

The Partnership

Campus and Community united against dangerous drinking

Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, April 3, 2024 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.** **HUB-Robeson Center, Room 134, University Park**

Co-Chairs: Andrea Dowhower, Tom Fontaine

Subcommittee Chairs: Linda LaSalle (Education), Danny Shaha (High-Risk Events, co-chair)

Members Present: Corinne Dinoski, John Gardner, Chris Hickey, Kristen Holzwarth, Katy Larkin, Julian Morales, Mary O'Connor, Nora O'Toole, Megan Pepper, Jeff Sorg, Brandi Stuart, Zion Sykes, Eric White, Matt Winslow, Jason Zajac

Welcome New Group Members:

- Mary O'Connor, Panhellenic Council
- Megan Pepper, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Jason Zajac, University Police and Public Safety

State Patty's Day 2024 Report:

- The State Patty's Day 2024 Report is being finalized and will be distributed soon
- Data from State College Borough (John Gardner):
 - Reviewed the draft report with data on total calls, visits to Mt. Nittany Medical Center, police department statistics, borough employee overtime expenses, and parking department statistics:
 - Data continue to trend downward from the most recent high in 2022
 - The report should not be used to draw long-term conclusions, but initial impressions are encouraging
 - Community and student leaders have done well managing the event and communicating a message of responsibility
- Data from Student Accountability and Conflict Response (Katy Larkin):
 - Reviewed the draft report with data on total cases, total incident reports, and incident locations:
 - Data are comparable to football weekends and other large events
 - Individual and organizational conduct cases have both increased
 - Incident reports received from the State College Police Department have decreased, but reports are still being gathered
 - More incidents were reported on-campus than downtown



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- Residence Life referrals have significantly increased:
 - Potential causes for the increase are being assessed
- University Police and Public Safety (Jason Zajac):
 - Operated at normal staffing levels
 - Did not experience a significant increase in activity
- Open discussion:
 - Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (Eric White):
 - Sent an email soliciting reactions from approximately 200 community members and received 11 responses:
 - Most responses came from the Highlands community:
 - Neighborhood did not seem as crowded
 - Noise and vandalism complaints were down
 - People talked about:
 - Lines outside the bars were long during the day, and it was difficult to enter some locations for shopping
 - Others said it seemed quieter than a typical football weekend or even Arts Fest
 - Some sensed increased use of substances other than alcohol
 - Hotel State College (Jeff Sorg):
 - Numbers for some tavern locations were up, some were down
 - Generally busy, but no concerning issues were reported
 - Student Affairs (Danny Shaha):
 - Rode along with police to gauge student activity in the community
 - Observed a few apartment/house parties but nothing that rose to a concerning level
 - Fraternity and Sorority Life (Megan Pepper):
 - Student leaders demonstrated responsibility in planning and meeting with all chapters about expectations for the event
 - Panhellenic Council (Mary O'Connor):
 - Announcements were sent to groups before the weekend
 - Students were encouraged to not attend unregistered events
 - W.R. Hickey (Chris Hickey):
 - Overall sales in Centre County for the weekend were normal
 - Associated Realty Property Management (Kristen Holzwarth):
 - No major incidents were reported
 - Letters sent to landlords and tenants before the event were helpful

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Subcommittee Updates:

- High-Risk Events (Danny Shaha):
 - The group will meet on Thursday, April 4th
 - How does The Partnership define a high-risk event?
 - Discussion suggested considering if the event involves:
 - An increase in demand for emergency medical services, including ambulances and hospitals
 - An increased presence of police and other enforcement staff such as parking
 - An increase in security staff at local taverns
 - An increase in noise and vandalism complaints
 - Dangerous drinking:
 - How does The Partnership define “dangerous” drinking?
 - Also consider if alcohol use is the primary focus of the event:
 - State Patty’s Day vs. Luke Combs concert
 - The subcommittee has discussed examining its current efforts to see if there are more comprehensive strategies to employ
- Education (Linda LaSalle):
 - The Pennsylvania Collaborative:
 - The Pennsylvania Collaborative is being coordinated by the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance with funding from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board in a statewide effort to:
 - Bring together universities and state government to collectively work on policy-related issues
 - Provide statewide support for staff on campuses who conduct alcohol-related education and intervention
 - Partnership members Linda LaSalle and Tom Fontaine were joined by Darcy Rameker, Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, in a meeting with:
 - Jeff Hanley, Executive Director, Commonwealth Prevention Alliance
 - Steve Schmidt, former Director of Alcohol Education at the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
 - The State of Maryland has a similar project with 19 member colleges and universities:
 - <https://marylandcollaborative.org>
 - Started in 2012 with funding from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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Vision and Mission Statements:

- New statements will likely reflect an expanded focus to include other substance use beyond alcohol:
 - Partnership co-chairs will bring revised drafts to an upcoming Partnership meeting for the full group to consider

Updates and changes to the 2023-2024 Annual Alcohol Assessment Report:

- A meeting to discuss updates to the report will be scheduled in the next few weeks:
 - Open to all Partnership members
 - Notify Matt (mqw5838@psu.edu) or Linda (lal5@psu.edu) if interested in attending
- Previous reports are available on The Partnership's public website:
 - <https://sites.psu.edu/thepartnership/annual-reports/>
- Potential changes to discuss:
 - Should the report include new data on student cannabis use?
 - What other new data does the group want to include?
 - Should the report's format be changed?
- Work on the report will occur in May, June, and July:
 - The report will be finalized in August or September

Wrapping Up:

- Thank you to everyone for your contributions and help throughout the year, and we look forward to next year:
 - Work will continue over the summer, but the group will next meet in the fall.
- Please send feedback to Matt (mqw5838@psu.edu) if you would like to share your thoughts about:
 - Meeting format
 - Subcommittee format
 - Frequency of meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at Penn State's HUB-Robeson Center, Room 134.