

Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center

Monthly Resource Alert

April 2008



11720 Beltsville Drive ■ Suite 900 ■ Calverton, MD 20705 ■ Toll Free 877-335-1287

Please visit our enhanced website at www.udetc.org for the latest information on underage drinking.

10th Annual National Leadership Conference

Law Enforcement Partner Award Nominations Open!

The Law Enforcement Partner of the Year Award Nominations are still open! At the National Leadership Conference, awards will be presented to a law enforcement agency and a sworn law enforcement officer/agent whose commitment to reducing underage drinking at the local or state level has resulted in notable accomplishments in several areas. More detailed information and requirements including the nomination form, can be found at the following link:<http://www.udetc.org/documents/NLC2008/LEPartnerAward.doc>. The awardees will be honored at a special luncheon at the 10th Annual National Leadership Conference, held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center, on August 22, 2008. Please don't delay in getting your nominations to your Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) State Coordinator. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2008!

New Research Links Teen Alcohol Use with Suicide

Pre-teens who drink alcohol are substantially more likely to be involved in violent behavior as adolescents and young adults, according to new research from Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health, which appears in the February issue of the journal *Pediatrics*. A link between underage drinking and risky behavior has always been suspected, but newer findings show conclusively that those who begin drinking at such a young age are three times more likely than non-drinking peers to attempt suicide. The study outlines that suicide is the third leading cause of death among teens and young adults 15 to 24 years of age. Those who begin drinking before 13 also are more likely to be victims of dating and peer violence. It was suggested by the researchers that evidence-based strategies, such as enforcing minimum legal drinking age laws and increasing excise taxes on alcohol, are available but not fully implemented to prevent and reduce alcohol use among minors. Increased support of these strategies will be necessary to prevent alcohol abuse and the many health problems associated with its use among young people. More on this study can be found at the following link: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/qca?qca=121%2F2%2F297&submit.x=57&submit.y=8>

Success Story: Chaska City Council Passes Social Host Laws with a Positive Ripple Effect

In September of 2007, the city of Chaska passed the first ordinance in Minnesota that holds "party" hosts criminally liable for underage drinking on their properties - even if they don't provide the alcohol. Chaska's social host law carries with it possible penalties of up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Because of their success, other communities in the State are using Chaska's ordinance as a template for their own efforts - many with successful results of their own. This success story reflects how the new ordinance has been a useful tool for the police and motivation for other communities.

April National Electronic Seminar:

Prosecutors: Their Role, Limitations and Challenges

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2008

Time: 3:00-4:15 p.m. EDT

Speakers: David J. Wallace, Esquire; Brett L. Johnson, Esquire and Sgt. Corey MacDonald, Esquire

The justice system is one component in a comprehensive effort to reduce underage drinking and DUI. Prosecutors play a crucial role within the system in the administration of justice, and rules concerning the performance of their important responsibilities. Generally a prosecutor's responsibilities include determining appropriate charges, discussions with defense counsel, preparing witnesses for court, examination, and cross-examination of witnesses and presenting arguments respecting conviction and sentence.

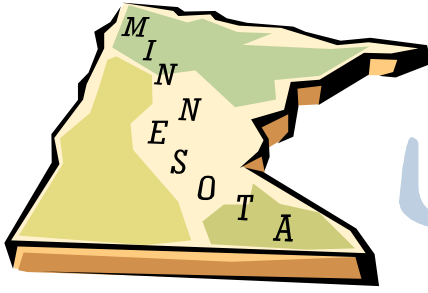
What role does the prosecutor have in addressing the harms that are part of underage alcohol problems? How can a prosecutor assume a leadership role within their community on the complex issues? Our panel of experienced prosecutors will discuss these issues and listeners will be provided a valuable insight into the world of the prosecutor. Participants will be able to ask questions of our panelists to help them establish strategies and build relationships with prosecutors from their own community. Visit www.udetc.org/audioconfregistration.asp to register.

To print a hard-copy of this month's Resource Alert visit: www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlerts/ResourceAlert0408.pdf

Did you Know....?

That MADD has a new social host ordinance website. Each state's most current information can be found there. The site link is here: <http://www3.madd.org/socialhost/index.aspx>

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Office of Juvenile Justice for Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) or the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center (UDETC) and are solely of the author/source.



Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

April 2008

Chaska city council passes social host laws with a positive ripple effect

In September of 2007, the city of Chaska passed the first ordinance in Minnesota that holds "party" hosts criminally liable for underage drinking on their properties - even if they don't provide the alcohol. Chaska now joins dozens of municipalities in at least 20 other States that have social host ordinances. The Chaska City Council's unanimous decision came after more than a year and a half of advocacy by Chaska City Police Chief Scott Knight. Knight, who has also been working with Carver County Sheriff Bud Olson to pass a county ordinance, increased his efforts after Sean Humphrey, 19, froze to death in Chaska after a night of heavy drinking at a party. The new city law, similar to the county proposal, makes it a misdemeanor for a property owner or host to knowingly allow underage drinking. The passage is a victory. In some rural parts of the county, throwing a graduation party where minors drink is considered acceptable according to Carver County Commissioner Randy Maluchnik. Although residents in his district - which includes the cities of Carver, Victoria and Chaska - have generally supported the ordinance, residents in some other commissioners' districts have not, he said. Chaska's ordinance does provide exceptions. For example, it "does not apply to conduct solely between an underage person and his or her parents while present in the parents' household;" and it does not apply to legally protected religious observances. A main concern heard was that a parent out of town during the party would be held liable. That concern was addressed in that the law's language protects those adults as it states that the person must "knowingly" provide the venue. Parents are therefore not culpable in that example."

Chaska's social host law carries with it possible penalties of up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. This success story reflects how the new ordinance

has been a useful tool for the police. Because of their persistence other communities in the State are using Chaska's ordinance as a template for their own efforts - many with successful results. For example, Mankato passed its social host ordinance in November 2007, Fairfax adopted theirs in December 2007, Waseca recently passed one in March 2008; and Prior Lake and Blue Earth County are now considering one. To date, a total of nine municipalities across the State have instituted social host ordinances. Chaska's Police Department Chief Knight has noted that the social host ordinance has turned out to be a "very effective" and "very easy to implement tool" for his department; he said "our officers saw a void in the lack of tools to prevent underage drinking". Knight now believes they have covered that gap and are starting to see results in the community.

Sources:

- Chief Knight; Chaska PD
- Robyn Weisman, Minnesota Institute of Public Health (MIPH)
- www.startribune.com/west

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