

A CLEAR VIEW.....

Responsible Beverage Service in Morgan County

January, 2009

Morgan County CLEAR

P.O. Box 163, Versailles, MO 65084



Welcome to this issue of CLEAR View. This is our 7th edition of CLEAR View, which is a newsletter sharing information from CLEAR (Community Leaders Educating About Resistance) and our community grant for reducing risky drinking (binge and underage) in ages 12-25.

In recent weeks, CLEAR has been providing ID Checking Guides for alcohol merchants in the county. During these deliveries, we asked whether or not merchants were getting the newsletter and how Responsible Beverage Service Training could be more helpful. Some businesses had already closed for the tourist season so we will continue this project in the spring. We found that some clerks or servers were not familiar with CLEAR View so if you need additional copies of the newsletter, please just ask. We will be happy to provide as many as you need for your business. The clerks and servers are on the front line and protect the business through their knowledge and good habits in serving alcohol responsibly.

Where Do Underage Drinkers Get Alcohol?

Did you know... reduction of underage drinking is a top public health priority for the Federal Government? According to data from the 2006/07 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) underage drinkers are still able to obtain alcohol. Nationwide, more than one quarter of persons 12-20 used alcohol in the past month. (In Morgan County, according to the Missouri Combined Youth Survey, 2008, 28% of 12-18 year olds had used alcohol in the past month.)

Where do they get it? Nationwide statistics indicate that:

1. Nearly 1 out of 3 underage drinkers paid for the last alcohol they used.
2. More than 1 out of 4 underage drinkers got it free from a nonrelative aged 21 or older.
3. About 1 out of 7 underage drinkers got it free from another underage person.
4. About 1 out of 12 underage drinkers got it from another relative aged 21 or older.
5. About 1 out of 17 underage drinkers got it from their parent or guardian.
6. About 1 out of 25 underage drinkers got it from their home without asking.
7. Underage male alcohol users were more likely than female alcohol users to have paid for their last alcohol.
8. Underage female drinkers were more likely than males to have gotten the last alcohol they used for free from
a nonrelative of legal age.

Responsible Beverage Service Training

On November 5th, CLEAR was proud to provide RBS training to the alcohol merchants of Morgan County. For the first time, Alcohol Tobacco Control Agent Keith Hendrickson provided the training. The training was excellent. The advantage of having Agent Hendrickson is huge. When agents bring fake IDs to training, participants are able to view and learn what underage drinkers will attempt to do in order to purchase liquor.

Agent Hendrickson will now be available on two occasions. First, he will be providing training at 9:00 a.m. on Wed., Jan. 28th at the Osage Beach City Hall. CLEAR trainings will be held at G2M in Laurie at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 4th. If we have a minimum of 15, Agent Hendrickson will be able to facilitate the session at 3:30 p.m. at G2M, so --- call now to reserve a spot. 573-789-5509. (allow 1 hour to 1.5 hours)

Calendar

- **RBS (Responsible Beverage Service) Training:** 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wed., Feb. 4th, at G2M Super Market, Hwy 5 in Laurie. RSVP required: 573-789-5509.
- **Coalition meeting dates:** 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, 2009, Morgan County Health Center, 104 W Lafayette Versailles (lunch will be served)

Tips for Clerks and Servers

Now you know that most underage drinkers paid for the last alcohol they used. So . . . what does this mean for you the clerk or server?

If you are a server in a bar, lounge or restaurant, the underage drinker is more likely to be a female.

If you are a clerk in a convenience, liquor or grocery store, the underage person who attempts to buy is more likely to be a male.

Beware and do your job - check the ID. Watch the parking lot if possible for carloads of juveniles and youth attempting to get other customers to buy for them. You have the right to refuse any sale. Protect yourself and the business you work for, so you aren't

Q & A with Sheriff Jim Petty

Thank you, Jim, for sharing your expertise!

- **CLEAR Q:** What do you see as issues in the county related to either binge or underage drinking?
- **Sheriff Jim Petty:** Not being out on the road as the deputies are, the sheriff doesn't see as much of the effects of binge or underage drinking. Peer pressure is one of the issues that face the youth of Morgan County. I wish that each young person realized that they don't have to drink to be cool.
- **CLEAR Q:** What positive changes have you noted related to CLEAR and community initiatives?
- **Sheriff Jim Petty:** Changes in the areas of prevention are so hard to measure with lots of variables. It is so important for parents to teach about alcohol and substance use at home. Teachers, law enforcement and CLEAR can do all that they possibly can but the parents need to be the ones to set the guidelines.
- **CLEAR Q:** What can retailers do to protect themselves from serving or selling to underage drinkers?
- **Sheriff Jim Petty:** The best way for retailers to protect themselves from serving or selling to underage drinkers is to follow the guidelines for checking ID's. Retailers need to use common sense, determine if a customer looks too young and then check ID's. This process is not as easy as it once was. Today there are so many possibilities for developing fakes. Servers or clerks need lots of knowledge and experience to know the difference.
- **CLEAR Q:** What is your vision for the future . . . how do you see things differently?
- **Sheriff Jim Petty:** In the future, I hope that young people will act responsibly. Today our youth grow up so much faster. They must take responsibility for making good decisions. Drinking and drug use go hand in hand. Youth are making life long decisions, not just immediate ones, when they decide to use. Hopefully, young people will determine their life style and work to become productive adults.

Want to know more? Need additional information about CLEAR or RBS? Want to participate?

- Contact CLEAR at 573.789.5509 or by e-mail at chapman1@vpclinks.com
- Contact the grant coordinator, Donna Chapman, at 573.789.5509 or CLEAR officers: Audrey Crewell, pres.; Sunday Unger, secretary; Karen Dobbins,