

Substance abuse prevention coalition plans next prescription drug take back

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The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition held its regular meeting Sept. 15 and discussed the upcoming prescription drug take back day scheduled for the end of September.

Johnson County Sheriff's Deputy Kelley Waugh told the group that some changes had been made to increase the privacy and expediency of the program from the last time it was implemented at the senior center.

"Because it is a small town, I think a lot of people are nervous about who is seeing them drop off what pills, so there have been some changes and basically you do not have to sign the pills away anymore - just drop them into the

box," he said. "We just want to collect them."

The take back will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 25, at Crazy Woman Square. All types of prescription drugs will be accepted at the event.

The program is designed to allow members of the community to dispose of unneeded or unwanted drugs, whether for their family or personally. Waugh also told the group that participants could black out the names on their pill bottles for extra privacy if they wish.

The coalition also heard from Buffalo City Councilman Randy Dyess and Buffalo Police Chief Mike Chapman about a new liquor license protocol the city was working on. Dyess told the coalition that he thought the second meeting with license

holders and the community had gone very well and that the benefits this ordinance would bring to the community far outweighed the amount of criticism he, or the council, received throughout the process.

The coalition also heard an update on the texting tip line that was put into use in the first part of the year. The aim of the program was to give students and the community at large a way to anonymously report crimes or suspicious activities in the community.

Buffalo Police School Resource Officer Angie Lloyd spoke about the general use of the program and what was being done to promote it in the schools.

"We have had it used a few times and so far no false alarms," she said. "We are going to go

back to the schools again to show the kids how it works, especially at the high school, because that is where a lot of the skepticism is at, I think."

Lloyd also spoke to the group about the presence of SPICE in the community. SPICE, a synthetic drug that has many of the same effects as marijuana, has increased in use according to Lloyd, due mostly to its availability and because it is not yet illegal in most states.

Lloyd said that local law enforcement was aware of the use and was working to curtail it where possible.

"We are still learning a lot about this drug and what it can do, but we still don't really know what is in it and what its long term effects are," she said.

The next coalition meeting will

be held at 12 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 20, at the Johnson County School District Administration Building.

For more information, contact the Johnson County Community Resource Center at 684-7933.



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