



Annual Coalition Report June 2011



VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the RAPAD coalition to positively influence attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge for all Renville County residents about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention and to create a high quality of life, free from the impact of substance abuse.

MISSION STATEMENT

The RAPAD mission is to transform Renville County into responsible communities concerning underage alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention.

ESTABLISHMENT

The RAPAD Coalition was established in 2006 to focus on preventing underage drinking in Renville County. The coalition is made up of concerned individuals addressing best practices for prevention of underage alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in Renville County. Funding is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division and PACT for Families Collaborative.

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

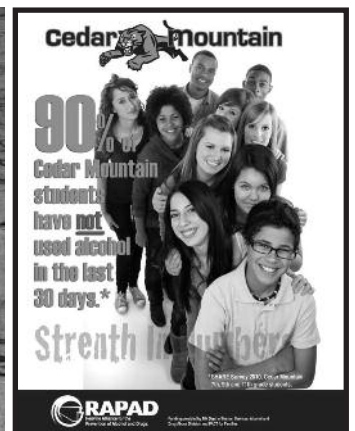
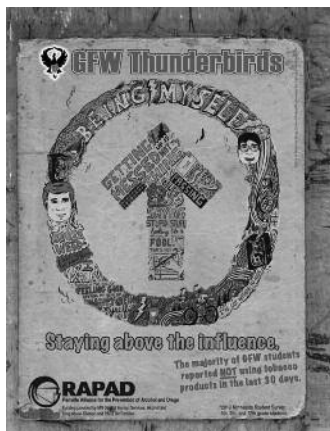
The RAPAD Coalition is the proud recipient of a Drug Free Communities grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy that began on October 1, 2010. It is possible the grant will carry on for up to 10 years to continue spreading alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention information to residents of Renville County.

RAPAD PREVENTION INITIATIVES/ACTIVIZES

- Support alcohol prevention curriculum in our schools
- Implement a Positive Community Norms Project
- Create community awareness surrounding underage alcohol use through Town Hall meetings
- Provide resources to reduce underage drinking by implementing strategies that impact norms, regulation and access to alcohol
- Conduct Responsible Beverage Server Training for establishments who sell or serve alcohol
- Develop policies and laws to further protect youth from underage alcohol access

The People Behind the Coalition's Success

The RAPAD Coalition expresses sincere gratitude to all of the parents, young people, and community members who have volunteered their time and dedicated their expertise and resources to this important mission.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The RAPAD Coalition and its community partners have accomplished a great deal in 2010. Following are the highlights:

Reduced Underage Drinking

Between 2007 and 2010 past 30-day alcohol use decreased by over 32% among RCW students, while it only decreased by 15% for the State as a whole*!!!

Between 2007 and 2010 past 2-week binge drinking decreased over 25% among RCW students, while it only decreased by 19% of the State as a whole**!!!

*As measured by the MN Student Survey, combined results for 6th, 9th & 12th grade students.

**As measured by the MN Student Survey, combined results for 9th & 12th grade students.

GREAT JOB RENVILLE COUNTY!!!

Schools Contribute to the RAPAD work:

Teachers at RCW, BOLD, St. Mary's, GFW and Cedar Mountain continue the implementation of Project Northland, evidence-based prevention curriculum, for 6th – 10th grade students.

Youth Groups: TADA (Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol) - RCW; DAFY- (Drug and Alcohol Free Youth) – Morton; SADD - (Students Against Destructive Decisions) BOLD & GFW; and STARS - Cedar Mountain; are branches of the coalition in the school districts around the county who create awareness about underage alcohol and drug use. These youth groups, with the help of a school advisor, sponsor alcohol free events, conduct Town Hall Meetings, present to city and county boards and develop environmental projects that impact their schools and communities. Youth also attend an annual statewide leadership academy.

Responsible Beverage Server Training: Education for owners, managers and servers of alcohol is provided in the county to help prevent illegal sales of alcohol to youth and over sales to intoxicated patrons. Alcohol compliance checks have been increasingly more successful since they were first completed due to the valuable partnership between RAPAD and local law enforcement.

Positive Community Norms (PCN): The goal of the PCN project is to share positive community facts and norms surrounding underage alcohol use and to correct misperceptions that exist about underage drinking, for example: "MOST RCW students DON'T drink and drive or ride with someone who has been drinking alcohol."

Diversion Program- CHANGE DIRECTION began in May 2010: Change Direction is an alcohol and other drug education program offered to first time violators of alcohol offenses. Rather than paying fines, serving probation or jail time, youth can participate in this program. Change Direction educates youth to make better choices regarding use of substances.

Social Host Ordinance: A county-wide Social Host Ordinance was passed in Renville County in March, 2011. A Social Host Ordinance increases protection for our youth by identifying adults who provide alcohol to youth and holding them accountable for doing so. A Social Host Ordinance was also passed in Olivia in April, 2010, and Fairfax has passed one a few years ago. It is RAPAD's hope that every community in Renville County will have passed a Social Host Ordinance before the end of 2011.

Collaboration with Local Law Enforcement: Local law enforcement supports efforts that reduce underage alcohol use and access.

FUTURE PLANS

- Engage community partners to enhance Renville County policies that prevent underage alcohol use and access.
- Initiate a county-wide campaign to get the word out about underage drinking laws and Zero Adult Providers.
- Support youth leadership in promoting environmental, community wide approaches to prevent underage alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and access.
- Help communities offer alcohol free activities where teens can gather.
- Coordinate Special events Trainings in communities who serve alcohol for their summer celebrations.

Coalition meetings occur monthly. Contact DHS-ADAD RAPAD Coordinator Renee Brandt at 320-523-3829 or renee_b@co.renville.mn.us, or DFC RAPAD Coordinator Annie Tepfer at 320-523-3845 or annie_t@co.renville.mn.us for more information.

Drug Prevention websites for parents, youth and community members:

www.drugfree.org/parent

Partnership for a Drug Free America

www.theantidrug.com

Parents: The Anti Drug

www.abovetheinfluence.com

National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign

www.freevibe.com

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FUNDING IS PROVIDED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE DIVISION, THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY – DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES GRANT, AND PACT FOR FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE.