

Idaho RADAR (Regional Alcohol Drug Awareness Resource) Network Center Fiscal Year 2007 in Review

The RADAR Center's continual challenge is how to provide current substance abuse prevention information to the people of Idaho in a cost-effective manner. A highlight of the year was the presentation given by Georgia Girvan, director, and Dottie Blackwell, video library manager, at the international conference of Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists (SALIS), held in Boston in September of 2006. The presentation focused on how a substance abuse clearinghouse and resource information center acts as a conduit of information between various agencies, organizations, legislators, and at-risk populations to indeed link policymakers, professionals, and the populous.

During the past year the Center staff responded to 2,261 requests for material that was distributed to 35,242 persons in 43 of 44 counties. In an 11-month period an estimated 57,527 youth and 19,477 adults viewed 3140 videos/DVDs from a collection of over 1700.

Evidence of meeting the goal of empowering professionals and community members to use the Center's material in outreach to their communities was shown by the 186 recorded events where RADAR material was collected and distributed by patrons. This was an increase from 100 events of the previous year. RADAR staff members shared Center resources at another 73 conference/events.

The Video Lending Library reached 33 of 44 counties, distributing an average of 250 videos per month. To reduce processing time an automated system for tracking videos was purchased, students were hired to input data (see below), and implementation began. The Video Library regularly drew inquiries about acquisition of its holdings (in particular, the methamphetamine collection) from all over the nation.

Julie Cook joined the staff in October as the resource specialist, and Vy Boutdy agreed to provide part-time assistance in updating the Website. Invaluable assistance was provided by student workers Natalie Griffin, Tyler Jackson, Travis Botkin, and Carol Pack, along with several service learning students. Lois Malpass offered promotional support at major conferences.

Renewal in funding was sought and granted from the Department of Health and Welfare's Substance Abuse Program, the Department of Education (Safe and Drug Free Schools Program), the Department of Juvenile Corrections (Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Partnership and the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission), Idaho's Generation of the Child Community Collaboration Contract, Health and Welfare's Tobacco Prevention Program, and the Treasure Valley Alcohol/Drug Coalition. Monies were utilized to support the staffing and maintenance of the Center and to purchase 136 new videos/DVDs.

Additional information about the RADAR Center is available on the Center's Website:
<http://hs.boisestate.edu/RADAR>

Pictured: Students Tyler Jackson and Carol Pack enter data into the new automated system for tracking video/DVD usage.

