

Mr. Hibbett discussed the recent \$4 million dollars recovered through a drug-bust in the county. Approximately ¼ of this money will go to the Wilson County Drug Task Force, ¼ to the Lebanon Task Force (Mount Juliet opted out of Task Force), and ½ to Metro/Davidson County.

### **Mental Health/Treatment & Prevention Services:**

#### **Cumberland Mental Health – Jim Frost:**

Jim Frost attended the 2/98 meeting and discussed the services offered by Cumberland Mental Health, as well as his perspective on alcohol and drug issues. Alcohol and drugs create many problems for an individual including family, health, financial, legal, spiritual, and employment problems. Although education is important, most of the individuals he sees **are aware and educated** about alcohol and drugs. He cited an article in Nashville's "Tennessean" newspaper, dated 2/14/98. Metro police held a drug sting, at the same time and place, five weeks in a row. Each time arrests were made, despite this was a known sting. A total of 75 individuals were arrested during the five week time.

Jim suggested that the county was in need of more of the programs that offer treatment similar to inpatient, except patients go home at night. He also stressed that efforts should be made to involve a wide range of efforts in the prevention of alcohol and drug problems: churches, schools, law enforcement, community agencies, etc.

Cumberland offers several youth programs, including youth camps and backpacking programs. They also offer the "DUI/Youthful Offenders Program" and school-based counseling. Other services include various child, adolescent, and adult outpatient services (therapeutic pre-school, child abuse treatment services, domestic violence program, case management program, and extended care program).

#### **Youth Ranch – Mark Akers:**

Mark Akers attended the 2/98 meeting. Mark stated that although the Youth Ranch doesn't have programs specific to alcohol and drug prevention, he does see many kids that have problems themselves, or who have parents with alcohol and drug problems. Mark says that the kids he sees at the Ranch are knowledgeable and educated regarding alcohol and drugs, but are involved anyway.

Mark believes progress could be made in this area by "fine-tuning" TennCare. Often services are difficult to obtain, and when they are obtained, the amount of time for treatment may not be adequate. He also mentioned that innovative education programs are needed, that go beyond explaining the dangers of alcohol and drugs. It was stressed that efforts should be multi-focused, involving the entire community. A final recommendation was that more home-based prevention services be available, as accessing services is difficult for many individuals.