



Organization: Capital Area Substance Abuse Council, CT

Contact: Lori Zehe

Q: What did you change: a law, a regulation, an ordinance, a policy or other?

A: We advocated for a local ordinance that allows police to enter a home at which a teen party is taking place and to fine individuals providing alcohol to minors.

Q: Where did the idea to make the change originate?

A: After a teen party resulted in a fight and death, the town was outraged to learn that the police could not enter a home. The town council passed the ordinance allowing police to enter a home and to make charges against person serving alcohol to minors.

When asked at a Board meeting and a Prevention meeting, police in other towns in the state said they had the same problem.

Q: What elected or other government officials did you meet with to accomplish this change? And at what point(s) in the process did you meet with them?

A: Police and Local Prevention Council Chairpersons were informed of the new ordinance at a Prevention Committee meeting and requested copies.

Q: What materials did you use to make your case that the change was necessary and would produce the desired results?

A: We used copies of the ordinance. Police testified to local councils to verify the need for change.

Q: Through what system/process did you make your change?

A: These changes were made through various town councils.

Q: Who were your allies in making this change?

A: The police and local prevention council members were strong allies.

Q: Who opposed this change?

A: Some parents opposed the change, stating that they didn't want the police to enter their home when a teen party was taking place.

Q: Please describe in detail the outcome of your change.

A: Due to coalition efforts, six towns adopted ordinances that allow police to enter a home when a teen party is taking place and ticket and fine individuals responsible for underage alcohol use.