



Health and Safety Session

November 1, 2008

Teen Parenting

- Parents don't seem to care
- Limited education in the schools – (need to define “education”)
- Lack of guidance from parents
- Lack of education of birth control
- Teens aren't aware of financial responsibilities
- Teens most often live for the moment
- Pressure from boyfriend or girlfriend
- No supervision from parents
 - Parents working long hours and/or weekends
 - Single parents not involved
 - Need more shelters to house teens with babies
- Isolation due to teen pregnancy

Community Support

- Lack of parental support/control
- Children need boundaries
- Lack of mentors
- Parent's role is critical
- Often no older generation to help guide teens
- Lack of career exposure
- Need more shelters to house teens with babies
- Teens often give up due to lack of support
- Teens can get lazy and don't look for support
- Lack of transportation
- Have successful adults come and share their difficult experiences with students
- Schools stay open longer for counseling, etc.

Drugs/Alcohol

- Teens want to fit in
- Peer pressure too much for teens
- Lack of parental supervision
- Need more visible presence of Police Officers in schools
- A possible random drug testing as a preventative

Key Discussion Items

- Need parental involvement
- Lack of parental supervision
- Teen pressure – academic and social
- Education needed on the above issues

Issues

- Parental support is lacking
- Need more resources for teens – (Define resources – school, community?)
- More education on current social issues

Available Resources

- W. I. C.
- Mission Arlington
- Handitran Busses
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- P. T. A
- Salvation Army
- School Counselors, Principals, etc.
- Parenting Guidance Center
- Churches
- Alternative Programs
- College Fairs
- Arlington Police Department

Strategies

- Enhance marketing existing programs
- Develop a program to have schools get involved with positive male/female role models.
 - Real life experiences shared with students
- Partner with major businesses on skill development
- Create a School Community Health Council for expansion on educating teens
- Create more awareness for alcohol and drug abuse education
- Provide technical programs in schools
- Offer and encourage volunteer opportunities in schools