

## Alcohol Focus Group

02/10/09

**Where do they use?** Old Silver Beach, Power lines, BeeBee Woods, Cape Cod Mall in Hyannis

**When do they use?** Weekends and inservice days are high use times; Also long weekends, Times when kids have time on their hands; Special events

**Availability:** Parents buy alcohol by the bulk – makes it easier for kids to sneak some

Many have fake ID – feel entitled to have it

College kids returning home provide it to younger siblings and friends

Parents hosting parties – feels as tho it is a controlled environment. They take the keys, make the kids spend the night. These are regular year round events – but are more frequent at times of celebrations.

Kids find out about about parties in locker room, my space, facebook, cell phones, texting in groups.

Cryptic messages are used so they can't be intercepted.

Can't get Oxycontin by prescription right now. On back order.

### **Adult Attitudes:**

Lots of divorced parents not collaborating or working together.

Expectation from adults is that kids will drink. Some parents think it is better to teach moderation rather than abstinence. So kids are receiving mixed messages from multiple adults.

**Teen attitudes:** Some kids drink to get drunk.

Kids use out of boredom, depression and anxiety, stress reduction.

Weed is “the good old standby”. Seems like 1 in 7 peers use MJ.

Kids know that MJ is more potent than it was years ago – doesn't phase them.

2 groups of users at Falmouth High – 1 doesn't care at all; the other uses because they are under a lot of pressure and they use it to blow off steam.

Alcohol is considered hum drum now. There is no glamour to it.

Badge of honor to have a disciplinary action

Hide smell with peanut butter

**Community Norms:** So kids are receiving mixed messages from multiple adults.

No clarity of community norms and expectations.

Tourism industry. Celebrations and relaxation incorporate alcohol as the norm.

**Consequences** – no real sense that police will catch you. So consequences depend on how strict the parents are. Some threaten grounding.

Enforcement of athletic policies is not consistent. Some coaches look the other way.

Some students who are athletes or college bound worry about the consequences.

Sports profiling – students in popular sports are scrutinized much more than students in less popular sports (football, basketball, hockey).

### **What do we need to research?**

Mass laws; Falmouth regulations

Data from police stings, reports, arrests, logs.

Compare data re: SA problems on Cape versus the rest of Mass.