

As promised, here are the things that I'd like to be sure we share with the other members of the Steering Committee – all very noteworthy info from the Alcohol/Drug Abuse focus group that we'd like to be sure others are aware of.

Meth

The opioid crisis is not going away and the work of that coalition under Drug Free Communities (DFC) will remain vibrant. However, regrettably, we also need to include meth in our efforts for the following reasons:

The north end of the Fox River Valley is already seeing more meth than heroin/opioid abuse; Fond du Lac will follow suit.

Our Drug Task Force Investigators are beginning to seize increasingly greater amounts of meth on our cities street.

One of the drug abuse treatment and recovery centers in Fond du Lac is now reporting that they are seeing more meth addiction than heroin/opioids.

So, we predicted that meth would be the next illegal drug wave that we encounter in FdL and, based on the aforementioned, it is safe to now say that it is now here.

In the interest of getting out in front of this more quickly than our nation did with the opioid/heroin epidemic, we are now starting to get the word out that meth is not a safer alternative than heroin/opioids. Along those lines, we will be hosting a Meth Town Hall meeting on November 30 at 6:30PM. We will be holding it at the Goodrich Little Theater. The outline of the presentation is still being put together but it will predominantly focus on the basics – what it is, the dangers associated with it, and treatment challenges.

Opioids

DFC, the Police Department, and the FdL Senior Center recently partnered to hold a special, 2 hour, drug drop event at the FdL Senior Center. We were astonished that 59 lbs of pills were turned in! That's about as much as we collect in our drug drop box in an average month. Based on the success of that event, we will be doing it again in the future. Additionally, hearing about that success, the City of Ripon Senior Center is going to be offering a similar opportunity at a date in the future.

Alcohol

On November 08 an educational forum on our 'Community Best Practices Toolkit' for special events where alcohol is sold will be offered in the Village of Eden (with invites going to various groups from throughout FdL County).