

Joint Resolution
March 20, 2007

Sawyer County Public Health and the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition invite you to join us in preventing and reducing underage drinking in Sawyer County.

WHEREAS, research shows that young people who start drinking before the age of 15 are five times more likely to have alcohol-related problems later in life. Furthermore, according to Acting Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu, new research indicates that alcohol may harm the developing adolescent brain. The availability of research provides more reasons than ever before for parents and other adults to protect the health and safety of our nation's children.

WHEREAS, the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates there are 11 million underage drinkers in the United States. Nearly 7.2 million are considered binge drinkers, typically meaning they drank more than five drinks on occasion, and more than two million are classified as heavy drinkers.

WHEREAS, the Sawyer County Data Review Steering Committee and community-wide review identified high-risk behaviors among Sawyer County youth as a concern, among these substance abuse was identified as one of two priority areas to focus on in the 2007 Sawyer County Health Improvement Plan.

WHEREAS, in Sawyer County during 2000-2004, 243 crashes involved alcohol out of 1,773 total crashes. Nearly 14 percent of total motor vehicle crashes in Sawyer County were alcohol-related. The county percent is high compared to other counties in Wisconsin with the Northern Region at 7.5 percent and Wisconsin at 6.8 percent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ DOES

Adopt and support the goals outlined in the Surgeon General's 2007 National Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking. The six goals identified are:

- a. Foster change in the community that facilitates healthy adolescent development and that help prevent and reduce underage drinking.
- b. Engage parents, schools, community, government, all social systems that interface with youth, and youth themselves, in a coordinated effort to prevent and reduce drinking and its consequences.

- c. Promote an understanding of underage alcohol consumption in the context of human development and maturation that takes into account individual adolescent characteristics as well as environmental, ethnic, cultural, and gender differences.
- d. Conduct additional research on adolescent alcohol use and its relationship to development.
- e. Work to improve public health surveillance on underage drinking and on population-based risk factors for this behavior.
- f. Work to ensure that policies at all levels are consistent with the national goal of preventing and reducing underage alcohol consumption.

Adopt and support the goals to reduce underage drinking as set forth in the 2007 Sawyer County Community Health Improvement Plan. They are:

- a. Delay age of first use of alcohol by youth through continued coordinated community level activities.
- b. Close the treatment gap by increasing youth and family awareness and use of local services, promote healthy youth activities, engaging policy makers and law enforcement to continue to support efforts to decrease drinking and tobacco use among youth.

Signature

Agency

Date adopted