

Bellingham-Western Washington University Campus Community Coalition

Friday, November 4, 2005
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center
3333 Squalicum Parkway

Attendees:

Alanna Ahern, WWU Associated Students
Anna Carey, WWU New Student Programs
Anne Mackie, York Neighborhood Assn
Barbara Brandt, South Hill Neighborhood Assn
Barbara Hudson, NW Rental Owners Assn
Barney Goltz, Cornwall Neighborhood Assn
Belle Shalom, Whatcom Human Rights Task Force
Beth Fryback, Samish Neighborhood Assn
Bob Hofstetter, WWU Campus Recreation
Brian Tines, The Royal/Fairhaven Pub and Martini Bar
Brian Waller, The Beaver Inn
Buff Schoenfeld, WWU President's Office
Chelsey LaRair, WWU Student
Chris Neumann, Bellingham resident
Christine Burkhart, Bellingham Police Dept
Dale Monroe, Puget Neighborhood Assn
Darby Galligan, City of Bellingham Planning Division
Dick Conoboy, Samish Neighborhood Assn
Elva Giddings, WWU Prevention and Wellness Services
Erica Ellis, WWU Partners in Reading and Writing
Erin King-Luce, WWU Students in Service
Erwin Lloyd, Puget Neighborhood Assn
Frank Ward, Rental Property Owner
Gayle Shipley, WWU Environmental Health & Safety
Gus Zadra, WWU Student
Heidi Schiller, WWU Prevention and Wellness Services
Jan Rystrom, Hagggen Foods
Jim Schuster, WWU Facilities
Jim Shaw, WWU Police
Joe Fuller, Whatcom County Health Department
Joe VanLaeken, York Neighborhood Assn/WCC Student
John Hymas, Happy Valley Neighborhood Assn
Kathryn Hanowell, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office
Katie Bohannon, WWU Student
Katy Sebens, WWU Student
Kelly Stone, Debt Recovery Management Inc
Kenny Davis, WWU Student
Kevin Majkut, WWU Viking Union Student Activities
Kunle Ojikutu, WWU Office of Student Affairs
Lara Welker, Campus Community Coalition
Leslee Douglas, WWU New Student Services
Lidia Tillman-McAdoo, Rental Property Owner
Lisa Friend, ReSources for Sustainable Communities
Louise Bjornson, Bellingham City Council
Malcolm Fleming, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office
Malcolm Oliver, Whatcom CC & B'ham Tech College
Margaret Vlahos, Whatcom Community College
Marie Eschenfelder, WWU Ctr for Service Learning
Marie Sather, WWU Campus Recreation
Mark Young, Bellingham Police Dept
Mary Burwell, WWU Students in Service
Melissa Locke, Bellingham Police Dept
Michael Schardein, WWU Office of Student Life
Michael Sledge, WWU Residence Life
Michael "Zippo" Parzick, The Nightlight Lounge
Moshe Quinn, City of Bellingham Planning Division
Nancy Barga, Sehome High School
Nancy Davis, South Hill Neighborhood Assn
Pat Fabiano, WWU Student Affairs/NIAAA
Patty Relay, World Famous Up & Up Tavern
Paul Cocke, WWU Office of Communications
Randy Carroll, Bellingham Police Dept
Roger Hoen, WA State Liquor Control Board
Sandi Jones, Ebright-Wight Property Management
Sarah Rankin, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Scott Snider, Bellingham Police Dept
Susan Adams, Campus Community Coalition
Susan Vogelsson, WWU Dining Services
Tom Dixon, WA State Liquor Control Board
Tony Masias, WA State Liquor Control Board
Van Hudson, NW Rental Owners Assn
Vanessa Melton, WWU Graduate Student

Welcome, introductions, and acknowledgements

Lara Welker convened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and thanking them for coming; group members introduced themselves.

Special acknowledgments followed.

Pat Fabiano announced that she has recently transitioned from WWU Prevention and Wellness Services to faculty in the Student Affairs Administration graduate program at Woodring College. She said “goodbye” to the Coalition, and that it has been a pleasure and honor to work with members, and to have brought science-based knowledge and best practices to the Coalition. She recounted the founding of the Coalition and recognized members who were present eight years ago when WWU President Karen Morse and Mayor Mark Asmundson appointed the Coalition. Pat said the original diversity at the first meeting has grown immensely to include many more people in the community, and that she looks forward to seeing its work continue.

The group honored Pat with applause and a standing ovation.

Lara noted that Pat’s leadership embodies the Coalition’s core values – using environmental as well as individual approaches to student alcohol misuse, seeking common ground, and striving for shared responsibility. Lara presented Pat a framed certificate signed by Mayor Mark Asmundson and WWU President Karen Morse. Lara emphasized that the Coalition is lucky to still have Pat as Principal Investigator of the NIAAA grant, which provides the majority of funding for the Coalition’s current projects.

Lara also acknowledged Elva Giddings, new Interim Director of Prevention and Wellness Services; guest Roger Hoen of the Washington State Liquor Control Board, new attendees Malcolm Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Bellingham; Malcolm Oliver, counselor from Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College; Michael “Zippo” Parzick of the Nightlight Lounge; Jim Schuster of WWU Facilities Management, Marie Eschenfelder of the WWU Western’s Center for Service Learning, Erica Ellis of WWU Partners in Reading and Writing; Mary Burwell and Erin Luce-King from WWU Students in Service program, and all the students in attendance.

Campus Community Coalition project updates

(Please see accompanying hand outs *CCC Update 11.4.0* and *CCC Work Groups 05-06*.)

Lara said the Coalition is currently working in three main areas: **NEST (Neighborhoods Engaging with Students)**, **Enforcement** (ensuring underage drinking laws are enforced) and **LateNight@WWU** (on-campus student alternatives to alcohol). She reminded attendees that York, Sehome, and Happy Valley are currently the focus of the Coalition’s projects because they have the highest density of student residents and highest number of calls to 911 reporting loud parties.

❖ Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST) Update

Neighborhood Mediation Program

Lara said a partnership has been developed with the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center to create a Neighborhood Mediation Program to help prevent and manage neighborhood conflict. The program offers various levels of training to students and community members, preparing them to deal effectively with conflict and act as resources for conflict management in the three neighborhoods. Lara said the current trainings are open to all neighborhoods, but the next set will focus on the three neighborhoods. She noted that an article about the Coalition and the Neighborhood Mediation Program had appeared in the Bellingham Herald that morning.

Kathryn Hanowell asked if the requests for dealing with a conflict will go through the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, and Lara responded that they would, though neighborhood-based referral would also be explored.

Fall NEST activities

Lara described several other NEST activities, including

- The distribution of over 2,500 educational door knockers with information on being a good neighbor and the Bellingham Police Department Party Patrol.
- A “Let’s Talk Forum” on campus in which about 75 students and community members discussed students as community members, what being a community member means, parties, and enforcement issues.
- A discussion among students and long-term Sehome residents at the fall Sehome Neighborhood Association meeting facilitated by the Coalition.

A student who had attended the meeting said she thought the discussion was beneficial; it was interesting to learn how long-term residents felt about students and vice-versa, and that a lot of assumptions were broken down.

Neighborhood Service-Learning Projects

Susan Adams said she’s been working with Professor Carmen Werder’s Civil Discourse class which focuses on dialogue. Students are attending neighborhood meetings and activities with a focus on how dialogue can make people more a part of the community. She then introduced Gus Zadra, a student in the class to give a presentation on his experience.

Gus said it is his third year at WWU. He said the Civil Discourse class focuses on engaging students in community dialogue, and described his experience at the fall Sehome Neighborhood Association meeting. He said that the facilitated discussion allowed students and community members to “bridge the gap” and “de-alienate ourselves from each other.” Gus said they discussed parties, and the fact that both students and long-term residents both feel intimidated by each other.

Gus emphasized that students can benefit from participating in the everyday activities of their neighborhood and the community, but that many students are unaware of what it means to be a community member. He suggested that students’ awareness of the community could be enhanced by telling students “from day one” about enforcement of underage drinking laws in Bellingham. He also suggested that older students could talk with younger students about safer ways to party, saying, “Hey, it’s cool to be a good neighbor---that’s what we do here. We have a good time, but we respect our neighbors, and they respect us.”

Gus recommended community service as another way to increase students’ involvement in the community. Gus described getting a Minor in Possession of Alcohol (MIP) citation his first week as a freshman at Western and how his mandated community service ultimately helped him feel more connected to the community. Gus said most students want to be good community members, “they just don’t know it yet.” He said what was most apparent to him from the Sehome meeting is that there is a need to have more student-community member dialogue, such as a monthly party with a mediator/facilitator.

Lidia Tillman-McAdoo appreciated Gus, noting that he had previously rented from her.

Louise Bjornson noted that Gus, and other students with experience similar to his, is the reason the Coalition is here and to keep up the good work.

Alanna Ahern noted that there are many different channels for students to connect with the community and to be aware of that.

Chelsey LaRowe said it's important for students to have a sense of ownership and that maybe community members could spend some time at students' homes, too.

Malcolm Fleming asked Gus if he had suggestion for ways to let new students know about Bellingham's enforcement norms even before they come to WWU, so they do not have to "learn the hard way" with an MIP.

Gus responded that he was not sure of the best ways to educate new students, but that it would have helped him. He said that WWU doesn't force students to be involved in the community, and that offering more classes with community service learning projects would help students go out and meet people in the community. He emphasized that "it can be a good thing to force students to get involved."

Another student said she felt students, especially freshmen, rarely leave the campus so don't have a sense of the community. She said these students don't think of themselves as community members, only WWU students, and this thought process continues after they move off-campus. She suggested that more emphasis on community – not just campus – involvement would help students think of themselves as community members before they even move off-campus.

Malcolm Oliver said the WWU administration also needs to be more involved with the community.

Susan Adams noted that students do not necessarily have to complete extensive community projects in order to have a meaningful interactions; even simple dialogue can be very beneficial.

Susan said she is also working with four students from Professor Geddes Davis' Advocacy through the Media class, who are developing a plan for promoting Off-Campus U. She also mentioned that plans are underway for an Earth Day project in which students will work in the three neighborhoods. Organizers include New Student Services, Residence Life; the Center for Service Learning; Bellingham Parks and Recreation; Learning, Environment, Action, Discovery (LEAD); and the neighborhood associations.

❖ Enforcement Update

Bellingham Police Department

Lieutenant Scott Snider reported on the fall enforcement efforts of the Bellingham Police Department (BPD). He briefly described Party Patrol, which assigns 8-9 officers to respond to 911 calls reporting loud parties. Officers go to the location to assess the situation, and then issue citations if any illegal activity is found. He clarified that the "Party Bus" is used as a place to process the citations, and provide some education in the process. Lt. Snider said this fall the Bellingham Police Department has also been running Alcohol Emphasis Patrols, which are proactive (looking for alcohol-related violations, rather than responding to complaints) and focused in the neighborhoods near campus.

Lt. Snider shared some data that have been gathered so far this fall. The BPD's party enforcement has responded to 15 parties, and issued 117 Minor in Possession of Alcohol (MIPs), 68 drinking in public, 6 furnishing alcohol to minors, and 38 disorderly conducts, and 7 DUIs. He noted that in general the parties seem to be smaller this year; they have responded to more parties but have issued fewer citations at the parties. He said he thinks the word is getting out that if you have a huge party, it will be visited by the Party Patrol.

Barbara Hudson asked Lt. Snider if he knew where the students come from, and he said they primarily come from the York, Sehome and Happy Valley neighborhoods. The Party Patrol only responded to two parties outside of those neighborhoods. Of the people who were given citations, most were WWU students.

Lara promised to have more comprehensive data comparing fall '05 to Fall '04 to share at the next meeting.

Lt. Snider emphasized that they are not trying to pick on a certain demographic profile, but the fact is that they respond to 911 calls reporting loud parties, and often students are involved.

Vanessa Melton asked if Lt. Snider was saying that if students and community members talk to each other and come to some agreement about what is acceptable, the police won't come to the parties. Lt. Snider responded that if a 911 complaint call is not received, they won't come.

WA State Liquor Control Board

Officer Tom Dixon reported that the local region of the Liquor Control Board is using a new "data driven" approach for their compliance checks. Compliance checks are a federally recognized best practice in which alcohol licensees are checked to ensure they are checking identification and not selling alcohol to minors. Every month each officer is assigned randomly selected licensees to check. If there is a violator, they are rechecked the next month. Previously, licensees were not systematically assigned and violators were not always re-checked.

Tom also explained that the Liquor Control Board officers are doing compliance checks within a two mile radius of WWU. He reported that since January 2004 there have been 205 checks in this area and 63 violations. This gives a 30% non-compliance rate; the state average is 18%.

Brian Waller asked if there was a breakdown of the violations at on-premise vs. off-premise locations and Tom responded that the majority of the violations are at on-premise locations [a bar or restaurant where alcohol is served.]

Louise Bjornson said that she wanted to compliment the Liquor Control Board for doing a good job; she recalled that in the past sometimes the underage drinking laws were not adequately enforced, even at establishments that were obviously in violation.

Roger Hoen said that, statistically, most underage drinkers obtain alcohol from adult enablers who buy alcohol for minors, rather than minors buying it themselves. He mentioned a study comparing youth drinking in Europe and the United States which examines the effects of youth access to alcohol. He also noted that the State Liquor Control Board is opening an Alcohol Awareness Program Manager position and encouraged any interested attendees to apply.

Lara mentioned several educational activities this fall that have increased awareness of enforcement efforts, including the educational doorknockers, and ads and articles in the Western Front.

❖ LateNight@WWU Update

Kevin Majkut reported on the fall LateNight@WWU project. He described the multiple events that occurred on campus from 10pm to 2am during the first several weeks of fall quarter, providing students with an alternative to going to parties off-campus. Kevin explained that the project is striving to change the culture of partying in general. Four Late Night events were hosted by the Wade King

Student Recreation Center, the Associated Students of the Viking Union, the Athletics Department, and a student club which produced the High Street Music Festival.

About 2,500 students attended these events, and most were first-year students, so the goal of reaching freshman was met. In regards to “lessons learned,” Kevin said they learned students want free food at these events, that “students will go on a slip and slide at night even when it’s cold,” and that they want opportunities to meet other people (e.g., “speed dating,” Karaoke, casino events and even knitting circles).

Several other Late Night events will take place throughout the rest of this year.

Lara invited any last comments.

Someone lightheartedly mentioned we may have to invite the Gambling Commission to join the Coalition if we’ve started having casino nights on campus.

Tony Masias shared that the Liquor Control Board has obtained specialized lights for checking for fake identification, and these have been given to bar owners who are members of the Coalition.

Roger Hoen noted that alternatives to drinking such as LateNight@WWU are of great interest the Lieutenant Governor, and that the Coalition might consider sending him a report of the LateNight@WWU activities.

Lara thanked the group for their attendance and participation, and announced that the next quarterly Coalition meeting would be sometime in February.