

OMAHA COALITION MEETING
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
9 a.m.

A G E N D A

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of the March 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
(please contact PEM staff with corrections)
- III. Alcohol Treatment in Nebraska
Brandon Raddish, Valley Hope
- IV. Focus Area Updates
 - a. Local
 - i. Family Dollar Application Updates
 - ii. Valley SDL
 - b. Policy
 - i. Legislative update
 - c. Enforcement
 - i. Douglas County DUI Task Force Results
 - ii. Law Enforcement Training
 - d. Youth
 - i. Leadership Network – Next meeting: April 17th
 - ii. Youth Leadership Retreat – July 24-27 at Mahoney State Park
 - e. Awareness
 - i. April Research Summary available at www.projectextramile.org
- V. Additional Discussion/Announcements
- VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: **May 10th, 9 a.m. w/ Jolene Rohde, NE Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Manager**
UNO's Community Engagement Center, Room 127

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Hearings – May 2 & 3, 2023

PROJECT EXTRA MILE

OMAHA METRO AREA COALITION MEETING MINUTES March 8, 2023

- I. Call to Order: Chris Wagner called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions: Coalition members and speakers in attendance: Nomessi Akliku, Kaeli Samson, Palistene Gray-Moore, Margie Magnuson, Hayden Romig, Carey Pomykata, Don Hoes, Chris Foster, Margo Juarez, and Tom Safranek. Coalition members in attendance via Zoom: Greg McVey, Jim Timm, Jeanne Bietz, Jim Boucher, Zack Hicks, and Maggie Ballard. Staff members: Chris Wagner, Jenna Abbott, Beatha Kliewer, and Liene Topko.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the February 8th meeting were included in the coalition meeting packet. No additions or corrections were made.
- IV. 15 Years of Douglas County Compliance Check Data: Kaeli Samson and Nomessi Akliku with UNMC's College of Public Health discussed Nomessi's class project to create maps depicting alcohol compliance check violations in Douglas County. The maps create a visualization to simplify complex data and can be used in the future to target enforcement operations to higher non-compliance rate areas. The speakers discussed the process for obtaining, cleaning up, and creating the maps. The group discussed how these can be a valuable tool for both law enforcement operations and decisions regarding liquor licensing.
- V. Focus Area Updates
 - a. Local
 - i. Liene Topko shared information on six Family Dollar liquor license applications that were before the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. These applications were recommended denial by the Omaha City Council due to various citizens' concerns – primarily focused on safety and outlet density, and therefore hearings were held for each at the March 7th meeting. Commissioners did not come to a final decision as they wanted to review all the provided documentation. The decision on each will be announced at the April 4th meeting.
 - ii. Chris Wagner summarized the community training that was held of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. The training focused on the harms Nebraska and Omaha are experiencing due to excessive alcohol consumption as well as how citizens can be involved in reducing these harms through the liquor licensing process.
 - b. Policy
 - i. Wagner updated the group that various alcohol-related bills had been combined into one, LB376, which is currently on General File. Due to senators filibustering the legislative session, the debate is drawn out, but the bill is likely to pass.
 - ii. The legislative tracking sheet is available at www.projectextramile.org/policy

c. Enforcement

- i. Liene Topko shared with attendees that registration is open for the 2023 Law Enforcement Training that will focus on alcohol compliance checks and will be held on March 29th in Omaha and March 30th in North Platte.

d. Youth

- i. PEM Intern Jenna Abbott shared that several students attended the March youth leadership network meeting. Students learned about the socioecological model and were tasked with coming up with mini shark tank presentations on a topic related to alcohol that they found compelling.
- ii. The next meeting will be on April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

e. Awareness

- i. The March Research Summary is available at www.projectextramile.org/ResearchSummary

VI. Additional Discussion/Announcements: none

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will take place at the UNO Community Engagement Center at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023.

PROJECT EXTRA MILE

Youth

LEADERSHIP
TRAINING

**CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO AND USE YOUR
VOICE TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE!**

Where:

Mahoney State Park
28500 W Park Hwy, Ashland, NE

Who:

All students grade 8-12 are
encouraged to attend.

Why:

Become an effective leader to help
make positive changes in your community.

Cost:

Cost is \$50 per student and includes 3 nights
of lodging, food, t-shirt, activities at the park,
and of course the leadership training!

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PREVENTING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM





RESEARCH SUMMARY
Date Compiled: April 2023

Key takeaways from included research:

- Scotland instituted minimum unit pricing (MUP) in 2018. This study examined whether the effort has led to decreased alcohol-attributable deaths and hospitalizations. Researchers found a 13.4% reduction in deaths and a 4.1% reduction in hospitalizations during the 32 months the policy had been in effect. This study shows that MUP policies result in significant reductions in deaths, as well as hospitalizations, therefore more countries should consider adopting these to reduce alcohol consumption and the associated harms.
- Researchers in New York City examined how alcohol outlets tend to cluster lower income neighborhoods and the history of redlining in the City. They found that with each increase of on- and off-premise outlets, violent crimes also increased. Specifically, increases in on-premise outlets were significantly associated with violent crimes in communities with historical redlining.
- A new study examined the association between amount of alcohol consumed and the probability of utilizing a firearm to complete suicide. The researchers found that individuals who consumed alcohol prior to their death, were more likely to complete suicide with a firearm, and this increased as alcohol consumption increased.
- Less than half of the population are aware of the alcohol and cancer link, therefore researchers in Ireland studied the factors related to awareness of the association between alcohol use and breast cancer risk. They found that factors most strongly associated with awareness were sex (female), middle age (45-54 years), and higher education levels. Researchers called for more public health messaging highlighting the alcohol and cancer link to target individuals with level educational levels.

Omaha Police reports results of DUI enforcement operation

Written by WOWT Staff

OMAHA, Neb. (WOWT) - Omaha Police successfully completed two DUI enforcement operations over the weekend.

OPD worked in conjunction with Project Extra Mile, who provided a grant for the special operation. Across the city, two operations were conducted between Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12.

76 citations were issued and 13 arrests were made. 25 citations were issued for speeding and/or reckless driving, 7 for driving under the influence, 20 for not having registration or insurance, and 13 for other moving violations.

An additional five citations were issued for driving on a suspended license or other license violations.

Several stops resulted in multiple violations.

Dozens of drivers arrested and hundreds cited during State Basketball weekends

Written by 1011 NOW Staff

LINCOLN, Neb. (KOLN) - Nebraska State Troopers arrested 23 people for DUI and stopped 36 people for speeding at 100 miles per hour or more during both NSAA State Basketball tournament weekends that were held in Lincoln.

From March 1 through March 4 and March 8 through March 11, troopers across Nebraska worked to keep the roads safe during the busy travel weekends. The effort was made possible from grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office.

During the two weekends, troopers arrested 23 drivers for driving under the influence and stopped 36 drivers for speeding at 100 miles per hour or more. Additionally, troopers issued citations to:

- 710 drivers for speeding
- 22 drivers with an open alcohol container
- 53 drivers driving under suspension
- 13 drivers with no seatbelt
- 13 drivers with improper child restraint
- 11 people with minor in possession

During the two weekends, troopers also assisted 311 motorists that were in need of help on the road.

"Congratulations to all the teams who claimed state titles, and to all the teams that made it to state this year," Colonel John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol said. "We'd like to thank all the teams and their fans for helping to keep Nebraska roads safe during the busy travel weekends."

UNLPD reports sexual assault, several DUIs and theft over spring break

Written by Sawyer Belair

Non-student crimes and alcohol-related arrests dominated the police blotter for the two-week period ending with Spring Break at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Chiefly among those arrests were three DUIs, all involving non-students who were found driving the wrong way down one-way streets in downtown Lincoln. The person arrested at 14th and Q Streets on Saturday, March 11 registered a blood alcohol level just above the legal limit of .04 and was found with their headlights off.

The other two were arrested at 16th and Q and 13th and P Streets on Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19, respectively, and each blew around double the limit, according to UNL Police Department Sgt. Chadd Stutheit.

A non-student male was arrested near 10th and P Streets Saturday after fleeing University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department and Lincoln Public Department authorities who were attempting to detain him for drunkenness. Stutheit said he was then taken to LinkPointe, a non-profit mobile recovery unit for substance abusers.

Another non-student man was arrested after groping a passing non-student female on the sidewalk near the Courtyards on Wednesday, March 15. UNLPD cited the man for third degree sexual assault and banned him from campus grounds.

The incident was said to have happened around 10:30 a.m. that morning, and students were notified that a third degree sexual assault occurred on campus shortly after it was reported via UNL Alert.

Two homeless visitors to the university were arrested over the two-week period, with one being cited for stealing from a tip jar at the Nebraska Union food court on Tuesday, March 7. The other was found sleeping in the basement bathroom of the Agricultural Communications Building on East Campus on Friday, March 17.

Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol Tied to Better Health Outcomes

Written by HealthDay News

THURSDAY, March 23, 2023 (HealthDay News) — Implementation of minimum unit pricing (MUP) for alcohol has led to significant reductions in deaths and hospitalizations wholly attributable to alcohol consumption, according to a study published online March 20 in *The Lancet*.

Grant M.A. Wyper, Ph.D., from Public Health Scotland in Glasgow, and colleagues assessed whether implementation of MUP led to reductions in alcohol-attributable deaths and hospitalizations. The analysis included a time series ran from Jan. 1, 2012, to April 30, 2018, and for 32 months after the policy was implemented (until Dec. 31, 2020), with data from England used as a comparator.

The researchers found that MUP in Scotland was associated with a significant 13.4 percent reduction in deaths wholly attributable to alcohol consumption, while hospitalizations wholly attributable to alcohol consumption decreased by 4.1 percent. Significant improvements in chronic outcomes, particularly alcoholic liver disease, drove this effect.

“This work by Wyper and colleagues indicates that the policy has reduced disparities in alcohol related harms by reducing the harms experienced by those in lower socioeconomic groups. Given the disproportionate experience of harm in these groups, this could thus be described as a well-targeted policy,” write the authors of an accompanying editorial. “However, it is also important to ensure that in parallel with such research and policy change that we are also acknowledging, researching, and advocating for policies that address the inequality that causes so much health harms in the first place.”

Whiteclay area substance abuse center closes, leaving few alternatives

Written by Paul Hammel

LINCOLN – The only inpatient substance-abuse treatment center serving the Whiteclay, Nebraska, area has closed, making help for Native Americans battling alcohol or drug problems even less accessible.

The Northeast Panhandle Substance Abuse Treatment Center (NEPSAC) in Gordon, 37 miles from Whiteclay, closed Jan. 31.

The center, which had operated since the 1990s, was the only inpatient treatment center for alcohol and drug abuse in the vicinity of the sprawling Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which sits across the border from Whiteclay in South Dakota.

The unincorporated village was the former home of four beer stores that fueled rampant alcohol-related problems on the reservation before the outlets were closed in 2017.

Alcohol sales and possession are banned on the reservation, though ironically, sales of recreational marijuana are not, after a 2020 vote.

Victor Gehrig, the executive clinical director of NEPSAC, said that declining admissions, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to hire staff in rural, northwest Nebraska forced the decision to close.

‘Bad news’

“Financially, we weren’t going to be able to make it,” Gehrig said. “It’s bad news ... no matter how you put it.”

He said he’s been trying for four years to hire a substance abuse counselor, without success, and said in recent months, he and the other counselor working at NEPSAC had to fill in as weekend “techs” because of a lack of employees.

“I couldn’t keep up the pace anymore,” Gehrig said.

NEPSAC, which, when fully staffed, had a staff of nine, could serve nine inpatient clients at a time in a program that would extend for 50 to 60 days. Ninety-five percent of its clients were Native Americans, and the facility was funded to serve both Nebraska and South Dakota residents.

Duke Engel, a Lincoln counselor who filled in at NEPSAC over the years when Gehrig needed time off, said the beauty of the facility was that “no one had to explain life on the reservation.” Staff in Gordon knew what life and the challenges were like, Engel said.

“That was the strength of it,” he said. “There was a comfort level when getting treatment there.”

Alternatives farther away

On the Pine Ridge Reservation, a program called “Anpetu Luta Otipi” (which means “walking the red road” in Lakota) operates an intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment center in a facility designed for inpatient care.

But because of financial and staff issues, the facility has not been able to be used for inpatient care. That’s been a common problem for similar treatment centers, officials there said.

“We need a doctor, nurses, counselors, people to stay at night” for a 24/7 inpatient facility, said Tamela Wounded Arrow of the Kyle, S.D.- based program. “They’re hard to find.”

Wounded Arrow said that now, those seeking inpatient treatment for drug and alcohol abuse may have to travel to Mitchell, S.D., nearly a five-hour drive away.

Gehrig said that there are also inpatient treatment facilities contracted to serve Native Americans in eastern Nebraska, including the Intertribal Treatment Center in Omaha. But it is a seven and a half hour drive from Pine Ridge and, he said, often has a long wait list.

Alcohol-related problems on the Pine Ridge Reservation are as bad as ever, according to Wounded Arrow, even with the closing of Whiteclay.

Now, instead of the high-alcohol beer that was sold by the Whiteclay stores, vodka is the drink of choice on the Pine Ridge. Vodka is cheaper, she said, and is sometimes mixed with rubbing alcohol by bootleggers to increase supply and profits.

Distraction, speeding, alcohol drive up 2021 traffic deaths

Written by Associated Press

Nearly 43,000 people died in U.S. traffic crashes in 2021, with deaths due to speeding and impaired or distracted driving on the rise.

The 2021 final numbers, released Monday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, confirmed earlier estimates by the agency showing a 10.5% increase in deaths over 2020. That's the highest number in 16 years and the largest percentage increase since 1975.

Data shows a 12% rise in fatal crashes involving at least one distracted driver, with 3,522 people killed. That prompted the agency to kick off a \$5 million advertising campaign in an effort to keep drivers focused on the road. Agency officials said such cases likely are under-reported by police.

The number of pedestrians killed rose 13%, and cyclist fatalities were up 2% for the year. The number of unbelted passengers killed rose 8.1%, while fatalities involving alcohol-impaired driving were up 14%.

Speeding-related deaths increased 7.9%, while crash deaths involving large trucks weighing over 10,000 pounds were up 17%

Prom/Graduation Season Moves In With Usual Concerns

Written by Terry Leahy

We have moved into the prom and graduation season, which can be a concern for parents, teachers, and law enforcement.

"Underage access to alcohol typically increases, or at least they try to increase, you know, alcohol consumption during these big events for them," Omaha "Project Extra Mile" Executive Director Chris Wagner tells KFAB Radio News.

Wagner says they continue to try and counteract teen alcohol use through efforts like law enforcement compliance checks to stop sales of alcohol to minors and working to prevent adults from providing alcohol to teens.

Wagner says they have partnered with Omaha-area law enforcement for over two decades on store alcohol compliance checks.

"At the beginning, it was like over 40 percent of the businesses sold to the minor that was using their real i.d. that said they were under the legal age of 21, and nowadays, we are at or below ten percent."

"Project Extra Mile" is a group that says it's committed to preventing alcohol-related harm.

State liquor commission closes Omaha bar for 30 days but city council president wants it shut down

Written by Sean MacKinnon

OMAHA, Neb. — The liquor control commission is closing an Omaha bar for thirty days, fining it \$3,000 and putting it on probation for two years.

But the Omaha City Council thinks 3's Lounge should be completely shut down.

3's Lounge in Florence was previously known as Reign Lounge--a nightclub at the time. An army sergeant was murdered outside Reign in 2018. And after complaints from police and businesses, Reign lost its liquor license.

In 2021, new owner Shawn English re-opened the bar as 3's Lounge. The liquor commission allowed it on one condition- that the previous owner not be involved.

The commission says English broke that agreement when the previous owner signed paperwork on his behalf, so they revoked the license again. English appealed -- leading to the commission's decision Tuesday.

The bar will close for 30 days.

"And I'm not sure when that'll commence but it'll be soon," said English's attorney Mike Kelley.

English will also have to pay a \$3,000 fine and the commission will be watching what happens next.

"We're also placed on probation. There'd be any other alcohol violations, they would be certainly facing cancellation," English's attorney said.

We spoke with Kelley by phone. He didn't want his client to go on camera.

"We're gratified with the commission's ruling. Tough but fair," he said.

City council president Pete Festersen is not satisfied.

"We're very concerned about it," Festersen said.

He says the commission should have upheld its ruling.

"We need to take this very seriously. Owners need to be held accountable for these situations and I think it was a mistake not to uphold the revocation today," he said.

Over the weekend, Omaha police say they responded to gunfire outside the bar.

"It's been a long time problem for the neighborhood and it's only gotten worse in the last few weeks," Festersen said.

English's attorney did not want to comment on the gunfire.

For now, the liquor commission put 3's Lounge on notice and the bar remains on the city council's radar.

"I hope they take that to heart and understand how serious this really is. And that we'll be watching very closely over the next two years in terms of that probation period," Festersen said.

English's attorney described 3's Lounge as a neighborhood tavern.

Festersen says the bar's neighbors would tell a different story.

Omaha police arrest a group of teens found drinking on an elementary school roof

Written by KETV Staff

OMAHA, Neb. — Omaha police said several teens are in custody after they were found drinking on an elementary school's roof.

According to police, officers responded to Jefferson Elementary School near 42nd and Vinton streets.

Once there, police said they spotted a group of teens on the roof drinking. Omaha fire and ABLE-1 were called in to get two of the teens down.

OPD tells KETV several were taken into custody without incident.

Charges are pending for all of the parties involved.