

Saving Lives Camarillo Coalition Meeting
Chabad of Camarillo – 5800 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 112
Camarillo, CA 93012

MINUTES

Thursday, April 28th, 2011
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Rabbi Aryeh Lang, Director of Chabad of Camarillo and Richard Weiner, Saving Lives Coalition Coordinator welcomed the Coalition Committee members in attendance:

Susan Blauner	Project Coordinator, Saving Lives SFV
Jim Brady	Senior Care Manager
Jazmin Chapman	Student – Camarillo High School
Steve DeCesari	Commander, Camarillo Law Enforcement
Reverend Linda Fisher	Reverend, Spiritual Living
Rabbi Aryeh Lang	Chabad of Camarillo, Executive Director
Joseph Lutman	SFV Saving Lives Coalition Committee member, Life Coach
Wendy-Joy Moses	Camarillo High School Campus Supervisor
Rabbi Yosef Muchnik	Rabbi, Chabad of Camarillo
Vickory Steinman	Parent/Teacher
Gail F. Wander	Board Member – Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo
Richard Weiner	Coordinator

Rabbi Lang reported on the successful Saving Lives Coalition forum event at the Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo on March 14, 2011 presented in conjunction with the support of Behavioral Health of Ventura. He informed the committee that part of our grant required we look for sources of funding to match dollar for dollar. Rabbi Lang informed us that this Saturday, April 30th, there is a National *Take Back Drug* Program in effect to drop-off all unused and/or expired prescription and over the counter medications at local police stations throughout the country; which is picked up by the local Drug Enforcement Agency and disposed. It was noted by Rabbi Lang and Commander Steve DeCesari that our Camarillo police station has a locked bin in the main lobby available for drop-off Monday through Fridays 8 AM to 5 PM for the past year and a half. Jim Brady was interested to know if the labels needed to be removed from the containers. Commander DeCesari informed our committee that the unused drugs are removed from the plastic containers which are then recycled; labels need not be removed from the containers and the drugs are collected throughout the Ventura County and burned in one central location. Gail F. Wander questioned if a locked bin could be placed in the club house in Leisure Village. Commander DeCesari said, “the bins need to be under constant supervision and monitored.” Rabbi Muchnik suggested giving an incentive to drop off the drugs at the police station. Perhaps a corporate organization and/or offer a discount in local stores – CVS (gift certificate) – looking for positive public relations.

Rabbi Lang will speak to the manager of CVS. We need to figure out a tracking plan per person proposal. Commander DeCesari commented some local stores have a local budget, i.e.: Target. Rite Aid has envelopes on their counters to put your unused drugs in and mail at a cost of each envelope of \$3.99, commented Susan Blauner.

Rabbi Lang reviewed the California Healthy Kids Survey enclosed in our packet, which is filled out by the high school students every year. The entire survey is 72 pages long, commented Richard Weiner. The numbers are up 2% to 3% across the board specific to prescription medications.

Based on our community assessment and new findings, we would like to present a new grant proposal to the county, remarked Rabbi Lang. We would like to submit a request to Behavioral Health Ventura County; based on our findings from our town hall meeting and focus groups offering an action plan. Richard Weiner commented the numbers are up across the country across the board. The *CHKS* survey does not have the last 30 day use of prescription drugs. Information collected from the surveys noted; drugs are available in the schools, drugs are not harmful, easy access and available in homes. Our job is to make this information more known to the community.

Wendy-Joy Moses suggested bringing the schools together at an event. She remarked, Principal Glenn Lipman is supportive of our coalition. Associate Student Body seniors can really make it happen with posting flyers with a positive message. Perhaps we can give an incentive to the students to get involved. When a speaker was brought to Camarillo High School to talk about alcohol related abuse issues, many students talked about their friends who were in trouble or were lost to drug overdose. Jasmine remarked that it is challenging to get the students to attend Camarillo High School program speakers.

Richard Weiner suggested getting the kids involved in a community scan by walking the community and taking pictures of establishments where students have access to purchasing over the counter meds which are easily accessible and stores that sell alcohol to underage youth. This community scan has been successful in other communities. Kids know where these stores are. Jim Brady was concerned about the safety of the students involved. Richard Weiner commented that the youth would not have contact with the store owners. Wendy Joy and Jasmine commented that the Associate Student Body was just one class of 50 students who are very active; and meet every day at Camarillo High School during 4th period. . Ms. Wander suggested getting Associate Student Body youth in middle schools involved as well. Vickory suggested we should also include Rio Mesa High School, Bonaventura, Technical High School, and Casa Pacifica. Rabbi Lang commented that he has been in touch with Rio Mesa High School. Wendy suggested Richard coming to the Camarillo High School, May, 2011 PTSA meeting.

Wendy Joy and Richard Weiner commented that students are walking around with drugs on campus, either selling them or giving them away to friends. Ms. Wander and Jim Brady commented drugs are easily accessible from the jocks on campus. Pain prescription medications are easily prescribed by doctors for pain caused by student sport injuries. The focus of the Drug Free Community Program is alcohol and marijuana remarked Richard Weiner. We are going to submit a proposal to Ventura County Behavioral Health to implement our prevention plan for

prescription and over the counter medication abuse. The proposal will include a detailed budget. Based upon what we have submitted so far, Richard is sure the county knows it's a problem and aware it needs to be dealt with, and we are the ones to handle it. Jim Brady wanted to know what we are asking of the county. Richard replied, the Ventura County Behavioral Health Prevention grant is up to \$50,000.00. Jim Brady asked if we have political support. We have the support of Ventura County Behavioral Health, responded Richard Weiner. The numbers are increasing and getting worse commented Richard Weiner. Mayor Mike Morgan and Supervisor Kathy Long spoke at our Saving Lives Camarillo town hall meeting, March 14, 2011.

Vickory Steinman feels educating youth to making better choices is an area which needs more attention, in addition to giving youth more opportunities to hang out locally, i.e.: Boys and Girls Clubs. It is important to get out a good message to the community. Richard stressed that the coalition's current focus is on how to get the youth involved. Richard suggested pin pointing a date and venue for the youth event which will increase our coalition youth involvement. Wendy Joy Moses suggested getting the Department of Parks and Recreation involved, suggestions included; a picnic, a dance, a concert at the park. The middle school students are aware of the Friday night *Stomp Dances* at the Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo which attracts between 400 – 500 teenagers at each dance, commented Ms. Steinman and Ms. Wander collectively. Jasmine Chapman informed us Camarillo High School has dances in the evening which are well attended. Rabbi Lang suggested Sky High for an event. Richard Weiner is going to contact Sky High for price quotes.

Ms. Steinman recommended getting flyers ready for distribution for back to school in September. Jim Brady was shocked to know children want to get numb – if we do not have a good plan we are wasting our time; we are working against peer pressure and students handing out pills, he remarked. Getting high makes some youth feel like big shots. The coalition needs some kind of marketing program, suggested Joseph Lutman. Mr. Lutman suggested showing students accident scene pictures and bringing them to visit jails. Students think they are bullet proof. Scare tactics usually does not work, commented Richard Weiner.

Next scheduled meeting May 24th 2011 @ 5:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail F. Wander
May 10th, 2011

