

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Substance Abuse Coalition grant application

DEPARTMENT: Community Services **DIVISION:** Community Assistance
Phillip C. Stalvey, Director David Medley, Manager

AUTHORIZED BY: Phillip C. Stalvey **CONTACT:** David Medley **EXT.** 3363

Agenda Date 5/23/06 **Regular** **Consent** **Work Session** **Briefing**
Public Hearing – 1:30 **Public Hearing – 7:00**

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and authorize the chairman to sign a letter of support for the Seminole County Substance Abuse Coalition grant application.

BACKGROUND:

Seminole County has had a community coalition to address the problem of substance abuse for over 19 years. First as the Seminole Chemical Awareness Network (SCAN), and then as Seminole HOPE, this coalition has operated as a group of volunteers to seek to improve the community's awareness of substance abuse issues and work in a collaborative effort to effectively address the problem. During the early nineties, SCAN initiated several highly successful Drug Summits in Seminole County, and also provided the catalyst for the first "Violence Free Community Month" in Seminole County, and one of the first in the state of Florida. Membership includes the School Board of Seminole County, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Weed and Seed initiative, the State Attorney's Office, Seminole County Government (the Community Assistance and the PAY office) and numerous social service providers.

In an effort to revitalize and enhance their, the Coalition is applying for the Florida Center for Prevention Research Community Anti-Drug Coalition Strategic Prevention Framework Grant. The "Executive Summary" of the application is attached for your review. One of the stipulations of the application is that the coalition provides a letter of support from the Sheriff's Office, the School Board, and County Government. A sample draft letter is attached.

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: _____
CM: Cae

File No. GCSCA05

(date)

Florida Center for Prevention Research
Ron Manasa
Room 119, Herb Morgan Bldg.
2035 East Paul Dirac Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2671

Re: Seminole County Substance Abuse Coalition

Dear Mr. Manasa:

The Board of County Commissioners recognize that it is vital that communities are organized to respond to their local drug problems in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. Research shows that by connecting multiple sectors of the community in a comprehensive approach, community coalitions are able to achieve real outcomes in reducing substance abuse, violence prevention and increasing community revitalization. Creating partnerships is a smart strategy that promotes coordination and collaboration, and makes efficient use of limited community resources.

With those thoughts in mind, Seminole County is pleased to support the Seminole County Substance Abuse Coalition in its primary purpose of determining alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug (ATOD) use problems and development of plans to prevent and/or reduce those problems in Seminole County. As a partner to this endeavor, Seminole County is committed to participate as a member of the coalition to support the success of this endeavor.

I look forward to continued collaboration with representatives of the coalition in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Carlton D. Henley, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners

Seminole County Substance Abuse Coalition (SAC)

Executive Summary

April, 2006

Seminole County has had a community coalition to prevent and reduce ATOD use for the past 18 years. Seminole Chemical Awareness Network (SCAN) was established with members of the treatment community, schools, law enforcement, etc. and was instrumental in the planning and implementation of Drug Summit I, Drug Summit II and Drug Summit III in the late 80's in which needs were identified resulting in the establishment of the Juvenile Assessment Center. Seminole HOPE, through a grant with The Grove Counseling Center, became the coalition entity for the grant period. Since then, the SAC has been operating with voluntary representation, but the goals of collaboration with stakeholders have continued. In order for the coalition to become more effective, it was determined that the coalition needed to strengthen the areas of capacity building and assessment of prevention needs. With this in mind, the Seminole County (SAC) would apply for the Florida Center for Prevention Research Community Anti-Drug Coalition Strategic Prevention Framework Grant in May of 2006.

The governing body of the Seminole County SAC will be the Executive Board which includes the School Board of Seminole County, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the State Attorney and Seminole County Government. Additional members of the coalition include Seminole County United (representing the social service agencies), S.C. Weed and Seed, the State Attorney's Neighborhood Initiative, S.C. Prosecution Alternatives for Youth, the religious community and the Sheriff's Office Division of Juvenile Enforcement and Intervention. The executive board will meet monthly to oversee the grant's goals and management. The grant requires letters of support from the Seminole County Sheriff, the Superintendent of SCPS, and the Chairperson of the County Commission. The Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools will be the fiscal agent for the grant funds. The grant application allows for funding of up to \$35,000 for each of 2 years.

The goals of the coalition grant are to hire a consultant to: 1) to build capacity by mobilizing multiple community sectors to become aware of ATOD issues and contribute towards needs assessment and strategic planning to intervene with the identified needs; and 2) to conduct a community needs assessment. The results of this needs assessment will be shared with the coalition in the June of 2007 and will be shared with all stakeholders and the larger community during two Drug Summits in the fall of 2007 and one in the Spring of 2008.

The second year of the grant period will be to continue to build capacity and coalition sustainability, find local funding in order to hire staff and begin to develop a strategic plan to address the needs identified by the needs assessment. Seminole County has had a legacy of being committed to working collaboratively to solve problems and the SAC continues this legacy to make Seminole County a safe and healthy community in which to live, work and play.