



Saturday Diversion

Detective Bernie McAllister

Amy Lafontaine LCSW

Community Involvement is KEY!



Auburn School Department



DEPARTMENT OF

Corrections

STATE OF MAINE



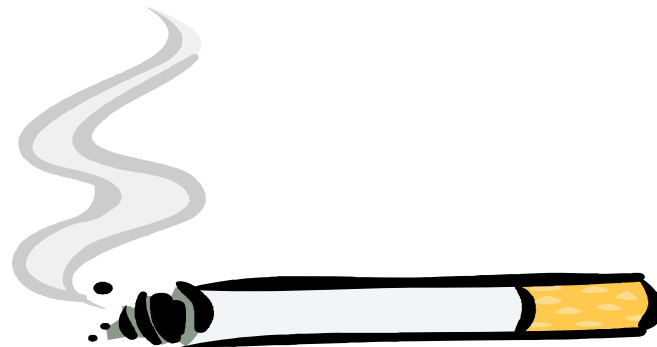
Developing lifelong learners who value themselves and others, contribute to their community, and succeed in a changing world.

School Union 29 Lisbon and Durham
School Union 30 Poland Minot Mechanic Falls
SAD 52 Turner Leeds and Greene



Diversion Program: The beginning

- Smokeless Saturday
- In 1997 it became illegal for people under 18 to possess tobacco products
- First-time offenders
- Focus on the dangers of smoking



Why a Saturday Diversions Class?

- Tobacco users: Youth who smoke often disclosed other drug use in Smokeless Saturday's
- Alcohol users: Tobacco and Possession of Marijuana is a civil violation in Maine
- As enforcement efforts increase, alternatives to court have been sought by police, schools, & community corrections
- Some schools suspend the punishment if students attend the class
note: possession is a 3-5 day suspension within most schools in Maine]



Saturday Diversion is born!

- Police
- School
- Community Corrections
- Parents
- Self Referrals



Criteria for Diversion Program attendance:

- Less than 18 at time of offense
- First time offender
- Police-Schools-Community Corrections make the decision about whom to refer
- Parent permission



Diversion Program details:

- Three communities take turns hosting
- Co-facilitators
 - Police Officer
 - Community person (substance/counseling expertise)
- Parents allowed to attend
- Held between 8:30AM and 1:30PM
- Access is denied if youth is late

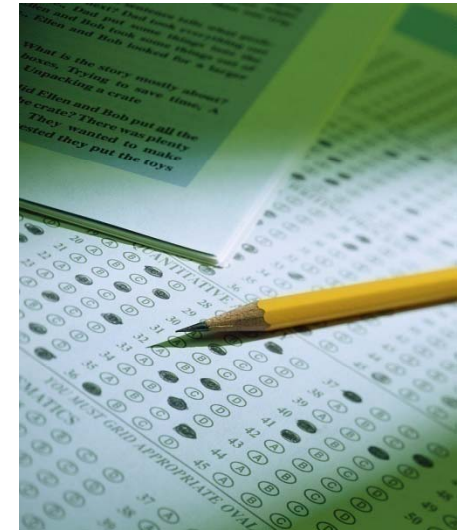


Program Overview

- Students pre-register with Healthy Androscoggin
- Goal of the Program: To provide you with information that will help you rethink your decision to use substances.
- This is not a class about learning to say “no”. Students are asked to look at their use and where it may lead them.

Overview continued...

- Expectations of program
- Confidentiality
- Pre-test
- 3 Truths and A Lie
- Drinking and driving issues
- Fact Sheets on Alcohol-Tobacco-Marijuana
- Drinking at a early age and anatomy of addiction (Use-Abuse-Addition)
- Group activity



Overview continued...

- Risks and Rewards: Worksheet of fine amounts for alcohol-marijuana-tobacco-drug paraphernalia
- Personal safety
- Making good decision
- Video about tobacco-alcohol-marijuana use
- Are you at risk?
- Goal Setting letter
(mailed to participant in 8 weeks)



Overview continued

- Recap and review
- Post Test
- Facilitators evaluation
- Resources available and community support
- Presentation of Certificates
- Participants receive their letters in the mail two months after attending the program.



Does Saturday Diversion work?

- 375 students in three years
- Approximately 25% of participants have subsequent issues with police
- No one has been asked to leave the program
- Interaction between students & facilitators is KEY!

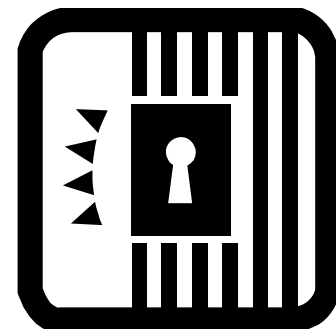
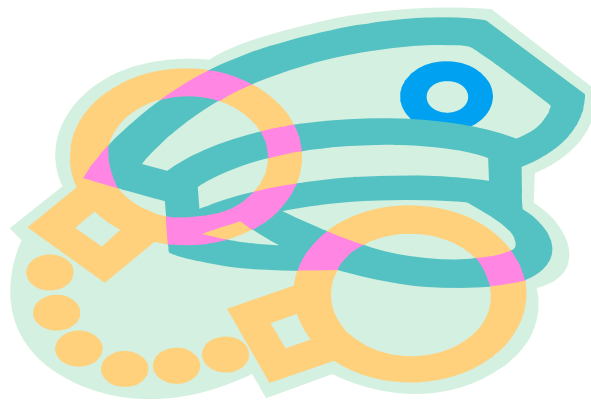
What does the research say about these types of programs?

- The more youth believe they will be caught, the more likely they are not to use
- Youth believe that punishment should be predictable and fairly administered
- We are looking at an evaluation of the program with assistance from the Muskie School of Public Service

Why it works



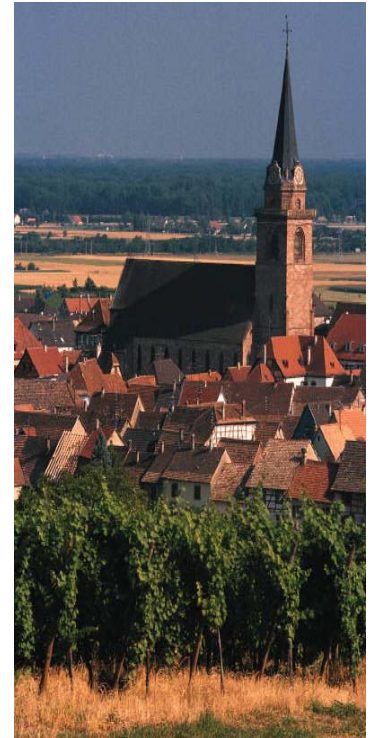
- Cost effective: about \$6000.00/year to run
- Committed police officers and community counselors
- School/Police/Community Corrections/
looking for alternatives to Court



YOUR COMMUNITY! YOUR PROGRAM!

Do you have:

- A community that wants this type of program?
- Police-Community Corrections that wants this type of program?
- A community agency that will take referrals or is your agency willing to do this?
- Locations in your community that will support this class?
- A desire to support youth by providing an alternative for them?



Your Program!

Do you have:

- A funding source?
- Committed Community Counselors?
- A group of people willing to take the time to work on a curriculum for your program?
- Someone who can evaluate the effectiveness of your program?



Contact Information

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Healthy Androscoggin

Healthy Androscoggin

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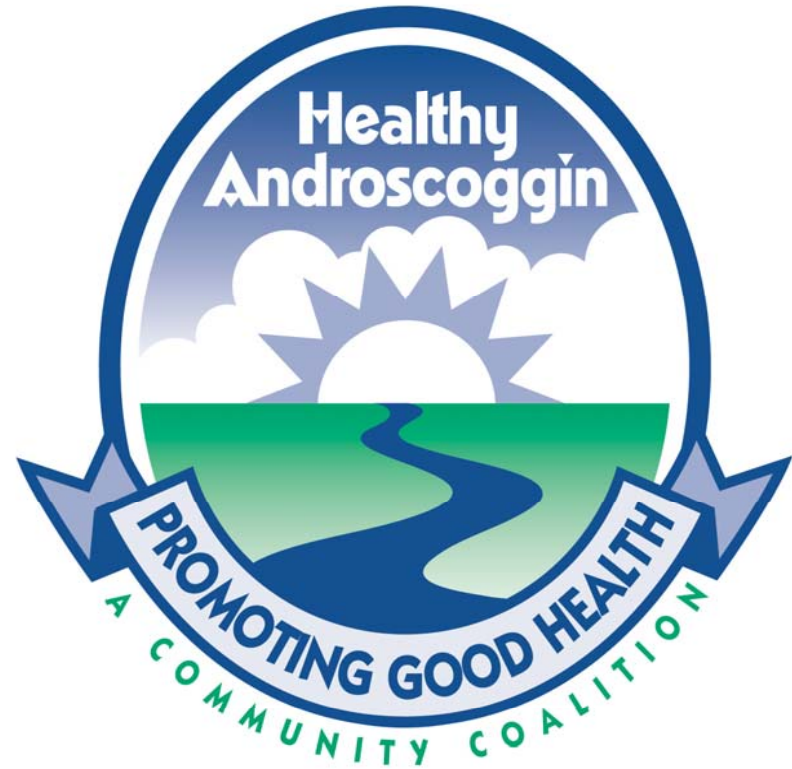
Office Location

364 Main Street

Lewiston, Maine 04240

Phone 207-795-5990

www.healthyandroscoggin.org

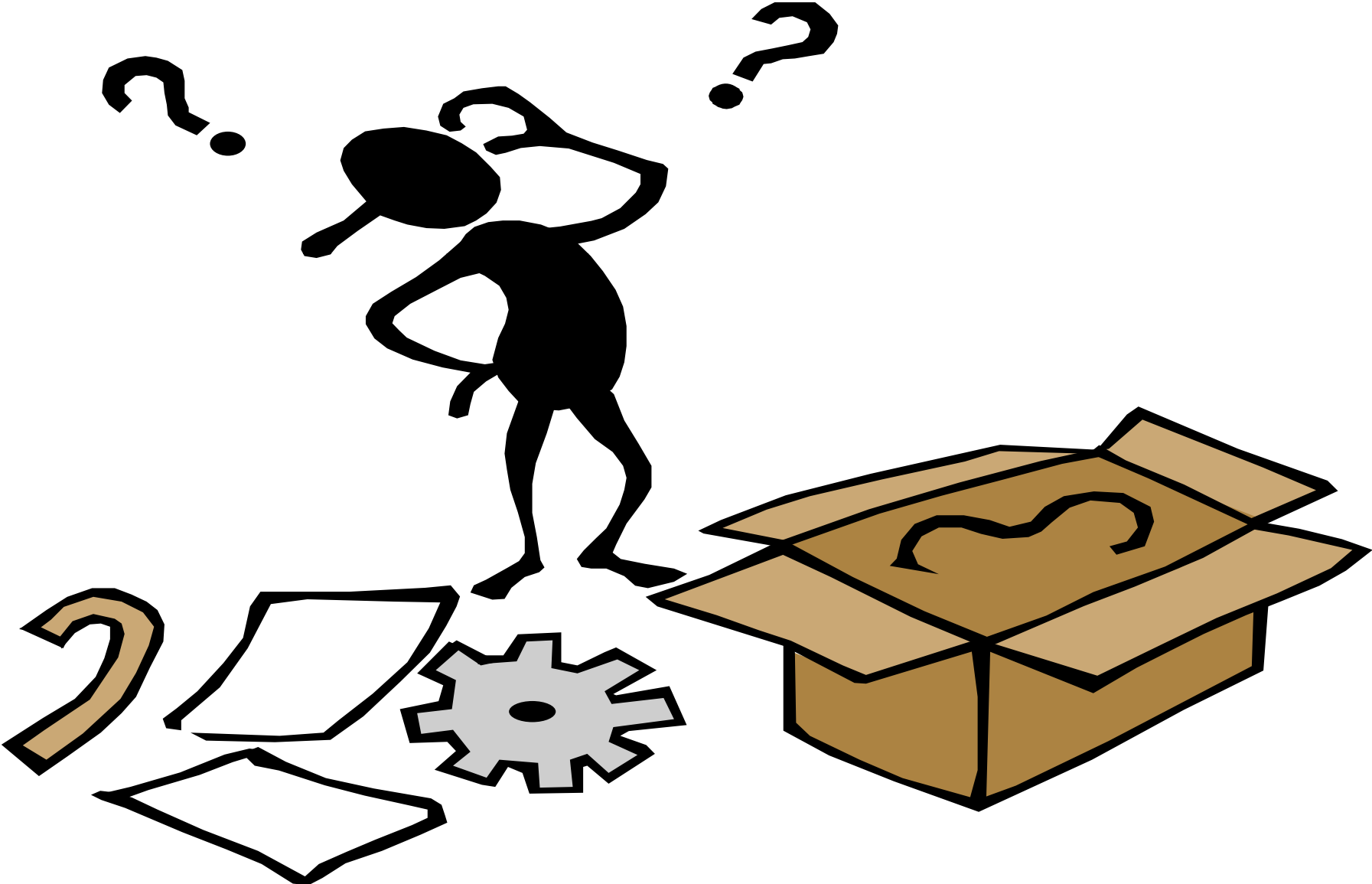


Complete Program On-Line

- Registration Forms
- Parent/Participant form
- Course out line
- Names of video used in our program.

www.healthyandroskoggin.org

Questions?



**THANK
YOU**

For
ATTENDING