

Abstract

Vincennes is a small town community that resides in the southwest portion of Indiana. An underlying issue in the community is alcohol and drug abuse. To help combat this problem in Vincennes, two areas need to be examined: Vincennes University, a community college located in the northern portion of Vincennes, and the town itself. Vincennes University releases an Annual Security and Fire Safety report every year and the top offenses are consistently drug and alcohol violations. These offenses have been increasing each year since 2012.[1]. Vincennes University has, unfortunately, also made a top 50 list for being one of the top campuses in the United States for alcohol related arrests.[2]

Campuses across the U.S. are dealing with similar issues. Lehigh University has created a model program policy that has been very effective towards combating alcohol consumption. By having more alcohol free social activities on campus and bringing awareness to the students about the effects of alcohol consumption, Lehigh University has created an environment that encourages less alcohol drinking and more social interaction.[3] Before this program was implemented, alcohol related crimes for one year were at 148 total offenses. As a result of the program the total alcohol related crimes went down to 65. Community awareness and participation are also integral to solving these problems.[4] Alcohol Action in Rural Communities is a program that helps mitigate alcohol consumption. The program brings information to the community about the overall alcohol related crimes by means of media, schools, and police.[5]

The objective to help combat the alcohol and drug abuse problem in Vincennes is to create a therapeutic/recreational rehabilitation center utilizing the strategies outlined above, and a Partial Hospitalization Program. The PHP includes group therapy, along with one-on-one counseling, recreational activities, and outside help from the community help promote functional recovery and social interaction.[6] Options for rehabilitation will be in the form of active and passive. Active rehabilitation is a more physical form of therapy, while passive therapy comes in the form of community gardens and yoga. Not only will the program encourage social interaction, but, also promote a healthy lifestyle.[7] Not only will the center serve as rehabilitation, but also a community center as well. Support by counselors and community volunteers helps promote a socially encouraging environment and a drug and alcohol free future. The poster will outline topics of drug and alcohol abuse in the Vincennes community, and Vincennes University. Another topic will show the site and the function of the facility placed on that location.

Notes

- 1 Search - Vincennes University. (n.d.). Retrieved July 05, 2016, from https://my.vinu.edu/search?p_p_id=101
- 2 Jacobs, P. (2014, January 31). The Colleges With The Most On-Campus Drug And Alcohol Arrests. Retrieved July 06, 2016, from <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-colleges-with-most-on-campus-drug-and-alcohol-arrests-2014-1>
- 3,4 Smeaton, J. W., Eadline, M. C., Egolf, B., & DeJong, W. (2003). Lehigh University's Project IMPACT: An Environmental Management Case Study. Retrieved July 06, 2016, from <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/hec/product/lehighprojectimpact.pdf>
- 5 Prevention Research. (2014, June). Retrieved July 06, 2016, from http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/attachments/1507_PreventionResearch_EngagingCommunities_FINAL_web.pdf
- 6 Drug Addiction Treatment and Detox Centers - Get Expert Advice. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2016, from <http://americanaddictioncenters.org/adult-addiction-treatment-programs/>
- 7 Blain, T. W., Grewal, P. S., Dawes, A., & Snider, D. (2010, December). Profiling Community Gardeners. Retrieved July 11, 2016, from <http://www.joe.org/joe/2010december/a6.php>