

Ozaukee County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Reducing Offenses Related to Alcohol and Substance Misuse
Project Position Paper (Final 9-01-08)

Executive Summary

After considerable research and review of available data as well as discussion by representatives from a broad range of community resources, the Ozaukee County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) has identified alcohol and drug abuse as a substantial factor in the crime and safety problems experienced in Ozaukee County. The CJCC has adopted a hybrid model approach, incorporating both a containment model and a public health model, to address this concern with the expected result of increasing the safety of Ozaukee County residents and visitors and reducing crime in the county.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Relation to Crime

While it could be argued that the associative role between alcohol and violence and crime could be coincidental, there is ample evidence for some researchers (Room & Rossow, 2000) to conclude that there is a causal link between substance abuse and crime. What is clear from numerous studies is that there is a strong relationship between crime and substance abuse.

The US Department of Justice reported that in the case of violent crime, 41% of probationers, 41% of prisoners in local jails, 38% of those in state prisons, and 20% of offenders in federal prisons had been drinking at the time of commission of the crime for which they had been sentenced (Mosher and Jernigan, 2001). The US Department of Justice reports (Karberg & James, 2005) that 68% of jail inmates reported symptoms of substance abuse or dependence in the year before admission to jail. In addition, the Department noted that three out of four inmates convicted in property or drug offenses met substance abuse dependence or abuse criteria, compared to two-thirds of offenders committing violent or public order offenses. Meta-analyses conducted by three groups of researchers have estimated that between 25 and 50% of all assaults and homicides are attributable to alcohol use, while nearly 41% of male suicides are caused by alcohol use (English et al, 1995; Schultz et al, 1991; Single et al, 1998).

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that 17,000 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes in 2006 (NHTSA, 2007). It has also been estimated that between 10% and 22% of drivers involved in crashes used drugs in combination with alcohol. A national survey found that an estimated 4.2% of the population age 12 and over and specifically 13% of young adults age 18 to 25 reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs (SAMHSA, 2007). Driving under the influence of an illicit drug or alcohol appears to be related to age of the driver. SAMHSA found that 7.3% of youth age 16 drove under the influence, and 31.8% of adults age 22 also reported driving under the influence. Males were found to be twice as likely to drive under the influence as females (SAMHSA, 2007).

Ozaukee County

Werth has reported that in Ozaukee County there has been a 14.4% increase in index crimes with a 24.2% increase in violent crime, and a 14.1% increase in property crimes when comparing Adult crimes in 2005 to 2006 (Werth, 2008). Drug arrests for individuals under the age of 25 accounted for 68% of total drug arrests. Although there was a 26% drop in total drug arrests from 2005 to 2006, juvenile drug arrests showed a small increase from 358 to 379 during the same period (Werth, 2008).

Between 2006 and 2007, there was a 4% increase in arrests for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and a 32% decrease in liquor law violation arrests. DWI arrests were the single largest category of arrests in Ozaukee County in both 2006 and 2007, accounting for 19% and 20% of all arrests respectively (Werth, 2008).

Containment Model

The Containment Model was designed for the effective management of sexual offenders (WI DOC, 2002). Based on national models, the containment model emphasizes prevention, early identification and reporting, adjudication and incarceration, treatment, supervision, and community involvement. Each of the components was viewed as a point along a continuum that would create a community-based management system for reducing crime and improving public safety.

Public Health Model

Public Health Models for treatment and prevention focus on community action to change environments to reduce problems across populations. In regards to alcohol and drug problems, Mosher and Jernigan (2001) suggest that the public health model strategy incorporate the “four P’s of marketing – price, place, promotion, and product. Price strategies emphasize reducing access by taxation strategies. Place strategies target availability and emphasis on use in safe locations. Promotion strategies look at advertising and promotional activities that reduce misuse and increase responsible use of substances, while product strategies target incorporate packaging, labeling, and alcohol content of beverages.

Ozaukee Hybrid Model

The CJCC is a subcommittee of the Ozaukee County Health and Human Services Board (HHSB). The CJCC will adopt an efficient structure to provide review, decision-making, and guidance for programs and structures related to reducing alcohol and drug-related offenses and improving community safety in Ozaukee County. The CJCC will regularly report and provide recommendations to the HHSB. The CJCC will comprise of a core membership with representation from a wide scope of institutions and organizations in the community that are connected to the overall goals of the Council. Specific workgroups will be formed to more efficiently deal with specialized areas and concerns. These workgroups will be lead by a member of the Council but incorporate community and other specialists and leaders to aid in completing the tasks assigned. The standing workgroups will be:

- Prevention and Early Identification

- Treatment/Programs
- Law Enforcement
- Adjudication
- Community Re-entry
- Funding

Outcomes / Goals

The CJCC will facilitate planning and development of programs and systems to:

1. Identify the type and number of offenses committed in Ozaukee County that involve alcohol and drugs.
2. Reduce the number *of offenses committed in Ozaukee County that are directly attributed to the use of alcohol and drugs.
3. Specifically reduce the number* of underage drinking violations in the county
4. Specifically reduce the number* of DUI incidents in the county
5. Reduce recidivism rates for alcohol and drug-related offenses.

*in proportion to census data for population

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