SIMI VALLEY TASK FORCE ON HEROIN PREVENTION
SPECIAL MEETING
SIMI VALLEY CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017
6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions

III. Public Comments Regarding Items Within the Jurisdiction of the Task Force

IV. Selection of Task Force Vice Chair

V. Receipt of September 2, 2015 Task Force Meeting Notes and November 24, 2015 Meeting Notes

VI. Update from the Simi Valley Youth Council regarding Youth Summit Discussions Regarding Drug Use

VII. Update from the Simi Valley Police Department

VIII. Presentation Regarding the County of Ventura’s Syringe Replacement Program and Overdose Rescue Kit by Jane Ward, Heath Education Assistant, George Arce, Health Education/Training Assistant, and Christopher Ornelas, Program Administrator

IX. Discussion of Agencies’ Updates Regarding Strategies to Combat Heroin Abuse

X. Audience Comments

XI. Task Force Comments

XII. Future Meeting Date

XIII. Reading of Good Samaritan Law

XIV. Adjournment

If any interested individual has a disability, which may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Samantha Argabrite, Deputy City Manager at (805) 583-6701. Upon advance notification of the need for accommodation, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2017

TO: Task Force on Heroin Prevention

FROM: County of Ventura Syringe Replacement Program (SRP)

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VIII.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Task Force receive a report regarding the County of Ventura’s Syringe Replacement Program, including a possible action to recommend the implementation of the program in Simi Valley.

OVERVIEW

County of Ventura Public Health HIV/AIDS Program operates the Syringe Replacement Program at various locations throughout the County, including the cities of Ventura, Oxnard and Santa Paula. The program provides IV drug users (IDUs) up to 20 new syringes per replacement. Naloxone overdose kits are also available at all SRPs. According to County staff, it is estimated that the Naloxone program within the SRPs has saved approximately 25 lives since its inception, and over 70 across Ventura County since 2014.

In order to operate a replacement program in Simi Valley, County Public Health would need to identify a location that clients would feel safe to go, as one of the barriers to use of the program is concern that they are “being tricked into getting arrested.” The program operates for approximately 90 minutes to two hours at a time.

SUMMARY

County of Ventura Public Health operates a Syringe Replacement Program in Ventura, Oxnard and Santa Paula and is seeking a location in Simi Valley.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2017
TO: Task Force on Heroin Prevention
FROM: City of Simi Valley
SUBJECT: Agenda Item IV.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Task Force select a Vice Chair.

OVERVIEW

Rob Collins, former Trustee of the Simi Valley Board of Education, was the long serving Vice Chair of the Task Force on Heroin Prevention. As he did not seek re-election in November 2016, the Vice Chair position on the Task Force is now vacant.

It is recommended that the Task Force take nominations and vote for a Vice Chair.

SUMMARY

The Vice Chair position on the Task Force on Heroin Prevention is vacant due to the retirement of Rob Collins, former member of the Board of Education. It is recommended that the Task Force name a new Vice Chair.
Task Force on Heroin Prevention Special Meeting
Tuesday, 11/24/15
Simi Valley’s Congressional District Office
1445 E Los Angeles Ave., Room 206
Simi Valley, CA 93065
Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Congressman Steve Knight.

Those in attendance:

1. Steve Knight, Congressman, CA-25
2. Pat Saraceno, District Representative, CA-25
3. Bob Huber, Mayor, Simi Valley, Member, Task Force on Heroin Prevention
4. Rob Bruce, Deputy Director Youth Services, Simi Valley
5. Doug Gale, Director of Recreation, Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District
6. Kate O’Brien, Director, Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District
7. Jim Vigdor, Chair-Elect, Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
8. Pat Montoya, President, “NOT ONE MORE”
9. Pat Meza, Secretary, “NOT ONE MORE”
10. Sommer Barwick, Director, Community Services, Simi Valley
11. Gioia Goodrum, CEO, Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
12. Mike Judge, City Council Member, Simi Valley, Chair Task Force on Heroin Prevention
14. Alan Thompson, Commander, Simi Valley Police Department
15. Melissa Simon, Reporter, Simi Valley Acorn

The Congressman welcomed everyone and proceeded with opening remarks. He explained his background as a former LAPD Officer, and his current responsibilities in Congress. He sits on several committees and was recently appointed to lead a Law Enforcement Task Force and Heroin Task Force in Washington.

Everyone in attendance was asked to state their name and if applicable, explain their role/mission on the Simi Valley Heroin Task Force. Commitment, collaboration and the need for education came up as reoccurring themes.

President of NOM, Pat Montoya, shared his experience as a football coach, parent and advocate of “Not One More.” “Prescription drugs and pain medication often lead to addiction, especially among young athletes,” he said.

Councilmember Mike Judge was recognized as the Chair of the Task Force.
Pastor Rick Kyle explained his work with at-risk youth, and an organization called SimiValleyJourney.org. He shared examples of how his ministry has moved kids away from destructive activities to productive activities.

Gioia Goodrum, CEO of the Simi Valley Chamber, expressed her desire to join the task force because our local economy depends on the labor workforce. Substance abuse/heroin addiction/crime negatively impacts our local economy.

Mayor Bob Huber emphasized that the coalition was comprised of committed law enforcement agents, City Council Members, members of the Board of Education, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, faith-based organizations and NOM members, who have been personally affected by heroin addiction and its devastating effects on the community. The Heroin Prevention Task Force of Simi Valley has been in existence since 2012, and it was well publicized by The Dr. Phil Show.

The Congressman reassured the group that this was an issue not only affecting his district, but many districts around the country. While it cannot be eradicated, through education, awareness and open dialogue, it can be exposed.

A Q&A session ensued. Participants brainstormed on solutions to address the following:

1. How do we keep kids from falling through the cracks if there’s mental health involved? Or high-risk behavior?
2. How long does it take to recognize, treat, and rehabilitate a heroin addict?
3. Does incarnation help?
4. Are there any federal grants to help fund faith-based youth outreach programs?
5. Do recovery programs involve the parents and/or family of the addict?
6. How do we make heroin/drugs LESS accessible to youth today?

The Congressman gave his final remarks on how he can best address the members' concerns. He emphasized that his role was not to impede the progress of the Simi Valley Task Force or impose an out-of-touch perspective. Rather he commended the work of the group and offered to be a spokesperson for what's working, on a national level.

The meeting was adjourned by the Congressman at 2:15 pm.
Call to Order

Task Force Chairman Judge called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was taken:

- Mike Judge, City Council Member, Task Force Chair - Present
- Rob Collins, SVUSD Trustee, Task Force Vice-Chair - Present
- Bob Huber, Mayor - Present
- Scott Blough, SVUSD Trustee - Absent
- Kate O'Brien, RSRPD Director - Present
- Elaine Freeman, RSRPD Director - Present
- Jim Vigor, Vice Chair, Legislative Action – Present
- Patrick Kelley, Chair Person, Not One More - Present
- Pat Montoya, President, Not One More - Present
- Pastor Dr. Paul Weir - Absent

Public Comments

- Kathleen Barrett, Secretary, Not One More. Summarized NOM's past activity and plans for the future, including: celebrating the organization's three year anniversary; holding six public meetings annually, providing speakers to high school student assemblies in Simi Valley and other neighboring districts, and attending local events. Not One More is hosting a drug awareness walk. This event will coincide with the National Heroin Overdose Awareness Day on September 12, 2015. Participants will meet at Mountain Gate Plaza in the Starbucks/ Jersey Mike's parking lot, (1197 Los Angeles Avenue, Simi Valley, 93065), at 9:00 am.

- Nicholas Petrov, shared information about the Heroin Anonymous meetings, held on Fridays at 8 pm. Mr. Petrov would like to volunteer at high schools.

- Dan Dotson, a recovering drug and alcohol user, shared information about the "Straight Up, Straight Talk" (made possible through funding from Ventura County Behavioral Health Department, Alcohol and Drug Programs). Mr. Dotson thanked SVUSD and the Simi Valley Police Department for their support.

- Scott Steiner, recovering alcoholic, lived at a group home for 3 years. He would like to see an end to this kind of life (drug and alcohol abuse). We need to continue to help kids kick the habit.
Task Force Chair Judge, requested to move item 9 (Update from the City of Simi Valley), to follow item 6 (Update from the Simi Valley Police Department).

Receipt of August 28, 2014 Task Force Meeting Notes

Task Force Chair Judge, requested a vote to approve the August 28, 2014 Task Force Meeting Notes (which were distributed and reviewed by all members that were present). Mayor Huber moved to approve the Minutes, Mr. Vgdor seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Presentations

Task Force Chair Judge, recognized outgoing Task Force members for their service to the Task Force.

- Pastor Kevin Dieckilman – not present
- Melissa Siebers
- Dan White

Task Force Chair Judge personally thanked and congratulated both Ms. Siebers and Mr. White for their service while on the Heroin Prevention Task Force.

SVPD Update

Deputy Chief McGinty provided an update from the Simi Valley Police Department. He introduced the new Special Operations Unit Commander Al Thompson.

Some of the statistics:

- Heroin Arrests
  - Before Prop 47 - 61
  - After Prop 47 - 92; 51% increase (less consequences being caught)

- Meth Arrests
  - Before Prop 47 118
  - After Prop147; 25% increase

- Burglaries and Petty Thefts (all thefts)
  - Before Prop 47 - 1,077 reports
  - After Prop 47 - 1,069 reports

Deputy Chief John McGinty also shared the following:

Local Heroin Anonymous (HA) meetings and "young people (under 18)" meetings are held regularly and are well attended.
In closing, Deputy Chief McGinty thanked SVUSD staff and Shannon McCabe, TUPE Coordinator, allowing young persons to speak (through “Straight Talk” Ventura County Behavioral Health and Not One More resources) to high school students. Feedback from students and teachers have been very positive, in regards to the speakers. There are still challenges to find volunteer moderators to accompany young recovering addicts to the classroom.

**City of Simi Valley Update**

Update from the City of Simi Valley related to its implementation of strategies to combat heroin abuse was presented by Samantha Argabrite, Assistant to the City Manager.

- The Youth Council promoted and participated in the “Straight Up” Reality Party for Parents to provide a real life demonstration about the realities of teen parties.
- Updated posters at three bus stops.
- In partnership with the SVUSD, the Simi Valley Youth Council provided Teen Crisis Resource Information to all high school students within the District via student identification cards.
- The City of Simi Valley and the RSRPD partnered to host the Simi Valley Youth Services Providers Meet and Greet on February 18, 2015, bringing together 40 youth-serving organizations to share resources and discuss collaborations.
- SVTV continues to air public service announcements (PSAs) developed by the Ventura County Behavioral Heath Alcohol and Drug Program related to teen prescription drug and heroin abuse.
- The Simi Valley Public Library offers a wide variety of programming for teens to provide positive alternatives, and programming for adults, such as the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program.
- To help prepare teens for employment, the Youth Employment Service hosted its annual Job and Career Expo on April 11, 2015 and has offered teen workshops at the Simi Valley Public Library, as well as for all tenth grade students within the Simi Valley Unified School District.
- During the August 31, 2015 City Council meeting, the City Council will proclaim September 12, 2015 as Heroin Awareness Day in the City of Simi Valley.
- Not one more will host a walk.
- During the same meeting, the City Council will proclaim the month of September 2015 as Suicide Prevention month.

**Simi Valley Unified School District Update**

Shannon McCabe, TUPE Coordinator, shared information on the SVUSD Voluntary Drug Testing Program for the 2014-2015 School Year and an update on the implementation of strategies to combat heroin abuse.
During the 2014-2015 school year, SVUSD partnered with Simi Valley Hospital to offer the Voluntary Drug Testing Program for 9th-12th grade students in the school district. The program is voluntary and enrollment requires parent permission. The goal of the program is to provide both parents and students with another tool and resource to prevent drug use.

In September of 2014, all parents of 9th-12th grade students were notified of this opportunity via the Parent Link email system. A letter detailing the program specifics and an enrollment form were sent to 6,796 parent email addresses for Apollo, Royal, Simi Valley, and Santa Susana High School students. Additionally, enrollment forms were made available at each high school and on the District webpage. Throughout the school year, 56 students from all four high schools enrolled in the program.

Between November 2014 and May 2015, 10 students each month, were randomly selected to be tested. All parents of the students selected were contacted by their student’s high school and were also sent a follow-up email by the District’s TUPE Coordinator. Testing results are confidential and were made available, via the Hospital, to the parents of those tested. For the 2015-2016 school year, the Simi Valley Unified School District and the Simi Valley Hospital have partnered to enhance the success of the Voluntary Drug Testing Program.

Resources and information can be found at www.simivalleuyisd.org

Questions:

Elaine Freeman inquired about the attendance at the Friday Night Live event. Ms. McCabe stated that there were approximately 30 per-school site.

Elaine Freeman inquired about the results of the drug testing. Ms. McCabe stated that individual tests are confidential; but that all tests came back negative.

Kate O’Brien inquired how the students are selected randomly for drug testing. Ms. McCabe stated that 10 students were selected from the pool each month; these are the students whose parents had signed releases.

Rob Collins thanked the Simi Valley Hospital for their partnership. He stated that this is a good way to keep students from taking drugs and sends a good message to the community.

Patrick Kelley inquired about the drug testing in lieu of suspension. Ms. McCabe responded that it is a site based decision and that this is new this year so there is no statistical data available.
Pat Montoya thanked Street Talk (John and Dan doing a great job) for their continuing efforts. He also stated that the SVUSD school website has added many resource links and he thanked the school district.

**Ranch Simi Recreation and Park District Update**

Danielle June of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, reported on the update related to the implementation of strategies to combat heroin abuse (2014-2015).

- **Publicity Outreach**
  - Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District’s Reporter – August 7
  - Drugs Destroy Tri-Fold Brochure
  - Community Links on our website

- **Health and Wellness**
  - Mental Health First Aid Training (approx. 570 people trained in our city)
    - Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
    - Supported statewide campaigns with Each Mind Matters to draw awareness during the month of May for Mental Health Awareness Month.
  - Parenting Seminars
    - RSRPD works with Interface Children and Family Services and the Triple P Program to provide Free parenting seminars.
    - To encourage participation childcare is provided for a nominal fee for those with a need.
  - Youth Hockey Outreach
    - A free referral based program that seeks to provide hockey training and “warm room” trainings to at risk youth.
    - The program is provided by RSRPD, Community Coalition United and Iceoplex; the program is free to participants and includes equipment use.
    - Participants receive one hour per week of on ice training and the warm room time consists of skill and interest building.
  - **safeTALK Training**
    - A training that seeks to help individuals identify and engage people with suicidal thoughts and connect them with further help.
    - Training was provided by Ventura County of Education.
    - Training event was hosted by Simi Valley Youth Council and RSRPD; 12 teens attended the training.

- **Recovery Awareness**
  - In recognition of National Recovery Month, RSRPD, Community Coalition United and the Simi Valley Public Library hosted an event in September 2014; a featured documentary, The Anonymous People, was shown.
• Prevention Programs
  o Early Intervention: Reality Party for Parents
    ▪ March 7, 2015, RSRPD worked with "Straight Up" Ventura County, SVUSD and the SVPD to host a Reality Party for Parents; the goal is to raise awareness, reduce incidents, increase communication between youth and their families and provide resources to the attendees.
  o Eat, Learn, Play
    ▪ Collaborative program with SVUSD, Simi Valley Public Library and Food Share; SVUSD providing meals daily to youth at Rancho Simi Community Park from June 8-July 31; On Tuesdays Food Share provided groceries for attending families and lunches for adults; on Wednesday the Simi Valley Public Library provided literacy and music activities; on Thursdays, RSRPD provided health and fitness activities, as well as craft activities; guest community members such as VC Fire Department, Emergency Services, Park Rangers and others were also invited to attend during weekly thematic activities. The Pilot program was deemed a success and was concluded to be well attended and received by the community (300 participants weekly).
  o Opportunities for Teens
    ▪ RSRPD offered teen seminars and workshops, teen pool party, babysitter training courses, art and anime courses, sign language classes, sports, teen camp, and much more to engage youth.
    ▪ An after-school Teen Club was established at Sinaloa Middle School and will expand to Hillside Middle School this fall.
    ▪ Intergenerational Programming: Teen volunteers assist seniors with use of their cell phone, laptops and tablets through one-on-one or small group instruction. This program bridges generational gaps, empowers teens as they instruct on a specific skill set and encourages seniors to provide mentorship to the youth.
    ▪ Employment: Along with hiring youth year-round, RSRPD hosts an annual Job Fair for youth interested in working for the Before and After School Care Programs offered through the district.
    ▪ Volunteer Activities: 248 active youth participate year-round in volunteering opportunities with RSRPD.
  o Collaborative Efforts
    ▪ RSRPD and the Simi Valley Public Library collaboratively host monthly crafting sessions.
    ▪ RSRPD also worked with the Interact Clubs to host a teen movie night at Royal High School in March 2015.
Committee Efforts
  o RSRPD has representation at the following committees.
    ▪ Community Coalition United
    ▪ Restorative Justice Collaborative
    ▪ Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board
    ▪ Community Advisory Committee
    ▪ Suicide Prevention Committee – County and Regional
    ▪ Ventura County PACT

Future Efforts
  o In recognition of September as Suicide Prevention Month, RSRPD, City of Simi Valley and Simi Valley Public Library will collaboratively host an event that encourages Simi Valley residents to get involved in a statewide campaign, Directing Change. Event at the Library on September 3, 2015.
  o In recognition of October as Stop Bullying Month, RSRPD, City of Simi Valley, and Simi Valley Public Library will collaboratively host an event that seeks to educate and provide tools to families and youth in regard to bullying.
  o RSRPD is working with the Interact Clubs on their Festival Arts Youth Movement event that will occur at Rancho Simi Community Park in Spring 2016.

Links
  o Drugs Destroy Brochure: http://www.rsrpdm.org/admin/taskforc/drugsdestroybrochure.pdf
  o Community Links on RSRPD Website: http://www.rsrpdm.org/admin/taskforce/taskforce.html
  o Teen Programs and Activities: http://www.rsrpdm.org/rec/teen/teen.html
  o Upcoming Events: http://www.rsrpdm.org/rec/events/events.html

Discussion of Agencies' updates regarding implementation of the recommended strategies to combat heroin abuse.

Mike Judge: Attended the Youth Summit at the Reagan Library; opportunity to discuss random topics with each other. This year he will make sure the Task Force members are invited. Youth Council did a great job.

Mayor Huber: Agreed that a lot of good ideas were brought forward at the Youth Summit; suggesting that Youth Council members should be invited to the next Heroin Prevention Task Force Meeting.

Elaine Freeman: Wanted to add an article, “Heroin’s Comeback” published in The Rotarian (September 2015 issue). It features a small community’s realization of their Heroin problems and some ideas that were used. She requested that it be copied and distributed to the members of the Task Force.
Audience Comments

- Kathleen Barrett, Not One More, Secretary - Not One More is hosting a drug awareness walk. This event will coincide with the National Heroin Overdose Awareness Day on September 12, 2015. Local government and public safety dignitaries will welcome the walkers and speak about the importance of drug awareness. Not One More provides resources for rehabs, focus on family groups through Action Family counseling (once a week). Not One More is a nationwide organization (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram). Ms. Barrett thanked the Mayor and the SVPD.

- Nick Petrov stated that music is a big factor with these young people. He suggests making positive music to educate and help people. He also stated music is expensive to make due to studio time. Music would be a big influence.

Task Force Comments

- Kate O’Brien, RSRPD, requested the current breakdown of alcohol, drug and heroin abuse in the City of Simi Valley.
- Pat Montoya, President of Not One More – stated that it looks like everything is going in the right direction; very proud of this city, proud of the six new chapters. Happy that the Facebook site could have 1.9 million contacts, going way beyond what this Chapter is doing in this city. Keep moving forward and would like to have the Heroin Prevention Task Force meet more often.
- Mike Judge, Chair, responded that he agrees as long as the information provided is kept current. He asked if the Not One More group is doing anything to educate parents.
- Pat Montoya, Not One More, responded that the group is contacting parents; adding, parents are getting educated on what signs to look for in regards to drug and alcohol abuse.
- Patrick Kelley, Not One More, stated some of the programs offered are not publicized. Not One More is in the process of developing a teaching model to use during the Sunday meetings (educating on signs, such as empty butane bottles/honey oil process).
- Rob Collins, SVUSD Trustee, inquired about the Santa Clarita Task Force speakers; what is working and what is not working in their communities.
- Patrick Kelley, Not One More, stated: “I was so moved by the Santa Clarita Task Force, a compelling story by Krissy McAfee, who serves on the board of the Action Family Foundation. Simi Valley doesn’t have to reinvent the wheel; there are many things that are working elsewhere.
- Elaine Freeman, RSRPD, inquired how much of this information is on social media.
Patrick Kelley, Not One More, suggested there is an engagement of 1.2 million on Facebook as well as future participation on Twitter and YouTube. Not One More is in the process of recruiting people with the expertise to bring the information to the public.

Mike Judge, Chair, inquired if the Not One More website takes concerns from the public.

Patrick Kelley, Not One More, responded (yes) that the group seeks out the resources for those requests and concerns received.

Pat Monloya, Not One More, stated that the group works a lot in Orange County and very closely with other cities (i.e., Night of Remembrance).

Mayor Huber stated that ever since Dr. Phil's show featured us (Simi Valley and Not One More) as leaders of the nation, the city is still receives phone inquiries. He also attended the DEA meeting in Los Angeles last year; stating we have great contacts with local and county law enforcement and the main focus is education.

Future Meeting Date

Action: The next meeting to be scheduled for March 2016. It was agreed that a day in March would be announced at the October 27 Tri Agency meeting.

Reading of Good Samaritan Law

Chair Judge read the summary of the Good Samaritan Law from California Health and Safety Code, Section 11376.5. The Good Samaritan Fatal Overdose Prevention Law provides that it is not a crime for someone under the influence of a controlled substance who seeks medical assistance for another person experiencing a drug-related overdose that is related to the possession of a controlled substance.

In closing, Chair Judge stated legislation in regards to Narcan will be coming up and requested Chief Officer McGinty to add that information, if available, on the next agenda.

Adjournment

Action: Chair Judge adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.
DATE: January 20, 2017

TO: Task Force on Heroin Prevention

FROM: Members of the Task Force on Heroin Prevention

SUBJECT: Agenda Item IX.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Task Force receive updates from the agency members of the Task Force.

OVERVIEW

Written updates from the City of Simi Valley and Not One More are included in the attached. All other updates will be provided verbally at the meeting.

SUMMARY

Written updates are attached and verbal updates will also be provided at the Task Force on Heroin Prevention meeting.
City of Simi Valley 2016 Updates

- The Youth Council promoted and a few members participated in the March 5, 2016, “Straight Up” Reality Party for Parents to provide a real life demonstration about the realities of teen parties, including underage/binge drinking and the drug culture.

- In partnership with the SVUSD, the Simi Valley Youth Council provided Teen Crisis Resource Information to all high school students within the District via student identification cards.

- The City of Simi Valley and the RSRPD partnered to host the Simi Valley Youth Services Providers Meet and Greet on February 17, 2016, bringing 45 youth-serving organizations to share resources and discuss collaborations.

- SVTV continues to air public service announcements (PSAs) developed by the Ventura County Behavioral Heath Alcohol and Drug Program related to teen prescription drug, heroin abuse, and drugged driving.

- The Simi Valley Public Library offers a wide variety of programming for teens to provide positive alternatives, and programming for adults, such as the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program.

- To help prepare teens for employment, the Youth Employment Service hosted its annual Job and Career Expo on April 30, 2016, and has offered teen workshops at the Simi Valley Public Library, as well as for all tenth grade students within the Simi Valley Unified School District.

- On May 16, 2016, the City Council proclaimed the month of May as Mental Health Awareness month. In conjunction with the City Council’s proclamation, the Youth Council, RSRPD, Simi Valley Public Library and Ventura County Office of Education hosted a LivingWorks’ safeTALK suicide alertness training on May 23, 2016.

- During the August 29, 2016 City Council meeting, the City Council proclaimed September 11 – 17, 2016 as Drug Awareness Week in the City of Simi Valley.

- On September 19, 2016, the City Council proclaimed the month of September 2016 as Suicide Prevention month. In conjunction with the City Council’s proclamation, the Youth Council, RSRPD and Library co-hosted a Suicide Prevention Film Screening and community discussion on September 29, 2016. Youth Council members led a group discussion after attendees viewed a number of award winning the student suicide prevention PSA’s from the statewide Directing Change Video PSA Contest.
2016 Update – Not One More

We started off the year by celebrating our 4 year anniversary in February. Over the course of the year, we held 6 public meetings. Each meeting included speakers that shared a wealth of information and insight from their vast experiences on different topics relating to drug awareness.

We received a $10k grant from the City of Simi Valley to create a program that we can provide to the school’s in Simi as well as other civic organizations to be a tool used to educate our youths on drug awareness.

We spoke at Moorpark and Oxnard Community Colleges and various high schools including Simi Valley, Royal, Apollo, Camarillo and El Camino high school in Woodland Hills. The agenda covered areas of drug use and the affects of addiction, a viewing of our short movie “Poison”, a group discussion and concluded with a Q&A.

Additionally, we also spoke to different youth organizations including the Simi Valley Journey, a youth recovery group, The Boy’s & Girl’s Scouts of Simi Valley, several gyms here in Simi and athletic teams. Drug awareness and prevention materials were provided at various community events, including the Simi Valley Street Fair, the Tooth Fairy 5k run sponsored by the Simi Valley Free Clinic and various car shows including the Cops and Cruisers.

Our Annual Drug Awareness Walk was held on September 12th, with a large turnout of supporters. Not One More had a movie premier at Studio Movie Grill featuring “Poison”, a short film made by a 19 year old former student from Simi High school.

During the holidays, we wanted to give back to the community and helped with a Christmas gift give-away for children at Kid Gloves Boxing and made a donation to show our appreciation for their efforts on working with our youths.

We continue to speak to different business groups and business owners’ throughout Ventura County and Los Angeles County on the issue of addiction and the impact the drug epidemic has had in our communities. Not One More has been featured in several newspaper and TV news stories, with these interviews we’ve been able to make an impact in our communities and in the surrounding areas. We have spoken at several different rehabs and have been able to place at least 40 - 50 young adult’s into rehabs or drug counseling programs and assist