Party Intervention Patrol

Project Summary:
The Party Intervention Patrol (PIP) project is a multi-agency effort to reduce underage drinking and impaired driving in Thurston County. Officers participating in these patrols have underage drinking as their top priority, and do not make other service calls during their PIP shift. When an underage drinking party is found, PIP officers determine who has been drinking and who provided the alcohol. Youth who are drinking are transported to the Public Health office for processing, where they will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP). Those that provided the alcohol are arrested for Furnishing Alcohol to Minors.

At the Public Health office, CDPs will conduct a brief, motivational interview style intervention session with each youth. During this intervention session, CDPs will assess level of use and provide referrals to services in the community. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to speak with a CDP and are provided with information about community resources for reducing teen substance abuse. All youth are released to their parents after they have received their citation and both parent and teen have had the opportunity to meet with a CDP. While all youth who have been drinking alcohol will receive a citation for Minor in Possession, most are referred to the youth Diversion program, where they have other resources available to support them as they learn to make healthy decisions. After successfully completing this program, the citation is dismissed.

Main Components:
1. **High Visibility, Multi-Agency Enforcement**
   This project targets multiple cities and surrounding unincorporated Thurston County rather than just a single jurisdiction, because kids, like adults, are highly mobile and will move their party “down the road” as soon as they perceive that they are likely to get caught.

2. **Media**
   BEFORE PIP: Radio publicity will inform the public that the police will be arresting youth and adults for breaking underage drinking laws.
   AFTER PIP: Press release distributed after each PIP to inform public of party location and details of party(s) busted.

3. **Community-Based Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment for Youth**
   This intervention model is used to determine the severity of substance use and identifies the appropriate level of intervention. It also includes providing youth with referrals to community providers or to a specialist for continued assessment and treatment. These screenings are completely confidential.

4. **CDP/Parent Informational Meeting on Night of PIP**
   A Chemical Dependency Professional will greet parents as they arrive to pick up their youth. They spend time with the parent(s) of each youth arrested to explain the dangers of substance abuse and what resources are available for help.

5. **Limiting Youth Access to Alcohol**
   Alcohol sales checks will be conducted throughout the county during the PIP enforcement months.