

ABC Coalition Meeting Minutes January 8th, 2009

21 members present

Don Workentine reported that the annual food drive collected 4 tons of food which was the highest ever.

Darrel reported that the 8th grade DARE has completed its classes for the year and the 8th graders will start on Monday.

The NH Drug court will have its 3rd graduation on Tuesday the 13th at 2:00 pm at the Courthouse.

We had two new attendees present at the ABC meeting. Kim Larson and Heather Morijah

Rebecca Andrews from SD Voices for Children was the program

They focus on three important issues facing children; safety, wellness, and education. They focus primarily in issues of the Major Juvenile justice system and a helpful tool they have produced for parents to use. They also have the new Mental Health Guide for parents. The website is available on the bookmarks that were handed out.

The SD Voices for Children started in 1993, they advocate for kids and have helped with issues surrounding the youth in our area. Currently there are no restrictions for pre-school involvement and major findings from their survey state the 85% of the brain develops before the age of 3. There are also 82% of mothers with children under the age of 6 working. Many of the children are involved in the 40 registered child care facilities in the Northern Hills. A copy of this survey was handed out and is also available on-line at www.sdvoicesforchildren.org.

There was an update given of the status with the Vucurevich foundation and also the announcement that ABC is also applying for 21st Century funding for an after school program.

The next meeting will be in February on the 12th, the program is Dadra Avery with Relational Aggression.