

LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Creating Learning Opportunities For Every Child To Achieve Success"



El Dorado County District Attorney
1360 Johnson Blvd, Ste. 105
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Attn: Lisa Serafini, Assistant DA

September 4, 2008

Dear Ms. Serafini,

The Drug Store Project is a community and agency supported event that will take place on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at Lake Tahoe Community College. *The Drug Store Project* is a prevention program that involves personnel from a multitude of agencies that include local school districts, law enforcement, fire agencies, health departments, counseling agencies, the courts, medical staff, and service organizations.

This year, four-hundred 7th grade students from the Lake Tahoe Unified School District, Kingsbury Middle School, St. Theresa, and Diamond Valley School of Alpine County will participate in the program. Research has found that students in this age group are often placed in a position of having to make choices about the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. We, as adult role models, must help them to understand why a decision to reject the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is the best choice for them. We believe *The Drug Store Project* provides them with important information that is necessary to make that choice.

This project provides students with a very realistic demonstration of what can happen to one who chooses to be involved in substance abuse. The program places an emphasis on the legal, health, and social aspects of substance use and abuse. As an added service, *The Drug Store Project* provides support services to students at the event and intervention services at the school sites as needed by mental health professionals.

We continue to work with service organizations and agencies in the community for financial support of this project. Attached is a detailed outline of the program and our anticipated budget for this year. The cost of the event is approximately \$10,000.00.

I understand that pursuant to H&S 11489(b)(2)(A)(I) a special fund is maintained in collaboration between the El Dorado County Sheriff, City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County District Attorney, and El Dorado County Probation for programs that work towards the prevention of tobacco/alcohol/ and drug use by our youth. We are requesting an allocation of **\$2500.00** towards this yearly project. Funds allocated will provide necessary expenditures for the actual event and for follow-up anti-tobacco/alcohol/drug materials. A complete explanation and budget are attached.

The Payee for funds would be LTUSD with a memo for Drug Store Project. The address is: Lake Tahoe Unified School District, 1021 Al Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, Attention: Lisa Huard, Safe Schools Coordinator.

I greatly appreciate the support we receive from all of the agencies and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Huard".

Lisa Huard

LTUSD Safe Schools Coordinator
530-543-2310 ext. 225

lhuard@ltusd.org

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I. **Program Description:**

The Drug Store Project is a comprehensive middle school drug prevention program designed to educate youth about the dangers of substance use and abuse. **The Drug Store Project** is in its 6th year and is an event where the community of Lake Tahoe comes together to sponsor what is the largest collaborative prevention activity that continues to be conducted in our area. It is by far one of the most coordinated and powerful prevention events.

This year we will impact **400 seventh-grade students** from Lake Tahoe Unified School District, Kingsbury Middle School, St. Theresa, and Diamond Valley School. The event will be conducted at Lake Tahoe Community college on Thursday, April 2, 2009. The following agencies will meet throughout the year beginning in September: Barton Health Care, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, California Highway Patrol, California National Guard / Drug Demand Reduction Unit, El Dorado County Superior Court, El Dorado County Mental Health, El Dorado County Probation, El Dorado County Public Health, El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, Lake Tahoe Unified School District, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, McFarlane Mortuary, Sierra Recovery Center, South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, South Lake Tahoe Police Department, and Tahoe Youth and Family Services.

It is the involvement by these organizations, service clubs, and private donors which sends a clear message that our community values and cares for our youth and will do whatever is necessary to keep students healthy and drug free.

An additional goal of the team is to assist other interested areas with the technical assistance needed to provide this special programming for their own youth. Over the past couple of years, representatives from San Francisco, Sacramento, and Minden came and observed our program and are now providing the program in their own regions. Last year we had a volunteer come and participate from Hawaii and she will be talking with the superintendent of schools there.

The Drug Store Project is a series of vignettes, which students experience first hand. Each vignette is approximately 11 minutes in length. We systematically move students in groups of 40 through the "story line" for the day. In addition, the location chosen, Lake Tahoe Community College, is a deliberate one. We want students to focus on the future and all the possibilities ahead of them. The college location brings to many their first experience of being on a college campus.

Station One: Gateway Drugs

Students are provided with an overview of the drugs identified as "Gateway Drugs" (tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana). The emphasis of this vignette is to

provide all students with the foundation of information needed to understand the physical, social, and psychological affects of drug use.

Station Two: *The Pharmacy (Drug Display)*

Students begin with a presentation by an Officer of the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE), local law enforcement, and the South Lake El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team (SLEDNET) about illegal drugs in our community. After the presentation, students are given the opportunity to walk by a drug display. While observing the different displays of drugs, a pre-selected student takes a bag of "dope" and places it in their pocket. A local law enforcement officer witnesses the act and places the student under arrest for possession of illegal drugs.

Station Three: *Juvenile Hall*

Students watch as a probation officer fingerprints, photographs, and books their fellow classmate. The probation officer then places the designated student into a jail cell. Juvenile hall officers then present to the audience what it is like to reside in juvenile hall.

Station Four: *The Court Room*

The student appears in court with a public defender before a judge and a prosecutor. The judge explains how the legal system deals with those found guilty of possession of drugs and places the minor on probation and mandates the student to in drug counseling in station five.

Station Five: *Drug Counseling*

Substance Abuse Prevention Counselors from local agencies administer a mock chemical assessment while his/her fellow classmates are observing. The audience then receives a presentation with information on chemical addiction and the risks involved when they make their choice of whether to use or not.

Station Six: *The Party*

The student is faced with the choice of whether to stay clean or to use drugs again. The student chooses to continue to use drugs and attends a party. While at the party, the student collapses on the floor from an apparent drug overdose. Police Officers and EMTs arrive on the scene, perform CPR, and transport the student to the next station; the emergency room.

Station Seven: *The Emergency Room*

Once the student enters the emergency room, actual physicians and nurses attempt to revive the victim without success and the victim dies. Actors play "grieving parents" and are called into the emergency room where the doctor informs the parents that their son / daughter just died.

Station Eight: The Funeral

A mock funeral is conducted by a minister and mortuary personnel. The grieving parents are asked to share the memories they had of their deceased child. Students are then given the opportunity to observe their friend one last time. As they pass by and look inside the coffin, students expect to see their classmate, but instead they see themselves in a mirror. The sobering reminder is to not let this happen to you or those you love.

Station Nine: Debriefing

Students are given the opportunity to share and discuss their experiences with a law enforcement officer and mental health professional.

Community Prevention Booths and Displays – Static Displays

The community prevention area is another component to the program. Agencies being represented include Barton Health Care with Molly's Story, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, and South Lake Tahoe Police Department.

II. The need for funding:

The Drug Store Project is just one facet of the comprehensive approach that the LTUSD is conducting. This project is **not** supported through district funding. LTUSD is currently utilizing its limited drug prevention and safety money provided through Title IV funding to train and support teaching staff in research-based drug prevention education curriculum. Without support from the community, this program would not move forward.

III. The Need for this program and the commitment to the youth in our community.

Every other year, all schools receiving Safe and Drug Free Schools Entitlement money are required to participate in a student self-reporting survey entitled "California Healthy Kids Survey". This survey asks students in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11, a multitude of questions about their health and drug use / abuse views. The survey is very comprehensive and continues to provide us with information regarding drug information amongst our youth. We as a community need to be concerned with what the students are telling us. We will be taking this survey again in October, 2008.

Overall, all students in all the indicated grade levels do perceive that use of cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana is bad for a person's health. The self-reporting survey determines that use/abuse begins at grade 5. This is consistent with national surveys. The 2006 Survey informed us that:

- a. 2% of 7th graders, 14% of 9th graders, and 13% of 11th graders reported smoking cigarettes during the past 30 days.

- b. 11% of 7th graders, 32% of 9th graders, and 45% of 11th graders reported drinking alcohol (current users) in the past 30 days.
- c. 5% of 7th graders, 6% of 9th graders and 3% of 11th graders reported using inhalants in the past 30 days.
- d. 3% of 7th graders, 25% of 9th graders, and 24% of 11th graders reported using marijuana in the past 30 days.

LTUSD is working hard to address this problem from many facets: the development of a comprehensive drug prevention education for grades K – 12, parent education programs on drug prevention in our youth, and hands on experiences such as **The Drug Store Project** at the middle school level and the **Every 15 Minutes Program** at STHS.

IV. Identification of Program Participants

Research and self-reporting surveys show that drug experimentation occurs at an early age. The California Healthy Kids Survey of 2006 and is just one indicator identifying the need for projects such as this. Another indicator for the need is information gathered from our schools in relation to suspensions and expulsions due to drug use and information gathered through law enforcement and counseling agencies in our community.

The Drug Store Project is a program geared for the maturity level of students in the middle school years. Our goal is to provide all students with a comprehensive drug prevention curriculum K – 12. In addition to this, we are striving to supplement the curriculum with experiential learning such as this event.

V. Program Budget

Our day-long event will focus on choices an individual can make when it comes to drug use and abuse. Our day will also focus on the positive aspects of remaining drug free and achieving goals. This event will be held at LTCC on April 2, 2009. Students will be rotated through all of the vignettes of the program and they will also be provided lunch in the site's cafeteria section. Our projected budget is based on actual expenditures from last year. Expenses cover the costs for 400 youth and 160 volunteers which make the program possible.

Food

Food purchase through STHS Culinary Arts Class
 Lunch, water, and snacks for 560 people.
Approximate total: \$3,000.00

T-Shirts

T-shirt purchase through ProLeisure: 530.577-1919
 Approx. 700 t-shirts @ \$5.00 each
Approximate total \$3,500.00

Pipe and Drape

Through Camelot Rentals in Reno: 775-355-9004

8 foot high draperies. Estimated amount needed: 240 linear feet. Each area to be 5 feet in depth, 20 feet in width (30 feet x 8 stations).

\$ 4.50 / linear foot x 240 feet = \$1,160.00 plus \$150.00 for delivery

Approximate total... \$ 1,210.00

Bussing

Moving of students from STM – LTCC on a continuous schedule:

Driver: 8:30 – 2:00 5.5 hrs @ \$20/hr.....\$110.00

Mileage: \$1/mile x 10 runs..... 10.00

Approximate total..... \$120.00

Educational / Anti-drug Promotional Materials

Rulers, posters, pencils, pens, etc

Approximate total..... \$2,000.00

Misc

Office Supplies

Approximate total.... \$170.00

The approximate cost of the day's event will be \$ 10,000.00. This prevention program will cost approximately \$ 25.00 per student. We feel that this is a small amount of money to spend on a very priceless element, our youth. We are in the process of securing funds from other service clubs and agencies that serve the south shore area.

As stated previously, this is a community wide event. We are looking to develop an on-going partnership in this very special yearly event for the 7th grade students of our community with service clubs, agencies, and private donors. We also welcome greatly those individuals who would like to be a part of this event as a volunteer for the day.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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