

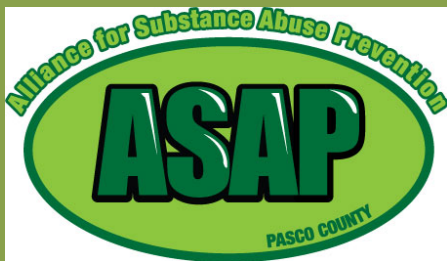


Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention

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Contact Chrissie Parris for more information on the ASAP Coalition at: cparris@pascoasap.com
or
727-597-2284



Check us out online at: www.PascoASAP.com

Check us out on Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pasco-County-Alliance-for-Substance-Abuse-Prevention-ASAP/108740345811062>

Check us out on Twitter at:
@ASAP_Pasco

ASAP Mission:

"To develop, motivate, and encourage strategic relationships that reduce county risk factors and decrease substance abuse rates among youth and adults."

HEADLINES:

ASAP 2011 Volunteers of the Year!

JoAnn Chambers-Emerson, RN, BSN, CSPI....

JoAnn has been a member of ASAP for 2 years. When we first met her, we were impressed by her knowledge about local toxins and poison control. When we invited her to join ASAP, she jumped right in with ideas, enthusiasm and dedication. She played an integral part in the success of our Prescription Drug Summit in August completing the CME packet for AHEC and maintaining contact with the speakers. Although she would never admit, we really could not have pulled off such a fantastic event without her knowledge and resources! She is dedicated to the mission of ASAP and is always willing to help out. She has volunteered countless times over the past year for weekend and evening events. She has a gentle nature and at the same time is very decisive. We are honored to have her represent ASAP!
Congratulations!

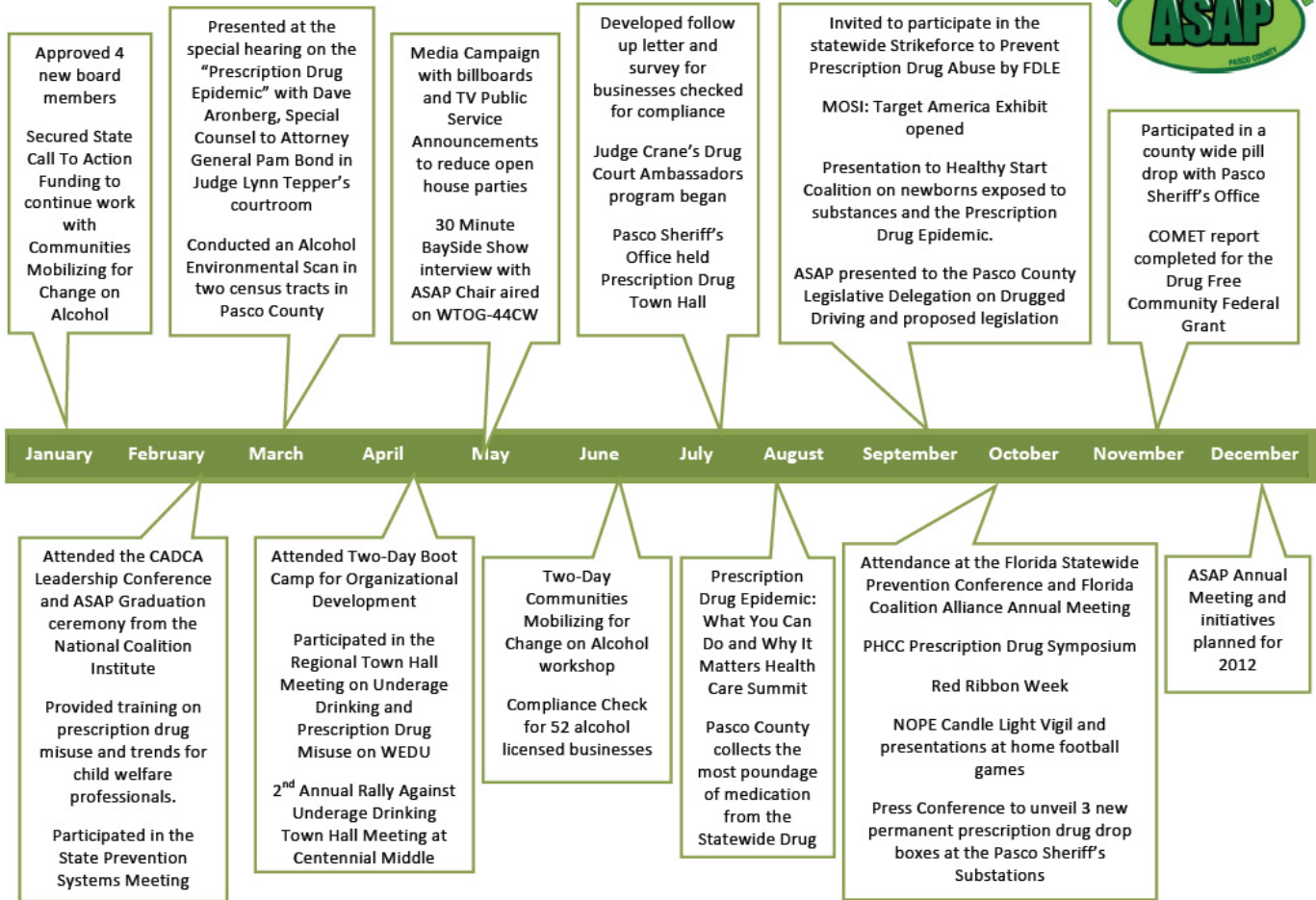


Chris Wittmann, PA-C...

About 2 years ago, we received an email from Chris Whitman. He had learned about ASAP from the website and expressed both a personal and professional interest in getting involved with our coalition. Chris hit the ground running. He provided us and our legislators with education and insight about pain management. He helped form our Prescription Drug Abuse Committee which has taken on a life of its own and is impacting Pasco County in a tremendously positive way. We strongly believe that the success of this committee is largely in part to Chris's dedication and involvement. We could not have done it without him! He was elected to the ASAP Board one year ago and continues to bring insight, compassion and focus on a broader level. From ideas on initiatives to fundraising and public speaking, Chris has proven time and time again that we are lucky to have him as part of our Coalition. Congratulations!



ASAP 2011-Accomplishments/Successes



COMMUNITY CORNER

Great American Smokeout

Thank you to all who participated and honored the Great American Smokeout on November 17th. Pasco County was host to several events. Here, River Ridge Middle School students raised a 6 foot red balloon on the flagpole with 88 red ribbons tied to it for the 88 people that die every day in Florida from tobacco related illnesses. They also wore the masks for the "Unspoken" portion, which indicated that they were the voice of those who could no longer speak, because they died from tobacco related diseases.



December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

December has been designated National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. [Click here to read the proclamation from President Barack Obama.](#)

MADD has these tips to help ensure everyone's safety this holiday season:

- Designate a sober driver before celebrations begin.
- Never serve those under the age of 21 alcohol.
- Plan safe parties, including providing non-alcoholic drink options to guests and not serving alcohol the last hour of the gathering.
- Be prepared to get everyone home safe in case your plans or individual circumstances change.



Tie One On for Safety

Show your support for law enforcement and for MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving. Tie a red ribbon on your antenna or affix your window decal as a pledge to drive safe, sober and buckled up during the holidays and throughout the year.

Red ribbons and red ribbon window decals are available by [contacting your local MADD affiliate.](#)

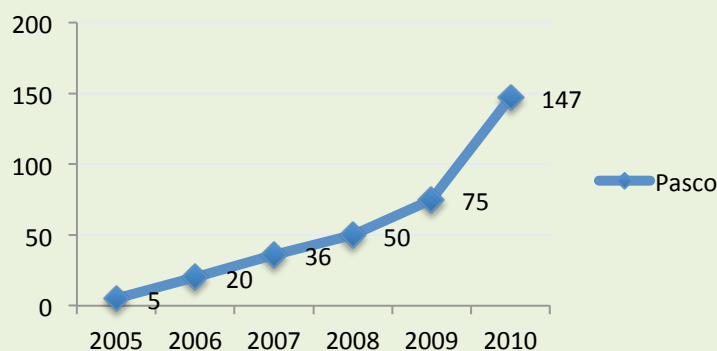
Give the Gift of a Designated Driver

During this time of year when drunk driving crashes are most prevalent, MADD aims to deter individuals from driving drunk and encourage them to plan ahead and designate a sober driver, or arrange another safe ride home, before embarking on their holiday festivities. MADD's Give the Gift of a Designated Driver campaign is designed to encourage people to volunteer to be a designated sober driver for their friends and family during the holiday season.

[Click here to download a coupon](#) that says "Tonight, I'll be DD."

RESEARCH

Substance Exposed Newborn Rates in Pasco County



- From 2009 to 2010, the amount of newborns that were born addicted to substances nearly doubled, an overall increase of 96%.
- From 2005 to 2010 (5 year span) the amount of newborns that were born addicted to substances increase an overall 2840%!

Source: Agency for Healthcare Administration.

The first **Pasco Substance Exposed Newborn Committee** is a collaboration between ASAP and the Healthy Start Coalition. The first meeting is January 12, 2012 10am - 12pm at the Land O'Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O'Lakes Blvd. All are welcome to attend!

SPOTLIGHT

Dragon Fly: Deadly Designer Drug



by Brandy Aguilar, Special Projects azfamily.com
Posted on November 9, 2011 at 4:17 PM
Updated Wednesday, Nov 9 at 4:21 PM

PHOENIX -- A new designer drug called Dragonfly has sent several young people to the hospital across the country. It's perfectly legal and it's also incredibly dangerous.

"As long as I got my marijuana feel or high, to me it was OK," Randall Smith said.

Smith is addicted to spice. It's a synthetic drug that mimics marijuana. "It's just as strong as marijuana, if not stronger," Smith continued.

The 34-year-old has been smoking it for the last two years. But when he hit rock bottom, Smith sought treatment at Journey Healing Centers in Scottsdale.

"It's becoming easier and easier for this savvy generation of kids to get their hands on these drugs," Dr. Ravi Chandiramani said.

Chandiramani is the center's corporate medical director.

Earlier this year the Drug Enforcement Administration put fake pot products like spice and bath salts on its emergency banned list, but now there is a new designer drug emerging called Dragonfly.

"It was actually manufactured as a research chemical in rats, believe it or not, but somehow people have got their hands on it mostly through the Internet," Chandiramani said. "It acts like LSD so they use it for hallucinate properties and what we know is it causes a really long trip."

The doctor said it can come in a pill form or blotters. Blotters are where a piece of paper is soaked in the drug and then put under the tongue.

"It's something that has caused people to find their way into the emergency room and it's very highly toxic, even in very small doses," Chandiramani said.

Dr. Frank LoVecchio with Banner Poison Center said they've treated patients who have taken similar types of drugs. "No one knows the proper dose, so the best thing to do is stay away from these medications and drugs," LoVecchio said.

And if anyone knows what designer drugs can do, it's Smith and he has some advice for young people.

"Talk to someone about it, get online, get somebody that's in a program and just have a good sit-down with them and [have them] tell you all the side effects," he said.

3rd Annual ASAP Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came out for the 2011 Annual Meeting and thank you to RapsCALLIONS!



2011 Meeting Dates:

January 24, 2012
February 28, 2012
March 27, 2012
April 24, 2012
May 22, 2012
June 26, 2012
July 24, 2012
August 28, 2012
September 25, 2012
October 23, 2012
November TBD
December TBD

ASAP Meetings are held from **10:00 to 12:00pm** at
Land O' Lakes Community Center
5401 Land O' Lakes Boulevard (US 41). Everyone is
welcome to attend and assist in Pasco County's
prevention efforts!

2011 ASAP Executive Committee

Tracey Kaly, Chair
Art Rowand, Vice Chair
Paula Green, Secretary
Debbie Antioco, Treasurer
Chrissie Parris, Coalition Staff
Phil Cohen, Board Member at Large
Chris Wittmann, Board Member at Large



Debbie Antioco, Tracey Kaly, Art Rowand, Paula Green, Phil Cohen, Chrissie Parris (Not Pictured: Chris Wittmann)