

A CLEAR VIEW.....

On Responsible Beverage Service in Morgan County

June, 2009

Morgan County CLEAR

P.O. Box 163, Versailles, MO 65084



Welcome to this issue of CLEAR View. This is our 9th 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. Why is RBS so important? Besides protecting yourself from liability and keeping our youth safe- a new study affirms the relationship between underage drinking and alcohol outlet density. The study shows greater densities of liquor or grocery stores, off-premises alcohol outlets, correlated to youth reporting more alcohol access through commercial or social sources. Remember that alcohol density was a risk factor for youth in the lake area-Morgan County ranks 3rd highest county in Missouri for liquor outlets per capita population. (Camden-is highest, Benton is 2nd highest.)

Why is the legal age 21? The new brain research validates the age of 21:

- Alcohol on the developing brain can interfere with learning and memory.
- The brain continues to grow and develop to approximately age 25.
- The hippocampus in an adolescent who drinks heavily can be up to 10% smaller.
- Teenage drinkers score worse on vocabulary and memory tests and are more likely to perform poorly in school
- Persons who start to drink at age 14 or younger relative to those starting at age 21 or older are . . .
 - ✓ 4 times more likely to become alcohol dependent
 - ✓ 7 times more likely to be drunk on a weekly basis
 - ✓ 12 times more likely to be unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol
 - ✓ 7 times more likely to be in motor vehicle crashes because of their drinking
 - ✓ 11 times more likely to be in physical fights after drinking

Citation: "Keeping the Minimum Legal Drinking Age 21", Drug-Free Action Alliance. www.drugfreeactionalliance.org

CLEAR Will Hold Responsible Beverage Service Training

CLEAR will be providing training at 10:00 a.m. on Mon., June 29th at Morgan County Health Center 104 W Lafayette, in Versailles. If we have a minimum of 15, Agent Hendrickson will be able to facilitate the session so --- call now to reserve a spot. 573-789-5509. (Allow 2.5 hours for this program.)

In May, Alcohol Tobacco Control released a "new" server training program. The new program's content includes: responsibility, BAC (Blood Alcohol Content), sales to intoxicated persons, hours of operation, employment of minors, compliance checks, original packages, energy drinks, advertising, improper acts, required signage, tobacco, keg registration, checking ID's, good faith defense, and carding procedures. (several new topics)

Calendar

RBS (Responsible Beverage Service) **Training:** 10:00 a.m., Mon., June 29th, at Morgan County Health Center, 104 W Lafayette in Versailles. RSVP required: 573-789-5509.

CLEAR coalition meeting: 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2009, Morgan County Health Center, 104 W Lafayette, Versailles (lunch will be served)

Tips for Clerks and Servers: How to Check ID's

Remember: Most underage drinkers, pay for their alcohol.

Most confiscated ID's are real-used by someone who "borrowed" the ID.

1. Look at the person attempting to buy alcohol.
2. Pick out a permanent facial feature (such as nose, eyes or shape of face or lips).
3. Ask for ID. Be sure the ID is: Driver's License from any state, Missouri Non-Driver's License, Passport, or Military ID. Have person remove ID from wallet. Check-- does the wallet have other forms of identification? Keep ID until you are satisfied it is valid.
4. Feel the ID. Are there bumps, ridges, or other irregularities? Look for tracing or an overlay. While checking the ID watch the body language of the subject who presented it. Possible behaviors to watch for: turning away, defensive, nervous, or unable to maintain eye contact.
5. Now—look at the ID. Does the permanent feature you selected show up in the picture?
6. Then check physical description – height, weight, eye color.
7. Check the date of birth: month, day and year. Is there an under 21 line? Check the expiration date of the ID. If needed, grab the ID Checking Guide and verify that the ID is valid.
7. Still not sure, ask for secondary ID. Most people carry some other cards with their name. Individuals with "fake" ID probably only have that one piece of identification.
8. Always assume that the person buying the alcohol is under 21 until he/she proves his/her age.
9. If you are still doubtful, refuse the sale!

Seizing ID's

You may find a "fake" ID. Maybe the ID has the words: "secure, genuine, authentic, not a government document, or for novelty purposes" or has the wrong hologram. Now--what do you do. If you try to keep the ID, don't put yourself in danger to keep it. If you do retrieve the "fake", you canNOT keep it. Call local law enforcement or Alcohol Tobacco Control.

Questions from Merchants

During recent trainings Morgan County merchants posed these:

Merchant Q: Is a liquor merchant responsible for a minor who comes onto the premises or property with alcohol (or tobacco), even if they did not sell the product to the minor?

Response: *Yes, the merchant is liable. You do not want any illegal activity on the premises. Contact law enforcement.*

Merchant Q: Is a liquor merchant who does not sell tobacco products responsible for handling the situation if a minor is smoking or has tobacco products?

Response: *This situation would require a warning. The situation could be handled on your own as you do not want illegal activities on your premise. Warn the minor to leave the premises with tobacco products.*

Merchant Q: When do minors need to leave the premises of liquor by the drink establishments?

Response: *Remember, Missouri does not have any laws prohibiting minors in bars. (Laurie ordinance does prohibit minors sitting at the bar.) This is an area where the retailer should/could set their policy. Some Morgan County liquor merchants do have their own policy such as no minors after 10:00 p.m. Remember, if the minor is there, the risks related to underage consumption could be increased.*

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, treasurer.
- Check out our website at www.morgancountyclear.org