

# Development Corporation Updates Membership

In this issue I would like to talk about a couple a programs that currently have active HCCDC involvement. They are both prevention type programs that will be a great benefit to the community. These programs are the Weed and Seed Program and the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Grant. I will try not to use acronyms to describe these or any other programs that we work with. Having been in the military for 21 years and aging for 13 it turns into alphabet soup for most people. Things that mean something for one group of people mean something totally different to another group. Case in point is the SPF, in this article it refers to the Strategic Prevention Framework, but back when I was in the Air Force it meant the Strategic Projection Force. I think sometimes when we use too many acronyms we



Frank Schersing, HCCDC CEO

confuse people. I will try to keep that to a minimum.

The purpose of Weed and Seed is to unite residents, law enforcement organizations, community, governmental, and other organizations in order to promote

the strategic plan, programs, goals, objectives, and milestones of our Weed and Seed strategy; to encourage members to render services that are beneficial to the purpose of our communities; and to cooperate with other groups providing similar services of benefit within our communities.

Winnebago Tribe/Omaha Nation/Greater Thurston County Weed & Seed Strategy funding period ended as of August 31st this year. Weed & Seed is a two pronged approach in addressing high crime areas, and helping build safer communities. A good description of What Weed & Seed means is "weeding out bad", which would be the crime and "seeding in the good", which would be prevention types of activities. The local Weed & Seed strategy had a good start

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and a very dedicated group of steering committee members. The strategy was to become a self sustaining program with the guidance of the Steering Committee.

In 2004 is when the strategy was implemented, and was initiated into the area by grass roots members of a steering committee also known as the Weed & Seed Steering Committee. Years prior to the implementation year, concerned citizens in communities located on the Winnebago and Omaha Reservations wanted to address rising crime rates, hence the initiation of the Weed & Seed Strategy.

The Weed & Seed Strategy was funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ), through the Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) over the course of five years. The purpose of the strategy was to focus on community safety through building partnerships with local law enforcement, community members, local businesses, tribal organization, and anyone who wanted to help. The overall goal of the strategy was to provide a clear path for communities to take a pro-active approach in addressing criminal activity and offering ways to detour it and build on the positive things in the communities.

The first two years of Weed & Seed had been administered by the Nebraska Justice Center, where Deb Brown-Yard served as the Weed & Seed Site Coordinator, and Valita "Mioux" Stabler as the Assistant Site Coordinator. In the third funding year of Weed & Seed, Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation (HCCDC) took over administration of the funding. Michelle Parker served as the Weed & Seed Site Coordinator. Throughout HCCDC's tenure with the Winnebago Tribe/Omaha Nation/Greater Thurston County Weed & Seed Strategy, it was recognized as one of the most successful Weed & Seed strategies in Indian Country.

Although the funding may have ended, that does not mean we as a Weed & Seed community have to stop. The purpose of the strategy was to help the communities sustain a workable relationship from within to strive for safer communities. This strategy provided an opportunity to allow our communities a voice in addressing high crime rates. It also helped the communities work together on the prevention side, which was recognized throughout the five years. The most successful activity in the past two years was the Weed & Seed high school art show which included students from six schools. The students were recognized at an awards ceremony, and to have their artwork displayed in the Chuck Raymond Art Gallery at Woodland Trails in Winnebago.

Weed & Seed is a stepping stone for our communities to be more aware of our

surroundings, and have a vested interest in making our communities safe. It is up to us as community members, tribal members, business owners, law enforcement to work together to build a better tomorrow for our future. We shouldn't have to rely on government funding to keep programs like these going. This should be a program that has everyone in the community wanting to help build on what the grant program started.

The other program is the Strategic Prevention Frameworks (SPF) Grant Awarded to the Winnebago Tribe. The grant was recently awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)/Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

The purpose of the grant is to address substance abuse in the Winnebago Reservation, with the first year's primary focus on data collection. This grant is the first of its kind being awarded directly to tribes. The Winnebago Tribe will be a part of a movement for the next five years in the efforts to collect data from our community members in tracking substance abuse in Indian Country. There are seven other tribes participating. Each organization in Thurston County collects its own data, but is not shared. Our effort will be to collect a common database which can be tracked and evaluated. With this information we can evaluate whether drug and alcohol use or abuse is increasing or decreasing and whether programs are having any affects on the use or abuse.

The Tribe will be receiving \$500,000/year for five years. The Winnebago Tribe will use the grant to 1. Incorporate the Ho-Chunk language, culture, and traditions into all substance abuse prevention services and programs; 2. Prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance abuse with emphasis on youth; 3. Reduce substance abuse related problems; and 4. Advance prevention capacity and infrastructure that builds upon the Tribe's on-going economic development, substance abuse prevention, and youth and education efforts. The Ho-Chunk Renaissance and Boys & Girls Club will be helping the grant address some of the education and awareness on substance abuse.

The goals for this project will be to: 1. Build infrastructure at the Tribal and Community levels in order to increase prevention capacity; 2. Prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance abuse among youth; and 3. Reduce substance abuse and its related social and health effects over time.

Michelle Parker is serving as the Project Coordinator. Michelle and HCCDC is looking forward to working with the youth in the community.

in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." [Saint John 8:31-36 ESV]

Jesus has a way of getting straight to man's, or woman's, need to be set free. This is a reality check unlike any so-called 'reality' game show. Jesus points out once again, like He had done with Nicodemus in the famous third chapter of Saint John, that each and every person is a born sinner.

If I would ask you today whether you were a sinner or not, what would you answer? Your answer can only be 'yes' or 'no.' You are not allowed to answer 'yes but . . .' So you cannot answer, 'yes, but everyone else is too.' Or 'yes, but I am not as bad as . . .' Or 'yes, but I gave up swearing, or beating others up, or you name it.'

Each and every honest person must answer 'yes' to the question of 'are you a sinner.' [Or you make Mauna out to be a liar. See 1st John 1:10] Jesus then cuts

## Hocaks, This is my opinion..

### "Require band for all, 5-8"

We all know that the smart students are the ones that take part in the school band program. Music helps to improve the ability to learn. It would be good if all the students took band lessons.

There are some schools that require all students to take band, grades 5-8. What do you all think about, both schools here in Winnebago, do the same, here?

It would not be an elective, it would be required. Music would be just like math, English and all the rest of the regular classes. This would help them all to get a much better education.

Hocaks, think about this! What do you think? There are some who are always talking about supporting education. We will see if they really are.

"Successful Tribe...Not!"

I believe what I've been hearing for many years. A community's success depends on the education of all in the community.

The education and success in the business world by a few, is good. But, if the rest of the community does not have an education there is no successful community. Depending on other peoples work and not your own, is not cool!

We can not claim to be "successful tribe," not until everyone has a good education. Until then "we are dependent on the education and work of a few."

## Masthead Scene

The WIN was recently contacted by the Nebraska Department of Transportation to update the Winnebago Community on the project at the Highway 75/77 intersection at the local level. Their goal is to have all of the pavement done before the start of the paving and lighting of the new round-about should also be completed before the start of the construction season. In the spring, finish grading from the round-about to the Winnebago Agency to

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