COMMUNICATIONS & NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT

Healthy and Safe Youth Behavior

Recent trends have shown school safety, substance abuse, and driving behavior are issues affecting the health and safety of youth. National media have shown the trend of school-related shootings throughout the country and the mental health concerns related to such incidents. In 2010, the Dakota County Attorney estimated 25 – 30% of juvenile offenses occur in schools or on school property. Rosemount works with local School Districts 196 and 917 to promote appropriate and safe youth behavior.

Questions / Issues:

- Are current school and law enforcement programs effective in identifying and addressing mental health concerns of youth?
- How can students become more involved in promoting healthy and safe youth behavior?
- What substance education and prevention programs have emerged following the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) era?

Deliverables:

- Conduct program inventory of mental health services available for youth in the community and Dakota County.
- Highlight potential areas for programmatic changes to existing mental health services that could be implemented to better serve the youth population, based upon a literature search of successes.

Sustainability:

- The project will promote social and economic sustainability goals. Engaging Rosemount youth and ensuring they have access to healthy and robust lifestyles will improve the social interactions in the community. Further, unhealthy lifestyles require expenditures of private and public dollars. With youth adopting healthy and appropriate behaviors, financial resources can be allocated elsewhere. The project is relevant to the City because it fulfills the 2013-2014 City Council’s goal to maintain an engaged, healthy, inviting, and safe community. This project would also implement the Comprehensive Plan goal to collaborate and provide services to all groups of residents.