

Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2007

Members present: Liza Makuch, Colleen Velluro, Andrew Marone, Colin Brennan, Thomas Ryba, Chip Jordan, John Jackman, Kevin Grunwald, Sean Cox, Cathy Cocks, Tom Szigethy, Mike Kurland, Julie Elkins, Betsy Paterson.

Spring Weekend Review:

John Jackman, Fire Marshal of Mansfield provided a wealth of data on spring weekend. Specifically he shared a memo he sent to Town Manager Matt Hart on Monday April 23, 2007 outlining the information regarding the preliminary statistics generated by the Virtual Command Post from Spring Weekend. The Virtual command post was a created to coordinate all services including the Mansfield Fire Department, UCONN Fire Department, State Police, UCONN Police, Ambulance and other emergency response personnel. This post was created by Colonel Davin and was staffed by members of the FBI, CT Intelligence Agency, and Homeland Security.

Jackman reported on the unique nature of such a command post. Most command posts of this type are only constructed for emergency situations not anticipated events. According to the statistics from this Spring Weekend and those of previous years, in professional terms, Spring Weekend is classified as a Mass Causality Incident.

There were a total of 138 alcohol-related issues by Spring Weekend participants in need of services (medical), or in response to disruptive/illegal behavior (police/fire). Friday night (at Celeron Apartments) had some of the most significant issues with 65 contacts for alcohol-related behavior, 28 individuals were transported to the hospital for emergency care, and 48 treated at the medical tent on-site. This was also the evening with the highest number of minors (under the age of 18) were involved in incidents (legal/medical). There was also 4 fights between participants. One altercation was quite violent and resulted in significant injuries to a minor that required hospitalization. However these numbers were down from the previous years.

The group talked about the fact that the weather for this Spring Weekend was quite welcoming to attendants where in previous years it has often rained and the temperatures were colder. This was particularly noticeable on Saturday night with an increase of participants. Jackman praised the students that have taken leadership for beginning a cultural change among Spring Weekend participants. He encouraged the students to move to a global policy approach of acting locally on how they want their environment to be.

The numbers of Fire Department (fire/medical) responses decreased on two out of the three nights; Friday (Celeron Apartment) and Saturday (X-Lot) night from previous years.

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2006	64 Fire Dept 18 treated 11 transported 2 outside fires	88 Fire Dept 27 treated 14 transported 5 outside fires	44 Fire Dept 5 treated 5 transported 3 outside fires
2007	82 Fire Dept 29 treated 16 transported 0 outside fires	83 Fire Dept 12 treated 10 transported 2 outside fires	8 Fire Dept 0 treated 0 transported 5 outside fires

Chip Jordan of the Mansfield Fire Department talked about the amount the number of volunteers and the hours they devote to Spring Weekend. The planning that precedes Spring Weekend is significant. This includes 40 volunteers for about 10 hours which calculates into 400 hours of planning prior to the event. Each night there were 82 volunteers in the field working 10 hours per night that calculates to over 800 volunteer hours. Jordan also talked about the fact that they must rent special equipment from outside vendors to handle the volume of equipment needed.

Sgt. Sean Cox talked about the severity of some of the issues regarding an increase in the visibility of gangs. While he thought the number of incidents decreased the level or severity of incidents increased which seemed to correspond to significant BAC levels of individuals treated. Sgt. Cox thought that it was helpful that we did not have the press conference. He thought that there was less coverage of Spring Weekend by the media and that this was positive. This was the first time that the 1998 tapes were not shown by the media.

Cathy Cocks of the UCONN Community Standards program talked the impact of individuals/groups returning to the residence halls on all three nights. She will be providing numbers of cases to the MCCP.

There was a broad discussion about the impact of prevention interventions for spring weekend and the addition of the student Union. The group generated a list of Strategies to Continue and Strategies to End for future Spring Weekends.

### Strategies to Continue

- 1) Neighborhood visits- they were very effective in reaching out to students to let them know that they are part of Mansfield community and articulating local ordinances and AOD education. The group recommends that these visits expand beyond Mansfield particularly to the Willington Apts., Willington Oaks, and Walden.
- 2) Liquor Control- they were stationed outside of several liquor stores ensuring the legality of purchases.
- 3) DUI stops- continue and perhaps move them farther out from campus, perhaps as far as 84 to stop potential participant at the exit.
- 4) Student Union- it was great to have it open, recommend that the level of programming increase and the publicity for this alternative increase.
- 5) Student Rally- large turn-out, good collaboration. Recommend that the media be invited to this event next year.
- 6) Student Bracelets- continues to be a good sense of pride and would like to see the student only bracelets continue perhaps with some type of reward, or discounts associated with wearing this pride bracelet.

### Strategies to End

- 1) Saturday night concert. In order to break-even they need to market to non-students and this increases our number of guests. There should be other activities for students that are not compatible with a party such as a concert.

### Strategies to Initiate

- 1) Ticketing illegally parked cars- the concept is to decrease the comfort of individuals visiting the university to cut down on outside visitors. There is also a perceived hazard in the place that cars are parked on that weekend that may block entrances, fire lanes, and exits.
- 2) Engage contact with Division of Children and Family Services- ideally have someone on-site to work with individuals under 18, if not on-site report all under 18 incidents to DCF for investigation.
- 3) EO Smith personnel- to have staff on-site that can identify EO Smith students, document their presence, talk with students that night to urge them to leave, and follow-up at school.
- 4) Construct an analysis of the cost of Spring Weekend.
- 5) Write a "White Paper" on Spring Weekend. Julie will work with the UCONN to obtain their numbers and Betsy will provide numbers for the town. Julie, Betsy and Kevin will meet to write the paper to be concluded by September 1, 2007.

- 6) Conduct an analysis of articles regarding spring weekend from 1998 to 2007. Julie will conduct a qualitative analysis using qualitative software to chart any trends or changes in the Daily Campus regarding Spring Weekend. This will be complete by September 1, 2007.
- 7) A small group will meet this summer lead by Sean Cox to create proactive strategies to prevent and respond to large gatherings in the Fall semester.

Michael Kurland, Director of University Health Services attended the meeting to discuss the issues that were raised concerning the weekend hours of Health Services.

Kurland provided a brief history of the limiting weekend hours back to 1995 when budget cuts were required during a budget year and the hours were cut to meet the budget. Through this process it was discovered that there were very few contacts with students from Sat. 5pm- Sunday Am, and Sunday 5pm-Monday. Therefore the Health Center is closed during those hours. To date, no information has come forward to indicate that the need has increased during the hours that they are closed. However, there is a back-up system in place during these hours by phone. For medical emergencies there is nurse on call via phone. Most of these calls result in referrals to be seen the next day at Health Services and that they are all conditions that are not emergencies. Health Services is not staff nor has the equipment for emergencies and triage like the hospital therefore all most all emergencies are referred to the hospital.

#### Summer Meetings

Betsy and Julie will set a date in June and July for meetings based on availability/schedules.