctor's prescription. Many websites are now using "online consultations" in lieu of legitimate prescriptions. *(Few laws cover the sale of online prescriptions.)*

Q. According to surveys, where did most people go after using prescription or over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, non-medically?

A. They went to the emergency departments of hospitals. *(Nearly all poison deaths are attributed to drugs and most drug poisonings result from the abuse of prescription drugs.)*

Q. What is a 'kiddie' cocktail?

A. A mixture of alcohol and prescription or street drugs. *(Medications mixed with alcohol can be a deadly combination.)*

Q. What is the use of prescription drugs without medical supervision for the intentional purpose of getting "high" called?

A. Recreational use. The idea of using drugs "recreationally" implies no harm will be involved. *(There is no "recreational use" of drug. Drug addiction is caused by compulsive drug intake despite severe negative consequences. Any drug that is used improperly can cause multiple health problems.)*

"It's important to properly dispose of any dated or unused prescription drugs still remaining in the home," Kolberg said. "It's not proper to flush them down the drain, since trace amounts can remain in the water supply and create potential public health problems." Cards were distributed announcing that Milwaukee citizens could safely dispose of any unwanted medications on Medicine Collection Day, Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Miller Park Parking Lot (near the "Sausage House"). Medications can also be disposed of by mixing them in with coffee grounds or cat litter and put in the regular garbage pickup. It is recommended that all potential drugs of misuse or abuse be placed in a locked cabinet, to avoid the potential for abuse.

For further information or assistance on developing training programs, contact Maria Kolda at [mkolda@impactinc.org](mailto:mkolda@impactinc.org).

The "celebrities" who volunteered to be "Hollywood Squares" participants in the drug abuse exercises were (seated front row, from left) Mary Muck, Julie Bock, Kenyatta Sinclair, Lenora Shaw, Joseph Kubisiak and Tony Phillips, and (back row, from left) Richard Badger, Anthony McHenry and Greg Lewis.



**MCAPS Report.** Ken Germanson reported that Reggie Bicha has attended meetings of the MCAPS Public Policy Committee, along with Janel Hines, his Milwaukee representative. They have asked for input on the role of the new Department of Children and Family Services. The group also deals with the issues with the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, he said.

The other MCAPS committee is the Family Resource Connection, meets on the Fourth Tuesday of every other month.

The Teen Parent Task Force group, which meets at 1:30 p.m., also on the second Monday at United Way, is concentrating on overcoming the child care barriers that teen mothers face in trying to attend school and graduate.

# Men urged to take part in marches to end violence

Richard Badger told the BF meeting in March of a plan involving men in a goal of reducing violence in neighborhoods. He said that for the last few months a group of men have been walking through the community in a quest to end violence. "What we're doing is modeling this after what they've done in Philadelphia, and on the million man march of 1995."

"We want men to be out in the forefront of this," he said. "Woman will definitely be there, but we want the men to be out front."

He said the marches will be held once a month on the first Saturday, going into area that really needs attention and where the presence of the men will make a difference. "It is essentially a simple philosophy: If you have men involved, things change," he said.

The longterm plan, he said, is to get

men involved, to train them to be able to work within the community and deal with young men and boys.

He said the first walk was in the neighborhood where Jasmine Owens was killed, and the walk continued in the area of N. 27<sup>th</sup> and W. Hadley Sts. He said the group was able to head-off a potential gun-shooting incident because of their presence in the area. Some of the violent situations, he said, make it necessary that men are out there to address it.

"We don't even have a name. We're grassroots to the very, very bare essentials," he said, indicating that the down to earth effort may be effective.



**Richard Badger**

Even though he works in the mayor's office, Badger said he is doing this as a volunteer and citizen of the community. He said he wants men to show up, not as members of a group, but on their own. "We need those unknown warriors out there," he said. "We're not looking for money, we're looking for time."

The Fatherhood Initiative is beginning to plan for the 2008 Youth Summit, and urged that any person interested in the planning process should contact him.

To contact Richard Badger on either of these initiatives, email him at [Richard.badger@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Richard.badger@milwaukee.gov)

## Brighter Futures Notes

**WELCOME.** Emilio Lopez, of the Milwaukee Christian Center welcomed the group to the Kosciuszko Park Community Center.

He described the variety of services for youth at the Kosciuszko Community Center, ranging from after-school tutoring and homework help to sports and family nights. He noted they collaborate with New Concepts in such programs as a life skills training for

girls. The Center also one of eight centers in the United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee, and also is in a partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and serving as a "Safe and Sound" site.

### CORRECTION

**In the Summary of the February meeting, the person in the picture shown at right was misidentified.**

**The person pictured is Charles Reese of Community Partners.**



**March 2008 MYFDA Attendance**  
(Listed by Agency)

Janeen	Boone	Agape Community Center
Kassandra	Tarkington	AGAPE Community Center
Priscilla	Neal	Aurora Family Service
Cyndi	Ody-Weis	Bethany
Natalie	Cooper	Boys & Girls Club
Racquel	Bell	Community Advocates
Aricka	Evans	Community Advocates
Kenneth	Germanson	Community Advocates
Joe	Volk	Community Advocates
Christina	Morris	Counseling Center of Milwaukee
Joyce	Simms	Dept of Workforce Development
Mary	Musk	DWD
Kathy	Morrell	DWD
Peggy	Neal	Heartlove Place
Karen	Kolberg	IMPACT
Maria	Kolda	IMPACT, Inc.
Clarence	Rice	Innerworks
Reyna	Gengler	La Causa
Kelly	Sonnenberg	La Causa FRC
Yolanda	Espino	Latino Community Center
Sandy	Dotson	Managed Health Services
Richard	Badger	Mayor's Office
Paul	Gannaway	Milw Family Services Integration Off.
Deborah	Bryant	Milwaukee Adolescent Health
Lenora	Shaw	Milwaukee Adolescent Health Program
Emilio	Lopez	Milwaukee Christian Center
Brian	Stewart	Milwaukee Christian Center
Julie	Bock	Milwaukee LGBT
Kathryn	Mllsna	Milwaukee Public Library
David	O'Day	Modjeska Youth Theatre Co.
JoAnn	Craft	Neighborhood House
Daryl	McNeil	New Concept Self Dev. Ctr.
Kenyatta	Sinclair	Next Door Foundation
Marge	Kreuser	Perez-Pena, LTD
Lisa	Drouin	Planning Council
Anthony	Mc Henry	Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
Tony	Phillips	St Ann Center
Greg	Lewis	St. Gabriel's COGIC
Joseph	Kubisiak	Safe and Sound
Andrea	Libber	Task Force on Family Violence
Lisa	Gumm	The Counseling Center
Georgann	Moore	United Health Care
Shaunte	James	Urban League
Sharlen	Moore	Urban Underground
Lt. Edward	Benish	West Allis Police Department
Monica	Lawrence	Wis Dept of Health and Human Serv.

Please send any corrections to [general@communityadvocates.net](mailto:general@communityadvocates.net)

**NOTE: All Brighter Futures funded agencies are expected to attend monthly MYFDA meetings, ac-**