



Curtis Austin, President
Workforce Florida, Inc.

Susan Pareigis, Director
Agency for Workforce Innovation

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors
From: Susan Pareigis
Curtis Austin
Date: March 16, 2006
Re: Prevention of Underage Drinking

Background:

Governor Bush and Florida's First Lady, Columba Bush, have formed the Governor's State Leadership Taskforce for Reducing Underage Drinking as a unified state agency initiative. Each state agency and its local offices are charged with developing action plans to work in concert with other education, intervention and enforcement strategies and plans specific to the mission of the agency to help curtail underage alcohol consumption. I am asking for your leadership and support for this initiative in your region.

Suggested Action:

The information contained in this memo and the enclosed packet is not intended to limit your imagination for helping to educate youth and parents about the unintended consequences of underage drinking including frontal lobe brain damage, teen pregnancy, lost employment opportunities, and even death. The plan is that if all state and federal funded youth programs carry the same message it will have a greater impact. The Agency for Workforce Innovation, in cooperation with its partners, the Regional Workforce Boards and their One-Stop Career Centers, may be an additional resource for the dissemination of educational materials on the risks associated with underage drinking and the disastrous effect it can have on work and career plans.

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Information and Local Contacts:

- Materials in the enclosed packet of information from the **Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA)** can be ordered from their resource center by calling 850-878-2196.
- For your convenience the **Drug Coalitions** contact information is attached to this memo. We encourage you to invite them to provide drug awareness sessions with your parents and youth. We encourage you to request that the video ***This Place*** be shown at one of your staff meetings so that you can determine other appropriate venues you might want to have the video shown. It's very powerful and something that all parents should see. Most of the Coalitions have a copy or it can be borrowed from the FADAA.
- Your local **Health Departments** are also excellent resources just as they have been for teen pregnancy prevention.
- A list of the **Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD)** chapters is also attached to this memo. They also have resource material including CD's and videos that can be used in youth or adult sessions.

Important Dates:

- Hold an event or participate with community partners on April 6, 2006, **Changing Alcohol Norms (CAN) Day**
- Show your support by attending a **Town Hall Meeting** event being held in or near your community (the Town Halls will be listed and updated on <http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/townhall/>),

Internet Resource Sites:

- <http://www.prevention.org/>
- <http://www.alcoholfreechildren.org/en/states/fl.cfm>
- <http://www.fadaa.org/fcc/projects/drinking.asp>
- http://www.hbofamily.com/programs/parent_handbook/smashed.html