



Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention

Newsletter Issue 14: March, 2011

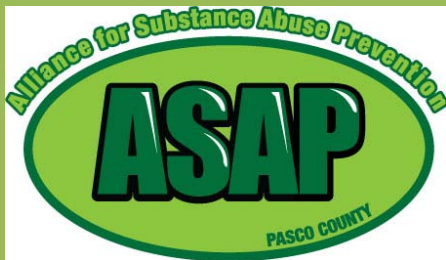
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Contact Chrissie Parris for more information on the ASAP Coalition at:
cparris@pascoasap.com

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>

ASAP Mission:

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

HEADLINES:

Save the Date!

Thursday, April 28th at 6:00pm Zephyrhills and Dade City are coming together for the
Second Annual Centennial Middle School Cyclone Rally Against Underage Drinking!

Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among Pasco County students, with prevalence rates of 53.1% for lifetime use and 29.2% for past 30-day use. Centennial Middle School SADD in collaboration with the Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention are hosting an Underage Drinking Prevention: Town Hall Meeting to discuss and raise awareness about the issue of underage drinking. The event will be held in Dade City. Parents, teachers, officials, youth and other community members will be educated about the impact underage drinking has on the community and develop strategies to address this issue.

Pasco County Sheriff's Pill Drop Event March 19th from 10 - 2

The Pasco Sheriff's Office is conducting a pharmaceutical take-back with two locations on March 19, 2011 from 10am - 2pm. Community members can drop off unused or expired prescriptions and veterinary medications for safe disposal at the Gulf View Square Mall in Port Richey in the overflow parking lot near the sign on US 19 or at The Shops at WireGrass in Wesley Chapel on the ground level of the parking garage. Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) is looking for volunteers to help staff a table of information and promotional items to community members participating in the Pill Drop. Please contact Chrissie Parris cparris@pascoasap.com or 727-597-2284 to volunteer or for more information.

COMMUNITY CORNER

The Annual Turnaround Student Awards

Pasco County Juvenile Justice Council

The Annual Turnaround Student Awards

DATE: Thursday, April 21, 2011 TIME: 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Land O Lakes Community Center

5401 Land O Lakes Blvd. (Hwy 41)

Land O Lakes, FL, 34639

Refreshments will be Served

Contact Carolyn Kehr for more information

813- 312 - 3254 or ckehr@yfainc.org

Each program that serves students at risk or who are part of the Pasco County Juvenile Justice Program may select two students who made a marvelous "Turn Around" while involved in your program. At the ceremony, you will have 3 – 5 minutes to publicly recognize and share the story of each student. Feel free to meet with your student and complete the application together. Please generalize information that is too personal to be publicly shared. Let your student and your program shine.

Award Nominations are due by April 15th, 2011 so be sure to contact Carolyn by then for an application!

Save the Date

"2011 Florida's Kids and Alcohol: A Regional Perspective on Substance Abuse"

on **April 7th at 5:30 pm**

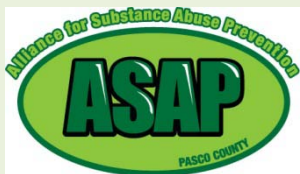
at the WEDU Studio in Tampa

1300 North Boulevard Tampa, FL 33607

For more information contact cparris@pascoasap.com

Discussion will surround underage alcohol use, binge drinking and prescription drug misuse and abuse in the Tampa Bay area.

Be in the audience to ask questions for Pasco County!



Pill Mill Tip Line

In response to Florida's ongoing prescription-drug abuse problems, the Drug Enforcement Administration has launched a pill-mill tip line. Law-enforcement officers throughout the state continue to investigate rogue doctors who dole out powerful, addictive drugs to people who don't have a true, medical need for the pills. The DEA said Monday that undercover law-enforcement officers have made hundreds of purchases of prescription drugs from such doctors in South Florida over the last year.

DEA's 24-hour tip line is 888-954-4662. Tips can also be sent to Florida.Pill.Mill.Tips@USDOJ.GOV.

Callers should leave their contact information and the names of any doctors or clinics they are calling about.

RESEARCH

BayCare Behavioral Health Youth Opiate Abuse Treatment Trends:

- Primary drug of choice is Oxycontin (30 mg), followed by Xanax.
- Primary route of delivery; crushing and inhaling, followed by an equal amount of oral and through needle use (shooting up). This is for both Oxycontin and Xanax.
- Approximately 80% obtain from “friends” or adults who sell off the streets.
- Approximately 20% steal from a parent or family member who is prescribed.
- Approximately 75% of youth taking pills have dropped out of school. A few are enrolled and sporadically attending GED programs through Marchman Technical Institute.
- Approximately 30% of youth participating in treatment are involved with the child welfare system.

Prescription Drug Abuse in Florida: An Epidemic of Deaths

- An average of 7 persons die every day in Florida because of lethal overdoses from the illegal, non-medical misuse of one or more prescription drugs.
- An additional 7 persons die daily with at least one prescription drug detected often in combination with alcohol or other drugs. That is a total of 14 deaths per day in Florida related to prescription drug abuse.
- There were 5,275 persons who died in Florida during 2009 and another 2,579 in the first half of 2010 with at least one prescription drug in their system identified as either the cause of death or present in the decedent.
- Treatment admissions for prescription opioid addiction increased 5½ times in Florida over the past decade. Among those aged 12 to 30, the number of prescription opioid treatment clients rose from 488 in 1999 to 7,649 in 2009, a 1,467-percent increase.
- The rate of hospital emergency department cases for non-medical oxycodone misuse among those aged 21-25 in South Florida is nearly double the national per capita rate.
- Florida leads nation in sale of oxycodone with over 400,000,000 pills sold annually.
- Benzodiazepines (e.g., Xanax, Klonopin, Valium) and muscle relaxants (e.g., Soma) are also frequently linked to overdose deaths and medical emergencies across Florida.
- As one of only 12 states without an operating Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Florida is a source supplier of illegally diverted controlled medications for the nation.
- Among Florida 12th graders in 2010, 11 percent have misused a prescription pain reliever non-medically in their life; 3.4 percent have done so in the last month.
- The number of infants treated for withdrawal symptoms in Florida hospitals increased 173-percent between 2006 and 2009; 635 cases were reported in the first half of 2010.

Developed by: The United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse

www.drugfreebroward.org

Sources:

1. Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners between January 2009 and June 2010. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Medical Examiners Commission.
2. Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS) information submitted by the Florida Department of Children and Families to the US Department of Health and Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration as of September 30, 2010.
3. Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) weighted estimates for 2009, US Department of Health and Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, December 2010.
4. Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS). US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
5. Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners between January 2009 and June 2010. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Medical Examiners Commission.

6. National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI).
7. 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey conducted by the Florida Department of Children and Families.
8. Florida Agency for Health Care Administration records obtained by the Orlando Sentinel.

SPOTLIGHT

Do Not Host an Open House Party



Parents who host lose the most. This spring, do not provide alcohol to minors. When your teen is preparing for prom and graduation, make sure you talk to them about alcohol and do not host a party for teens with alcohol. Providing alcohol to minors is a second degree misdemeanor in the State of Florida, punishable by law. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, about 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die every year as a result of underage drinking — from crashes, homicides and suicides. Those who drink before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop dependence than those who start after 21.

Medical Marijuana Bill Filed in the House

MARCH 08, 2011

Rep. **Jeff Clemens**, a Democrat from Lake Worth, has filed a joint resolution that if passed by the Legislature would let voters in 2012 weigh in on a constitutional amendment legalizing medical marijuana. Among other things, the amendment would not allow for the use of medical marijuana "in plain view of the general public." The bill also says that health insurers wouldn't be required to reimburse patients for medical marijuana costs. Is Florida ready for such an amendment? Well, **Tony Fabrizio**, Gov. **Rick Scott's** campaign guru and current adviser, polled the issue of legalizing marijuana in Florida and found that nearly 6 in 10 support the measure -- almost enough to pass a state constitutional amendment.

Taken from The Buzz from the St. Pete Times, Posted by Janet Zink

DEA HOLDING SECOND NATIONWIDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY IN APRIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This spring, the Drug Enforcement Administration and its national and community partners will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. On Saturday, April 30th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time, DEA and its partners will hold their second National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at sites nationwide. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in over 242,000 pounds—121 tons—of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites operated by more than 3,000 of the DEA's state and local law enforcement partners. The agency hopes to collect even more this spring by opening the event to long term care facilities.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high--more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined, according to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

"The overwhelming public response to DEA's first nationwide Take-Back event last fall not only rid homes of potentially harmful prescription drugs, but was an unprecedented opportunity to educate everyone about the growing prescription

drug abuse problem," said DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart. "Studies have shown that, for many, prescription drugs are the very first drugs they abuse—and all too often they aren't the last. That is why we are committed to helping Americans keep their homes safe by ridding their medicine cabinets of expired, unused, and unwanted drugs."

"I encourage every American to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to safely dispose of unused, un-needed, or expired prescription drugs," said Gil Kerlikowke, Director of National Drug Control Policy. "Preventing these readily available and potentially deadly drugs from being diverted and misused is something each and every one of us can do to help reduce the epidemic of prescription drug abuse that is harming so many Americans."

The public can find a nearby collection site by visiting www.dea.gov, clicking on the "Got Drugs?" icon, and following the links to a database, where they enter their zip code. Law enforcement agencies interested in operating one or more collection sites on April 30 can register with the DEA by calling the DEA Field Division office in their area. (To see each division office's geographic area of responsibility, go to www.dea.gov and click on the "office locations" link under "About Us" in the menu on the left side of the home page.)

Four days after last fall's event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances. DEA has begun drafting regulations to implement the Act.

Other participants in this initiative include the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; the American Association of Poison Control Centers; the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America; D.A.R.E. America; the Federation of State Medical Boards; the U. S. Health Resources and Services Administration; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the National Association of Attorneys General; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy; the National District Attorneys Association; the National Sheriffs Association; and the Partnership@drugfree.org.

In Pasco County, the Pasco Sheriff's Office and Dade City Police Department will be participating in the event. More information to come!

2011 Meeting Dates:

January 25, 2011
February 22, 2011
March 22, 2011
April 26, 2011
May 24, 2011
*June 28, 2011 location TBD
July 26, 2011
August 23, 2011
September 27, 2011
October 25, 2011 November TBD
December TBD

2011 ASAP Executive Committee

Tracey Kaly: Chairperson
Art Rowand: Vice-Chairperson
Paula Green: Secretary
Debbie Antioco: Treasurer
Chrissie Parris: Coalition Coordinator

ASAP Meetings are held from 10:00 to 11:30am at Land O Lakes Community Center
5401 Land O Lake Boulevard (US 41). Everyone is welcome to attend and assist in Pasco County's prevention efforts!