

**Southern Kennebec Substance Abuse Work Group:
Initiatives and Recent Accomplishments**

Background and History: The Southern Kennebec Substance Abuse Work Group began 12 months ago as a short term effort to document the size and nature of the problem, and promote awareness of effective ways to reduce underage drinking. Small teams of people from six area communities came together between January and May 2008. At the end of the process, the teams had increased knowledge, tools and strategies, and a commitment of staff support from Healthy Communities of the Capital Area (HCCA) to do one or two more no-cost/low cost things to prevent or reduce underage drinking.

Today, in each of these communities, new evidence-based action is being taken:

Target Pops and Partners	Programs and Projects	Notes
Youth/Students	1) Youth Voices program	Three programs in place: new to Gardiner
Schools and School Administration	2) Tougher and/or more consistent enforcement of school alcohol and drug policies — concurrent with adoption of the Student Intervention and Reintegration Program (SIRP) in 3 schools	Monmouth, Winthrop, Gardiner and Hall-Dale Gardiner, Hall-Dale, Monmouth
Parents	Distribution of parent education materials Parent education and skill building activities—helping parents help youth make healthier choices	Winthrop spring 08 awareness campaign; discussions within the P-PAC Augusta Parent Night Out last fall
Employers	Stronger worksite substance abuse policies, and practices, business by business	-New Drug Free policies (2) -Distrib. of ed materials (2) -Specific policy changes to support responsible use (3)
Retailers	Training for clerks and managers about how to avoid risky sales Soon: The Mystery Shopper program	65 alcohol sales personnel (on and off premise) trained, from 20 area businesses
Law Enforcement	Creation of the underage drinking task force; emerging increase in enforcement of underage drinking laws	Across the entire service area: six local departments
Community-wide action planning groups to identify and take action	Create awareness of the size and nature of the problem, and build consensus about what to do next	Winthrop, Maranacook
School guided and supported planning efforts	Working on specific substance abuse prevention related projects	Monmouth Academy Gardiner Area High School