Hello LIVE REAL Mentors,

As you learned in the LIVE REAL Mentor program, alcohol and other drug misuse is a problem that impacts our community as a whole. As such, it is essential that prevention efforts target not only individuals, but also the environmental factors that have an impact on the use of alcohol and other drugs. One of these environmental influences is public policy. Laws and regulations dealing with alcohol have been shown to be effective in reducing underage alcohol use, binge drinking, and the consequences of overconsumption. Examples of laws that have had a positive impact include requiring responsible alcohol beverage service training for servers, eliminating drink specials or setting minimum prices for drinks, and restricting alcohol use or sales in parks, public places, community events and stadiums (Toomey, 1999).

In North Dakota, several bills dealing with alcohol or other drugs have been introduced during the 2011 legislative session and have sparked discussion across the state. Here is a brief overview of the legislation that has been introduced recently:

**SB2133**: Relating to using false identification to obtain alcoholic beverages.
- This bill would allow bars and liquor establishments to hold false or fake identification to turn over to authorities. Currently, establishments are not allowed by law to cease identification, regardless of falsification.
- Testimony was provided in support of this bill by the North Dakota Higher Education Consortium for Substance Abuse Prevention/State Board of Higher Education on January 17
- The committee has taken testimony under consideration but has not voted

**HB 1212**: Relating to the possession and sale of alcoholic beverages at college sporting events; and to provide a penalty.
- The State Board of Higher Education decided not to take a position on HB 1212
- Representative Damschen (sponsor) spoke in favor of HB1212, highlighting the impact adult drinking/modeling has on the use of alcohol by minors
- There was no other testimony provided for this bill (support, non-support or neutral)
- 13 of 15 committee members recommended Do Not Pass on this bill on January 20
- House voted down the bill on January 24 (13 yea, 78 nay)

**HB 1307**: Relating to individuals under twenty-one years of age allowed in alcoholic beverage establishments.
- This bill is seeking to allow individuals under the age of 21 to enter a licensed establishment while alcohol is being sold if the individual is in the premises to consume a meal
- Rep. Nelson’s (sponsor) was concerned that there wasn’t anywhere for families to go to have dinner in small towns – because the only places to eat were usually bars
- Opposing testimony was presented by the ND League of Cities, citing concerns about enforcement issues. Neutral testimony was given by the ND Peace Officers Association, concerns were raised about enforcement and how it would affect large and small communities
- The Committee discussed possible amendments to the proposed legislation that include time parameters on when minors can be in establishments, who can accompany them (parent/guardians) and the size of communities this would be allowed in.
- 10 of 13 committee members recommended Do Not Pass on this bill on January 25

**SB 2145:** Relating to **alcoholic beverage license exception for nonprofit organizations**.
- Senator Lee (sponsor) testified that current century code prohibits non-profits from raffling/auctioning donated alcohol to raise funds. She provided an example of a benefit silent ‘basket’ auction where someone donated a basket that included a bottle of wine, and it wasn’t able to be sold because it was against the law.
- Several entities, including the committee, expressed concern that the proposed language was too vague.
- The committee discussed further amendments that included specific exceptions and dollar amounts. No decision was made until amendments could be drafted.
- The committee amended the bill and recommended **Do Pass (6-0) with amendment**

**SB 2257:** Relating to providing a location for underage drinking of alcoholic beverages (social host law).
- Social host laws hold adults who knowingly host alcohol parties on their property where underage individuals are present. These laws are common in municipalities around the country (over 150 cities) and over 20 states.
- The director of the ND Higher Education Consortium for Substance Abuse Prevention testified in support of the law raising some concern over impact on residence halls and proposing an amendment.
- The committee took the testimony under consideration but did not vote

**HB 1353:** Relating to the **tobacco prevention and control program** and water development trust fund expenditures; to provide an appropriation; and to provide for a transfer.
- This bill would remove all Measure 3 funding and 80% of the Community Health Trust Fund dollars and re-direct it into the UND School of Medicine to focus on training for primary care physicians in the state of ND.
  - Measure 3 funds support CDC-based comprehensive tobacco prevention programs across the state and the Community Health Trust Fund dollars support tobacco cessation services, such as the Quitline and Quitnet.
- A committee hearing has not been scheduled for this bill.


Other Announcements:

As a reminder, a **LIVE REAL Mentor “Train the Trainer” session will be held on Thursday, February 10th from 11am-1pm in the Mandan Room, Memorial Union** for any mentors who are interested in learning how to facilitate future LIVE REAL Mentor Training sessions. The Train the Trainer session provides additional information about the background of the program and the effects of alcohol and other drugs, and takes you step by step through presenting a LIVE REAL Mentor session. All current LIVE REAL Mentors are welcome to sign up for this training opportunity. Lunch will be provided to attendees. Please RSVP to Erika.Beseler@ndsu.edu by Monday, February 7th if you are planning to attend. An additional Train the Trainer session will be held on Wednesday, March 30th from 11am-1pm (RSVP by Friday, March 25th).
LIVE REAL Mentor Training sessions have been scheduled this spring for the following dates:

- Tuesday, February 1st – Noon-1pm, Arikara Room, Memorial Union
- Wednesday, February 23rd – 4-5pm, Arikara Room, Memorial Union
- Thursday, March 31st – 4-5pm, Arikara Room, Memorial Union
- Wednesday, April 27th – Noon-1pm, Family Life Center 122

Have a wonderful February!

Erika

References: