



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

February 27, 14

Pastor Ray opened with a reading and prayer, called for introductions.

Udo gave a treasurers report, 7 organizations have paid dues so far. Balance is 2,204.65.

Youth Support Team update

-Kristy P

Creating a toolbox for taking care of their target group.

Probation violations is the largest violation, next is runaway youth, which contributes to homelessness. Working on many things, shelter care, waiting on the county to interpret the law pertaining, if it works out, the county would be responsible for paying for shelters.

Trauma is the #1 reason we have runaways, calling in a group to do a statewide trauma training to train people to help deal with drama.

Dealing with how families are alerted after a runaway. Striving to make contact within 24 hours, providing intervention skills.

Training Youth Crisis intervention teams on call 24 hours.

One program is "1 church 10 families". Church recruits ten families for rest and respite host homes. Looking at the end of April to have someone come up and introduce the program.

Youth – Tumbleweed Billings; Information

-Sandra F

Tumbleweed is a large program in Billings that works with troubled youth. They are having a meeting on March 18th, city leaders are invited, trying to get the people who can really make a difference there.

Hospital Chaplain Program update

-Tom R, Kathy Y

Chaplaincy program is running, have 2 full time chaplains, and an "on call" program with 8 employed ministers who are covering nights. There is also a volunteer pastoral care team, they have 28 local ministers, on call day and night. Services are being held on every wing at Benefis.

Meeting site change suggestions

-Ray L

Ray and Jim McCormick made the motion, Fred Hashley seconded, no opposition.

Project Graduation, 2014 – CMR/GFHS

-Udo W

Udo wants to spend some money to help Project Graduation, a program that puts on all night drug/alcohol-free parties for seniors, propose we support them with \$300.

Jim made the motion, Jennifer seconds. No opposition.

Selection of Leadership for 2014

-All

Steve made the motion that all officers remain in position, including keeping Pastor Ray Larson as our president. Jenny seconds.

Youth Crisis Diversion – Center For Mental Health

-Art H

There are a lot of local kids trying to commit suicide. We received a 9 month Youth Crisis Diversion grant and have had 23 calls so far. Many come from the ER, parents take them there because they don't know what to do. The numbers are increasing. Kids don't want to go home because of abuse. On March 18th, they are having a community meeting to see if we can establish a permanent crisis center in Great Falls.

Possibly modeling it after the Tumbleweed program in Billings. The money may not come from the state, so the hope is to get the funding from local agencies. The grant runs out September 30th.

Announcements:

My Neighbor in Need Appliance repair is now open. They repair all types and brands of appliances.

Our next meeting will be held at Thursday March 27th at Noon. Location pending.

Respectfully submitted by,