

# **REPORT OF THE ALCOHOL PLANNING GROUP**

## **May, 2005**

### **Introduction**

In the 03/04 academic year, the Alcohol Planning Group was convened to develop an outline of the components of a plan to address high-risk use of alcohol by UNH students and identify priorities for the components of the plan. At that time, the overarching priorities that were identified included focusing University activities on the prevention of high-risk alcohol use, educating the University population on its expectations concerning alcohol use and consequences of not fulfilling those expectations, and consistency in both messages and actions by the University. The 03/04 Group developed two products, Inventory of UNH Activities Addressing High-Risk Alcohol Use and Statement of Principle, identified communication vehicles for the Statement, and recommended a series of training programs for faculty and staff. The Group also recommended that their recommendations begin to move forward as actions, with the University establishing clear administrative responsibility for implementing and evaluating the actions.

The 2005 Alcohol Planning Group convened its first meeting February 24, 2005 and met every other week to accomplish its tasks. The charge of the Alcohol Planning Group was to address the high-risk drinking culture and its impact on the learning environment through an examination of gaps in our current efforts and through utilization of past reports' efforts and best practices. Recommendations will be made in the areas of policy and enforcement, education, and counseling and support.

The work was divided into three main foci: Policy and Enforcement, Education, and Counseling and Support. The Group has completed its recommendations for Policy and Enforcement and Counseling and Support but felt that there was not adequate time this semester to make final recommendations for Education. This report summarizes the work of the 2005 Group and identifies specific actions under each of the three foci, with preliminary recommendations for Education.

### **Recommendations**

#### **POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT**

- To implement an evaluation of the parental notification process.
- To develop linkage between UNH and the Town of Durham to determine how to best address issues related to alcohol.
- Review the Student Rights, Rules and Responsibilities to make it more user-friendly and to allow for ease of access by all members of the University community.

The Student Rights, Rules and Responsibilities are the primary mechanism for informing members of the UNH community about administrative and behavioral policies. Currently, it

is primarily an on-line document that has been under-utilized, even though there are several ways the community is made aware of it. It is also difficult to navigate the document on-line and find needed information. It may be helpful to review the document and how it is set up to determine if there is some way to increase ease of use.

- Work to create a consistent system so students who have violated policies/laws on campus are all addressed through the Judicial and Mediation Programs Office and have the opportunity for education and counseling.

Currently, UNH Police do not process students who violate policies through the Judicial and Mediation Programs Office due to lack of resources. All students who violate a policy on campus should be held accountable through the Judicial and Mediation Program Office and have the opportunity for educational/counseling sanctions.

## EDUCATION

- Develop two CDs (one for students, one for parents) that include alcohol and other drug education and information on policies/laws related to use.
- Provide more specific information about what the campus has implemented to address high-risk use of alcohol on campus to both internal and external stakeholders.
- Communicate through various methods policies, and alcohol and other drug information and resources to students, parents and others
- Incorporate alcohol and other drug issues into the Discovery Program.
- Require some form of alcohol and other drug education for all first-year students, which will need to be completed in order to register for classes for sophomore year.
- Provide training to faculty on identification and referral of students with alcohol and other drug issues.

As noted above, last year's Alcohol Planning Group recommended training for faculty and staff on the Statement of Principle and how to identify and refer at-risk students.

Implementation of these trainings began this fall primarily with staff. A process needs to be identified, to ensure that at minimum, front-line faculty participate in this training.

## COUNSELING AND SUPPORT

- UNH should have educator/counselor(s) trained in the Brief Alcohol and Other Drug Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) program, and all second offenses for alcohol violations should be mandated to complete this process.

BASICS was identified as the only "Best Practice" in the area of counseling/treatment by the National Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Association (NIAAA) Task Force on College Drinking in its report, *A Call to Action: Changing the Culture of Drinking at U.S. Colleges*.

BASICS is a harm reduction approach for college students 18-24 years of age. It is an interventive process aimed at students who drink alcohol heavily and have experienced or are at high-risk for alcohol related problems. BASICS is designed to help students make better alcohol-use decisions.

*Evaluation of all recommendations needs to occur.*

### **Next Steps for UNH Administration**

- Reconvene the Alcohol Planning Group for fall 2005 to conclude discussion on recommendations for Education;
- Expand membership of Alcohol Planning Group to include staff representatives from identified at-risk groups (Athletics, First-year students, Fraternity and Sororities members). Also need to expand student representation to the Alcohol Planning Group;
- Implement the recommendations;
- Convene a meeting of Chairs of University committees addressing campus climate issues such as the Alcohol Planning Group, the Violence Against Women Committee, and the Campus Diversity Committee to share final reports and examine common themes and recommendations; and
- Deliver both a verbal and written report to the Alcohol Planning Group at the end of the 05/06 academic year to update the Group on the implementation of the recommendations.

### **Conclusion**

On behalf of the 2005 Alcohol Planning Group, we thank you for the opportunity we had to continue this important work and for valuing our input. We believe our discussions have led to a series of potential actions that will have the ability to make a difference for the members of the University community. We continue to be available to you and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.

### **Committee Membership**

Ashley Briggs  
Chair, Health and Human Services Council, Student Senate

Denny Byrne  
Director of Campus Recreation

Scott Chesney  
Asst. Vice-President for SAS and Director of Residential Life

Karen Ciasulli  
Parents Association

David Cross  
Director, UNH Counseling Center

Paul Dean  
Deputy Chief, UNH Police

Joe Durocher  
Associate professor, Hospitality Management, WSBE

Gavin Henning  
Research Associate  
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Sheila Lambert  
Alcohol, tobacco and Other Drug Educator/Counselor  
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Anne Lawing  
Associate Vice-President for Student and Academic Services

Karen Newton  
Hall Director, Residential Life

Kendree Parker  
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Lynette Ament, co-chair of Alcohol Planning Group  
Chair, Department of Nursing

Kathleen Grace-Bishop, co-chair of Alcohol Planning Group  
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