

**NORTON HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF NORTON  
Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

The Health Advisory Board (NHAB) of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in the Shirley L. McGuire Community Center Boardroom. Chairman Daniel Karant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT:** Daniel Karant, Nancy Delnay, Ken Braman, Michael Safron

**ABSENT:** Dalia Spisak

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mike Meusel, Barberton Health District (BHD)

**II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, April 16, 2008. **Chairman Karant called for a motion. Mr. Ken Braman moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Michael Safron. ROLL CALL: Mr. Braman-Yes, Mr. Safron-Yes, Ms. Delnay-Abstain, Mr. Karant-Yes. The motion passed 3-0-1, approving the minutes as submitted. They were signed and processed accordingly.**

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Karant asked if there was any old business. Mike Meusel, Barberton Health District (BHD) stated he had the following updates for the Board:

**A.) Schools**

Jerrold Law was enacted several years ago. He said this law helps secure safety rules and regulations in schools. He said the State laws and regulations have since been updated. He stated there have been no issues with either of the Norton or Barberton school districts. He said this update to the Board was for information purposes only. He said if anyone would like to have information on this issue, please ask.

**B.) Norton Cider Festival**

This group is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 28. He said Pam Huber from the BHD would be attending the meeting. He said Ms. Huber would also be available to answer any questions.

**C.) Norton Pub**

The Norton Pub was granted a twenty-two month extension to connect to the available sanitary sewer line by May 19, 2008. He said this time-line has expired. He said BHD has been notified if his current attempts to seek funding to tie-in to the sanitary sewer fail, this will lead to discussing the case with the Prosecutors office. He said he has been given a final notice. Ms. Delnay asked if there had been any communication from the Norton Pub. Mr. Meusel said Norton Pub is trying to seek funding from other sources. Ms. Delnay said she heard he was going to do some remodeling, but hasn't heard anything in the twenty-two months. Mr. Meusel said he has until the end of this month to respond to the BHD. Ms. Delnay asked what the consequence is to no action. Mr. Meusel said usually the Prosecutor would hold a hearing and give a reasonable time for a final chance to comply. He said if the fines for the violations were not collected, Norton Pub would be cited. Mr. Ken Braman said the owner has told the City he has considered selling the business. Mr. Karant said the City has given the Norton Pub a few years to correct any issues. He said the Norton Pub has been given every recommendation and consideration. Ms. Delnay said

every resource and all assistance have also been offered. She asked how many other businesses are left to tie into septic. Mr. Meusel said there are several. Ms. Delnay asked if the Norton Pub had enough credits to tie into the sanitary sewer. Mr. Meusel said he would need to research the information.

**D.) Beldick Motel**

The Beldick Motel still needs to connect to sanitary sewer lines. Mr. Braman stated the Beldick Motel is scheduled to be at Sheriff's Auction on July 8, 2008. He said the auction is listed on the Summit County's Sheriff's Website. Mr. Meusel said it has been a long fight for BHD to get the Beldick Motel to connect to sanitary sewer. He said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also been involved with enforcement action. He said this action would either have the Beldick Motel tie-in to sanitary sewer or secure a different system. Ms. Delnay asked what design the Beldick Motel was looking at. Mr. Braman said the Beldick Motel was considering an on-site system instead of connecting to the sanitary sewer. Mr. Meusel said the EPA would require a design that is consistent with regulations for the size and occupancy of the property.

**E.) Sunset Trailer Park**

There have been numerous calls from City officials on this site. He said there are numerous violations and maintenance issues. He said there have been several complaints on broken windows, skirting and trailer park maintenance. He said there have been nineteen different violations at this site. Mr. Karant asked how many units are at this site. Mr. Meusel said he was not sure. He said the owners of the trailer park are being very cooperative. He said the owners admit they needed help on getting maintenance problems fixed with unit owners. He said BHD would post maintenance violations on individual units. He said the trailer park owners said they were grateful for BHD's help. He said if the violations were not corrected, the Prosecutor would schedule a public hearing. He said they have been given sixty days to correct park and maintenance violations. Mr. Karant said the City does not have a code that actually sets the standard for maintenance for this type of property. He asked if the City is considering addressing a standard for the City. Mr. Braman said mobile homes were not allowed in Norton. He said the only reason this site is in Norton is because it was grandfathered in. Mr. Karant asked if a Maintenance Code was something that should be addressed. Mr. Braman said Council had voted on a Maintenance Code several years ago. He said he expected another Maintenance Code would be addressed in the near future. He said the new Prosecutor remarked the city needs a new Maintenance Code. Mr. Karant asked if this would be the responsibility on BHD or the City of Norton. Mr. Meusel said the City would be responsible.

**F.) Scrap Tire Ordinance**

Mr. Braman asked if the Scrap Tire Ordinance was complete. Mr. Meusel said it was. He said BHD would start enforcing the Ordinance this summer.

**G.) Hazardous Waste Pick Up**

Mr. Braman asked if there would be hazardous waste pick up this year. Mr. Meusel said he was not aware of anything scheduled. He said the Stow area has a drop off that is always open. He said this area does not have anything scheduled. Mr. Michael Safron asked if computer monitors were accepted at the Stow site. Mr. Meusel said computer monitors were not accepted. Ms. Delnay asked how much a recycle program would cost. Mr. Meusel said he applied for a Grant of \$18,000.00 (eighteen thousand dollars). He received the Grant and said this program was well received.

**H.) Hypodermic Canisters**

Mr. Karant asked if hypodermic canisters would be available for medical waste. Mr. Meusel said he thought there was a \$10.00 disposal fee on the canisters. He said the BHD could not absorb the cost anymore and now has to charge a disposal fee. He said sharp objects are brought in constantly for recycling. Mr. Karant said this was a service BHD provides that most people are not aware of. He said he would like to get this information out to the public. Mr. Meusel said when the program started, flyers were distributed and the information made available at all pharmacies.

**I.) C&D Disposal Landfill – Wadsworth Road**

This site reopened Tuesday, May 20, 2008, after thirty days of being closed. He said the owner closed the site voluntarily. He said this close was done to upgrade the interior conditions of the landfill. He said this upgrade included grading, seeding, mulching and grading of storm drainage structures. He said this upgrade also included two ground water monitoring wells. He said an extraction well was to be scheduled for installation soon. He stated the design is consistent with EPA standards. He said this upgrade would make a significant difference at this site.

**J.) C&D Disposal – McCoy Road**

This site has just completed a licensed modification. He said the facility asked to shift their active license disposal area into the original area licensed property. He said BHD used this licensed modification to require the facility to install a leachate containment barrier around the entire site. He said this was not required by BHD regulations. He said since the facility was in close proximity to the municipal drinking wells, BHD thought it necessary to have complete containment on the site.

Chairman Karant asked if there was any further old business; there was none.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Karant asked if all members were able to review the information emailed from the Mayor on the Alcohol Consumption Prevention Model (see attached). He said he would like to have the Boards thoughts and ideas on this issue. Mr. Safron said he thought the information was meant to be a college project, not high school. He said on page 4 they refer to college peers. He said there might be the perception by teens of negative consequences for being truthful about the consumption of alcohol. Mr. Karant said he thought maybe the Board was helping someone with a thesis instead of helping the community. There was general discussion on the questionnaire and if the Board should follow up on the information. It was decided this questionnaire was not something the Board could use for the community.

Mr. Karant asked if the guests in the meeting had any questions or concerns to discuss.

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, 4624 Albert Drive, Norton, Ohio, 44203 asked if the Board had heard anything on the Mosquito Abatement District (MAD). Chairman Karant stated Ed Binic, of BHD, usually has updates on the MAD and was not available for tonight’s meeting. Mr. Meusel said he would try to answer any questions Ms. Whipkey had. Ms. Whipkey stated she wanted to know if the issue was appealed. Mr. Meusel said he knew they had a meeting but did not know the outcome of the meeting. He said if anyone had questions or concerns that they could call Jeff Stewert, of Stewert’s Pest Control. He said Stewert’s Pest Control would be taking over the MAD program.

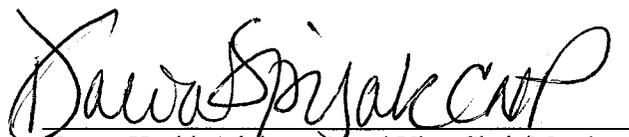
Mr. Karant stated Emergency Preparedness meetings would be held soon. He said these meetings are usually held four times a year. He said the group is putting together a list of pharmacies for dispensing anti-virals. He said he would like everyone to be aware of this group because the next test area would be in Norton. Mr. Braman said he knew emergency shelters were tested at Decker Park in the past. Mr. Karant said this emergency training was something that needed to be planned. He said communication was the number one issue during these tests.

Chairman Karant asked if there was any other new business; there was none.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Karant announced that the next NHAB meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2008. There being no further business coming before the Board, Chairman Karant adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

  
Norton Health Advisory Board Chair/Vice-Chair

  
Norton Health Advisory Board Vice-Chair/Member

6-18-08  
Date

# **Alcohol Consumption Prevention Model:**

## **Clarifying Students' Misperceptions**

**C. Kevin Synnott, Ph.D.**

**860 455-0768**

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### **Purpose**

Students clearly overestimate the consumption of alcohol by their peers and believe that their peers are more comfortable in drinking situations than they are themselves. These inaccurate perceptions regarding the norms associated with drinking may encourage students to drink more alcoholic beverages than they normally would to "fit in." This prevention model is proposed as a way to help incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors realize that they do not have to drink alcohol to develop a feeling of belonging. This strategy is designed to: (a) clarify students' misperceptions regarding their peers' alcohol consumption, (b) clarify students' misperceptions regarding their peers' feelings of comfort in drinking situations, and (c) generate ideas for alcohol prevention that are campus-specific.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Freshmen**

The following recommendations are set in soft clay. They can and should be molded to conform to the unique characteristics of each school.

1. It is suggested that the two hour sessions be incorporated into the curriculum as part of the mandatory one credit health course most schools offer for incoming freshmen.

2. It is suggested that the sessions be facilitated by two individuals, that is, an educator and an assistant. The assistant should be a student volunteer from the group of students participating in the session. This helps to develop credibility.
3. It is suggested that the sessions begin in mid October and continue through the school year until all of the incoming freshmen have participated.
4. It is suggested that no more than 25 students participate in a session.
5. It is suggested that the sessions be held in classrooms with desks that can be moved in order to form five groups with five participants in each group.
6. It is suggested that groups be segmented by sex to reduce the potential for "peacocking."
7. It is suggested that the educator and the assistant conduct a mock session with colleagues before the actual sessions begin to get a feel for the process.
8. It is suggested that the ideas regarding prevention activities generated by the participants be implemented whenever possible. Those who create, tend to support.

## **The Instrument**

The instrument is used to measure the following: (a) students' drinking habits, (b) students' perceptions regarding their peers' consumption of alcohol, (c) students' feelings of comfort in drinking situations, and (d) students' perceptions regarding their peers' feelings of comfort in drinking situations.

The questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Scores are calculated for the following categories: (a) Self, (b) TMS (i.e., perceptions regarding the typical male student), and (c) TFS (i.e., perceptions regarding the typical female student). The frequency scores for beer, wine, and liquor are

calculated by averaging the responses for all students for items 1, 3, and 5 respectively for each category. The quantity scores for beer, wine, and liquor are calculated by averaging the responses for all students for items 2, 4, and 6 respectively for each category. The comfort scores are calculated by averaging the responses for all students for items 7 - 12 for each category.

## **Get Acquainted Exercise**

The educator forms five groups with five students in each group. Students place their first names in front of them on folded index cards. Students are asked to take turns and share something personal about themselves with the members of their group. For example, students often share information regarding their majors, personal hobbies, pets, favorite sports teams, and so forth. Approximately every three minutes the educator tells students that it is time for the next student to share.

## **Procedures**

The following steps are offered as a blueprint and are intended to facilitate the process in a manner that encourages students to have fun and learn at the same time:

- Step 1. The educator administers the instrument. Students do not write their names on the instrument.
- Step 2. The educator forms five groups with five students in each group.
- Step 3. Students are given instructions for the Get Acquainted Exercise.
- Step 4. The educator with the assistant scores the instruments while students get acquainted.

- Step 5. The educator writes the results in table format on the blackboard. SELF, TMS, and TFS are written across as column headings. Frequency, Quantity, and Comfort are written vertically as row headings. The responses for the category labeled Self represent the actual norms associated with quantity, frequency, and feelings of comfort in drinking situations. The responses for the categories labeled TMS and TFS represent the students' perceived norms associated with quantity, frequency, and feelings of comfort in drinking situations. The differences should be clear.
- Step 6. The educator asks students to work together with their group members to develop four or five ideas that might be used to clarify these misperceptions. Students are asked to select a spokesperson to report their group's results to the class.
- Step 7. The educator calls time and asks students to return their chairs to the regular classroom setting.
- Step 8. The educator calls on each spokesperson in turn and asks each one to share one idea. This process is repeated four or five times until the students' lists are exhausted. Students are encouraged to join in at any time during the discussion.
- Step 9. The educator closes the session by asking students to continue the discussion outside of the classroom with friends and acquaintances who were not present.

**Note.** Recommendation three suggests that the process should begin in October. The reason for this is that prevention specialists need students' perceptions associated with their college peers' consumption of alcohol and feelings of comfort in drinking situations and not their perceptions associated with their high school peers' consumption of alcohol and feelings of comfort in drinking situations.

### **Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors**

The collection of campus specific information regarding students' misperceptions associated with their peers' consumption of alcoholic beverages and their feelings of comfort in drinking situations from all students is essential for any intervention or prevention effort. Administrators may inform returning

sophomores, juniors, and seniors that completing a campus survey is mandatory. This might be accomplished by informing students that they will not receive their student identification cards or dining cards from the registrar until they fill out the survey which takes approximately 10 minutes. Resident assistants can be helpful with this process.

Once the information is collected and analyzed it can be merged with the data collected from freshmen. This information can then be disseminated to the entire college or university community.

An alternative method for gathering the needed information that is less expensive is for administrators and prevention specialists to administer the instrument developed for this study annually to a random sample of the students attending their institutions.

The Questionnaire is presented below.

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**ISN\***

**Alcohol Use and Feelings of Comfort in Drinking Situations**

**A Survey of Perceptions**

This study is being conducted to determine students' drinking patterns and perceptions concerning alcohol use. Your participation is greatly appreciated. **DO NOT** write your name on the questionnaire to insure anonymity. Your participation is voluntary and you may stop at any time. **Please circle your answers.**

**Year:** Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior  
**Gender:** Male Female **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ (please write in)

**Residence during school semester:** 1. on campus 2. off campus

**Grade Point Average** (4.0 ="A", 3.0="B", etc.):

1. 4.0 2. 3.5 3. 3.0 4. 2.5 5. 2.0 6. under 2.0

**Race:** 1. White or Caucasian 2. Black or Afro-American  
3. Oriental or Asian American 4. Native American  
5. Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please write in)

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**Section I: This section contains questions regarding your consumption of alcoholic beverages and your perceptions of the typical male student's and typical female student's consumption of alcohol. Please be as honest as you can and if you are unsure, please offer your best judgment. Please circle only one number corresponding to your answer under the appropriate heading.**

**TMS = Typical Male Student    TFS = Typical Female Student**

1. Students at ISN, on average, usually drink beer:

- |   | <u>Self</u> | <u>TMS</u> | <u>TFS</u> |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1. once a year or less                              | 1 2 3 4 5   | 1 2 3 4 5  | 1 2 3 4 5  |
| 2. more than once a year but less than once a month |             |            |            |
| 3. at least once a month but less than once a week  |             |            |            |
| 4. at least once a week but not every day           |             |            |            |
| 5. every day  |             |            |            |

2. Students at ISN, on average, at any one time usually drink:

- |  | <u>Self</u> | <u>TMS</u> | <u>TFS</u> |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1. less than 1 can of beer or tavern glass                 | 1 2 3 4 5   | 1 2 3 4 5  | 1 2 3 4 5  |
| 2. 1 or 2 cans of beer or tavern glasses                   |             |            |            |
| 3. 3 or 4 cans of beer or tavern glasses                   |             |            |            |
| 4. 5 or 6 cans of beer or tavern glasses                   |             |            |            |
| 5. more than 1 six pack (6 or more cans or tavern glasses) |             |            |            |

3. Students at ISN, on average, usually drink wine:

- |   | <u>Self</u> | <u>TMS</u> | <u>TFS</u> |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1. once a year or less                              | 1 2 3 4 5   | 1 2 3 4 5  | 1 2 3 4 5  |
| 2. more than once a year but less than once a month |             |            |            |
| 3. at least once a month but less than once a week  |             |            |            |
| 4. at least once a week but not every day           |             |            |            |
| 5. every day  |             |            |            |

4. Students at ISN, on average, at any one time usually drink :

1. less than 1 glass of wine
2. 1 or 2 wine glasses
3. 3 or 4 wine glasses
4. 5 or 6 wine glasses
5. over 6 wine glasses

<u>Self</u>	<u>TMS</u>	<u>TFS</u>
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

5. Students at ISN, on average, usually drink liquor or spirits (whisky, gin, vodka, mixed drinks, etc.):

1. once a year or less
2. more than once a year but less than once a month
3. at least once a month but less than once a week
4. at least once a week but not every day
5. every day

<u>Self</u>	<u>TMS</u>	<u>TFS</u>
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

6. Students at ISN, on average, at any one time usually drink:

1. less than 1 drink with liquor or spirits
2. 1 or 2 drinks with liquor or spirits
3. 3 or 4 drinks with liquor or spirits
4. 5 or 6 drinks with liquor or spirits
5. over 6 drinks with liquor or spirits

<u>Self</u>	<u>TMS</u>	<u>TFS</u>
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

**Section II: This section contains statements regarding how comfortable you feel in drinking situations and your perceptions of how comfortable the typical male student and the typical female student feels in drinking situations. If you are unsure, please offer your best judgment. Please read each statement and circle the number that indicates how much you agree with the statement under the appropriate heading.**

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**1=Strongly Disagree    2=Disagree    3=Agree  
4=Strongly Agree**

- |   |                        |                       |                       |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 7. Students at <u>ISN</u> feel comfortable in situations where alcohol is consumed.                   | <u>Self</u><br>1 2 3 4 | <u>TMS</u><br>1 2 3 4 | <u>TFS</u><br>1 2 3 4 |
| 8. Students at <u>ISN</u> feel comfortable in situations where the main activity is drinking.         | 1 2 3 4                | 1 2 3 4               | 1 2 3 4               |
| 9. Students at <u>ISN</u> feel comfortable with a date who has been drinking.                         | 1 2 3 4                | 1 2 3 4               | 1 2 3 4               |
| 10. Students at <u>ISN</u> feel comfortable at parties with strangers where alcohol is served.        | 1 2 3 4                | 1 2 3 4               | 1 2 3 4               |
| 11. Students at <u>ISN</u> feel comfortable at parties with strangers who have had too much to drink. | 1 2 3 4                | 1 2 3 4               | 1 2 3 4               |
| 12. Students at <u>ISN</u> feel comfortable at parties where drinking games are played.               | 1 2 3 4                | 1 2 3 4               | 1 2 3 4               |

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**

**\*ISN = Insert School Name**

The statements regarding the quantity and frequency of alcohol use were developed by Dr. Ruth Engs at Indiana University during the 1973-1974 academic year. I have written permission from Dr. Engs to use these statements. The statements were modified to include (a) the University's name to make them campus specific, and (b) students' perceptions regarding their peers' consumption of alcohol.

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To: mayorkoontz@cityofnorton.org  
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2008 10:34:02 AM (GMT-0500) America/New\_York  
Subject: Norms Clarification

Dear Mayor Koontz,

The following information may prove to be helpful in reducing substance abuse problems. Would you please share this with members of the community who are involved with substance abuse prevention, for example, the police and school administrators? Thank you.

The following information regarding college, university, and high school students' misperceptions associated with the consumption of alcohol is not new. However, the alcohol abuse prevention model designed to address these social norms attached to this email is unique.

College, university, and high school students inaccurately perceive that their peers drink more alcohol than they do themselves. College students also misperceive that their peers are more comfortable in drinking situations than they are themselves. (I have not studied high school students' perceptions of comfort in drinking situations. However, they may have the same misperceptions as college students.) Students may drink more to try and fit in. They already fit in, but they do not realize it. Clarifying these misperceptions might result in fewer alcohol related problems in our schools.

I completed my Ph.D. in the Professional Higher Education Administration Program at the University of Connecticut in 2000. My dissertation is titled Effect of Clarifying Students' Misperceptions Associated With Alcohol Consumption at a Connecticut Public University. (I would be happy to email you a copy of my dissertation.) The Alcohol Consumption Prevention Model: Clarifying Students' Misperceptions and the valid and reliable questionnaire used with this model from my research are attached to this email. A panel of experts from a university community reviewed the statements for content validity. The instrument was tested for construct validity and reliability with a random sample consisting of 302 university students.

Administrators and alcohol abuse prevention specialists may use this innovative model and find it helpful in reducing alcohol related problems in their schools. Also, the Model might be used with the D.A.R.E. Program. The model is unique because it addresses not only students' misperceptions regarding their peers' consumption and frequency of consumption associated with drinking alcoholic beverages, but also their misperceptions regarding their peers' feelings of comfort in drinking situations. The model was designed for college students. Therefore, it may need to be slightly modified for use at the junior high and high school levels. For example, the process might begin at the beginning of the school year.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Please let me know if the model helps members of your community. Thank you.

Most sincerely,

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