

The next steps and follow-up included:

- 1. Develop a draft sex education policy to be looked at by this group.**
- 2. Make sure all items are research based. (The draft would be sent to the research committee for research backing.)**
- 3. Continue working on a marketing strategy.**
- 4. Begin working with the school system staff to build grass roots support for a change in the school system's sex education policy.**

**DRAFT
Teen Pregnancy Minutes
June 15, 2007**

Present: Lou Kudon, Denise Mewborn, Claude Burnett, Tim Johnson, Mike Blake, Alice Harris, Hilary Rustin, Cassandra Jones, Irma Cadle, Holly Cirri, Sherry Crader, Marcia Massengale, Tammy Webb, Nancy McNair, Ted Futris, Denise Everson, Rachel Hagues, Staff: Jim Geiser

Alice opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Alice mentioned that she had agreed to help co-chair the Teen Pregnancy Implementation Team with Rick Dunn, but has discovered she may have some time conflicts. However, she chaired this meeting.

There were a couple of changes in the minutes from the June 1 meeting:

On page three of the minutes:

“A policy/philosophy group was developed to put together an initial draft document outlining the policy and implementation.” was changed to

“A policy/philosophy/curriculum group was developed to put together an initial draft document outlining the policy, curriculum and implementation.”

On page two of the minutes:

“It was suggested that perhaps a broad representation from this group on the School Board Policy Committee that is reviewing this policy would be beneficial. This group could propose a policy to the school district. ” was changed to

“It was suggested that perhaps representatives from this group could serve on the school system's committee that is looking at the school system's sex education policy to help draft a comprehensive sex education policy for the school district.”

The minutes were approved with the amendments.

The group then began discussing what they were trying to achieve. It was agreed that this group is going to propose a comprehensive community sex education policy. A subset of

this policy will be to work with the school system's sex education policy committee to expand the sex education information that can be provided.

Some questions that the group would like answered include:

“What is being offered in the way of sex education currently?”

“Who are we addressing? What is the target population?” Some of the targeted populations include unwed moms and current teen parents.

“What does data show?” Are the students getting pregnant wanting to get pregnant? If that's the case, there may be a need for a different strategy.

[It was suggested that the pregnancy prevention effort include a focus on relationship education.](#)

It was agreed that the sex education policy would be very comprehensive involving a variety of community strategies as well as specific strategies focused on educating the public and teens about sex and specific pregnancy prevention strategies. Although the focus of this group will be to provide strategies directly related to direct sex education components, they brainstormed some components of a comprehensive community strategy. These items would be incorporated into a comprehensive policy. These comprehensive ideas included:

- Motivation, Education, and Access
- Involve faith-based organizations in sharing beliefs to children
- Relationship education
- Career Development
- Family Support
- Goal setting
- Finishing School
- Development of self-esteem
- Aspirations
- Productive activities for everyone
- Short-term campaigns “Not to Have Sex” or “Campaign to Keep Healthy” practice teen abstinence
- Positive marketing strategies
- To have a higher graduation rate
- Focus on middle school interventions
- Provide peer support
- Provide Family Supervision
- Parent support-work with the whole family
- Provide community parenting
- Address cultural issues including race and socioeconomic issues
- Get media buy-in to this plan
- Address the importance of Early Childhood
- Use the media to help dramatize the effects of teen pregnancy
- Keep an egg/baby doll for a day

- Talk about sex education in real terms
- This education must be available throughout the community
- Emphasize the importance of getting kids to read—reduces likelihood of having children as teenagers
- Some sort of appropriate education needs to occur throughout k-12
- There needs to be an alignment of community services—they must be continuous and sustained
- All strategies must be research based

Jim agreed to develop a summarizing statement of these “comprehensive” ideas.

The group then brainstormed items that could be included in the sex education curriculum and philosophy. These included:

1. Initial focus will be middle school and high school.
2. Health education in 9th grade for all students.
3. Discuss external anatomy.
4. Explain what sex is.
5. Explain masturbation.
6. Talk about different types of relationships.
7. Perhaps start at 6th grade.
8. Intensify and reinforce information during the 10th – 12th grades.
9. Blend some of these conversations into the regular curriculum.
10. Share the information with enough frequency.
11. Include faith-based and community agencies in the comprehensive curriculum/policy. (The message would be adapted.)
12. High school graduation opportunities increase if teens are not pregnant.
13. Discuss healthy teen relationships—acknowledge sexual abstinence as a positive affirmation for a healthy teen.
14. Acknowledge that teens are sexual beings and that they need to be given the facts about sex.
15. Acknowledge that teens are emotional and that sexual activity and becoming a teen parent can be emotionally driven.
16. Consequences of broken relationships including divorce can be used as a deterrent to becoming sexually active and/or pregnancy.
17. Perhaps develop a teen pregnancy simulation to help deter teen pregnancy.
18. The policy needs to address the idea that the information may need to be shared at the community level—in neighborhoods.
19. There is a need to convince teens that not having sex is the right thing to do.
20. Sometimes just tell them “Don’t do it.”
21. Develop role plays about how to deal with difficult sexual situations.
22. Youth lead programs can be a vehicle to disseminate information.
23. Policy-makers need to be educated about the importance of reducing teen pregnancy and the need for the recommended strategies.
24. Funding needs to be addressed in the policy.
25. The policy/curriculum needs to be research-based.

26. There was a suggestion concerning the need for a parent to opt their children out of a sex ed. class.
27. The importance of changing the school system's sex education policy was mentioned.
28. The importance of aligning community services.
29. The media needs to play a prominent, positive role in the community policy.

Some access issues related to preventing teen pregnancy included:

1. Access to birth control.
2. Locating Teen Matters so that their services are accessible.
3. Providing access on the east side of town.
4. Providing access to birth control at other places.
5. Affordability (of birth control)
6. Student access during school time.
7. Adequate funding.
8. List of services that are available (bi-lingual)

Internet-perhaps some online courses. Perhaps use the library as a resource.

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The next meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 10:00 at the Dept. of Health.