



WORKGROUP TOPIC:

Social hosting

November 18, 2014 College Town Summit

INITIAL "SOCIAL HOSTING" TOPICS SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION

(from past summit and steering committee meeting notes)

- Law needs to apply to more than parents.
- What are the current campus policies and local ordinances? Are they being enforced?
- Share info between school and town. This means they will be charged on two different tracks.
- Keg registration: Unintended consequence is that distilled spirits and wine is now more of a problem.
- Social media needs to be addressed (where students invite people to their party).
- Have law apply to ALL (ie, rewrite it so it applies to others, but does not exclude parents/guardians).
- Social host policies: When are they being enforced and how.
- Require registration when organizations (such as fraternities) host drinking parties.
- More cooperation between local government, schools, and student government. For example, "Neighborhood Walk" program in Spring to cover crime issues, city ordinances, Student Code of Conduct, off-campus parties.
- Restrictions on campus has forced events to off-campus venues. Events are policed by campus police.
- Party buses: Hold drivers and/or bus companies responsible.
- Recommended that intoxicated students are not deemed capable of signing refusal to transport. Need consistency and willingness to prosecute on social host law.

INTRODUCTION OF MODEL SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE IN LAKE COUNTY

(by Terry Vandergrift, Lake County State's Attorney's Office)

- Applies to anyone regardless of relationship to underage person (ie, parents, guardians, other underage persons, etc).
- Enforceable wherever offense occurs, not just in homes (ie, boats, buses, open fields, private or public property).
- Includes use of illicit drugs.
- Offender does not have to be present.
- Offender can call for help and not be held accountable.
- Does not apply to religious functions.
- Progressive fine structure.
- Allows for customization of ordinance by local jurisdictions.
- Letter of support sent to mayors.
- Youth support of the initiative.

NOTES FROM BREAKOUT SESSION

- Biggest challenge: Parents and law enforcement do not know law exists. Community awareness is key. Educational role can be accomplished through messages on water bills and inclusion in police policy manuals. Also need to educate students on the law (ie, an event “blows up” when one person invites two people, etc).
- Student leaders can be part of education model (ie, the first line of defense is student education).
- A thorough investigation is key in regard to landlords, property owners, and residence halls. For example, when one roommate throws a party, is everyone on the lease held accountable? Also, the person who is responsible for the party is not usually the property owner.
- Limiting the amount of alcohol purchased is not effective as the purchaser can simply go from store to store, especially with the popularity of distilled spirits on college campuses.
- Communities who do not have a social ordinance are typically those who believe they do not have an underage drinking problem.
- Enforcement often occurs because of another issue, such as a noise or disturbance complaint.
- Officer cannot get into residence unless they have a reason.
- There does not need to be an arrest to have a violation.
- Social media can be used to determine the party host.
- An effective response to apartment parties is bringing along the social host ordinance language and how offender will be referred to university conduct code.

- Need to work in partnership with municipal police and university police (ie, student who violate state, local, federal laws can be held accountable on campus conduct.
- Permits are required to have large parties. Once you get to 150, you break it up and issue a “mass gathering” ticket. The key is the conversation beforehand.

FINAL GROUP TAKEAWAYS/QUESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- Combined campus/community enforcement is important.
- Assistance with party dispersals is needed.
- Plainclothes patrols to monitor parties would be helpful.
- Assistance needed in process for reporting off-campus events.
- Need strategies for building relationships.
- Harm reduction: What is the liability for hosting?
- When does an event become a social host violation?
- Why are landlords not held responsible.
- More info needed about the role of law enforcement in how to conduct procedures so they can be used in court (ie, student conduct hearings cannot be used in court).
- Need case studies on effectiveness of social host policies.
- How to use social to enhance response efforts.