

HTSAC Action Team
ADVOCACY
October 25, 2007

Brief Summary

In Attendance:

Betsy Overkamp-Smith, Stephanie Loeb, Ruth Larson, Gina Thorne, Nadia Williams

Discussion:

- Role of the Coalition in local, state and national advocacy
- CADCA endorses policy change (talking to stores, writing to companies about questionable products) –Example: Providing information to pharmacies about cough syrup abuse
- Similar effort could be supporting restaurant smoking ban like in Norfolk and Virginia Beach
- Advocacy affects underage access and increased the Coalition's visibility – Example: Social Host Liability ordinance, creates a law *and* revenue source

Future Plans:

- Couch advocacy in an education format without threatening relationships with businesses or those in the Coalition with business ties
- Provide information to stores about products that can be abused
- Review policies that allows underage access to alcohol
- Data shows alcohol and marijuana as drugs of choice. Look at how they are acquired
- Coalition members or staff can bring questionable issues to the Board to decide if the issue will be addressed by the Coalition
- There are many items to rally behind; concentrate efforts to be more effective; take issues one at a time
- Define advocacy: what will be the method/approach?

Summary:

HTSAC will approach the role of advocacy with the intent to educate and promote change in our community that will deter youth access to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Coalition membership, staff and the community at-large will be encouraged to identify and present questionable merchandise, practices and policies that may influence or perpetuate youth alcohol, tobacco and other drug use to the HTSAC Board of Directors.

HTSAC will utilize advocacy to change the physical design of our community encouraging the use of protective factors and decreasing risk factors in the Historic Triangle region.