Greetings,

April is a big month for prevention. We're very excited to host our annual 'Let's Talk' event. It's a chance for parents and teens to talk about topics that are important, but may not always come up in conversation. The story of our guest speaker is one that needs to be heard. Following a drunken driving crash that killed a young woman, John Templeton, Jr., makes it his life mission to prevent someone from making the same mistake. You won't want to miss, 'Let's Talk'.

We have some new contributors this month and lots going on... please enjoy our latest edition of the MCSAC Messenger.

RSVP for Let's Talk

Who: You and special guest, John Templeton, Jr.

What: A discussion with Manatee County teens & adults, facilitated by MCYC-talking about what matters

When: April 30, 6-9 p.m.

Where: Pirate City: 1701 27th Street E, Bradenton

Why: November, 2002. At 19, Templeton was involved in a fatal crash on I-275 in Tampa. He was the driver and on the wrong side of the road. The other driver, an 18-year old woman--was killed. Templeton was drunk... and charged with DUI Manslaughter. Now, he's on a mission to save lives.

"My goal is to create a positive, passionate awareness about the effects of drinking and driving and substance abuse. I believe that our youth, as the future leaders of our world are one of society's most valuable resources in creating a positive change to dangerous social issues. I learned at a young age, how powerful and life altering..."
once choice can be, and I now hope to be a contributing force and positively influence the lives of our countries youth."

-John R. Templeton Jr.
Community Outreach Director
Footprints Beachside Recovery

RSVP to Jessica Spencer by April 15!

**Rx Drug Task Force by: Sadie Palmer**

The Rx Drug Task Force has been meeting and working with our partners at Walgreens to launch the Safe Rx Campaign April 27 in conjunction with the National DEA Take-Back day. METV has produced PSAs with Sheriff Steube that will air on Brighthouse. MCSO, Bradenton Police Department, and Palmetto Police Department will have law enforcement at each of the pharmacies listed below. Holmes Beach Police Department accepts unused drugs at their 5801 Marina Drive location. **Mark your calendar and tell your friends.**

**Participating Walgreens:**
- 1455 Upper Manatee River Rd, Bradenton
- 6003 14th St W, Bradenton
- 5896 Cortez Rd W, Bradenton
- 930 8th Ave W, Palmetto
- 5945 U.S. 301, Ellenton

*liquids and needles are not accepted.*

Additionally, Ruth Lyerly and Wendy Nebrija are attending the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit in Orlando April 2-4. They will provide the Coalition with a presentation in May to share the information they gathered.

Lastly, the Coalition is working with Walgreens to install permanent take back drop boxes for all local police departments and expect the installation will be in late April-early May.

**Meet MCSAC's Alcohol Task Force Chair: Alison Stambaugh**

**April 27: National Drug Take-Back Day**

**April 30: Let's Talk. 6:30-9 p.m. Pirate City**

**MCYC Update by:**

**Becky O'Brien, Chair & Junior at Southeast High**

As always, the Manatee County Youth Commission is working diligently to represent the youth voice in Manatee County. On the 13th of February, the youth commission trekked to GT Bray for its regular meeting. There we assisted center director David Kudelko in brainstorming ways to attract youth to the
My name is Alison Stambaugh. I work at Manatee Glens as a Prevention Specialist, teaching Life Skills Training, and "Too Good for Drugs" groups at area schools and community organizations, and I am the Manatee County Substance Abuse Coalition (MCSAC) Alcohol Task Force Chair. The Alcohol Task Force is piloting the "Parents Who Host, Lost the Most" campaign at area Middle Schools and High Schools.

Parents Who Host reminds the community that hosting parties for underage children is illegal. As many are aware, a lot of these parties take place during prom and graduation season and we have asked various middle schools and high schools to partner with us in getting our message to the community. The Director of Secondary Education, Jim Pauley approved this initiative in all area schools.

We are posting "Party Patrol" flyers in schools that inform area residents their neighbors are earning money for reporting parties with underage drinking. During morning announcements in teacher's classrooms, area schools will show the Coalition's PSAs:
1) social hosting
2) alcohol poisoning
3) binge drinking
4) the danger of mixing pills and alcohol.

We will also post campaign banners outside of schools, host informational tables during prom and graduation weeks as well as disperse other campaign materials at school events. Our hope is to reach as many individuals as possible, in order to not only reduce, but eliminate the problem of underage drinking in Manatee County.

If you can help, please email me.

VetCorps Update by: Kelli Pond

Thanks to our veteran partners who participated at the March 28th VetCorps meeting- United Way, Manatee County Community Service, Manatee Glens, Suncoast Partnership, Bay Pines Health Care, LECOM, Suncoast Workforce, the Sarasota Vet Center, the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and Turning Point.

Leslie Lovelace of Suncoast Partnership provided local data on homeless veterans; Nestor Levesque of Manatee Glens reviewed substance abuse/mental health issues; Stuart Taube of Suncoast Workforce discussed the process of assisting veterans to find jobs, write resumes and train them to have the necessary skills needed to obtain a career position. John Smith
shared his experience as a VISTA volunteer at Turning Point and the homeless population he is assisting. As a group, we decided the VetCorps priorities in Manatee County will be veteran homelessness and substance abuse/mental health.

Our next meeting is April 30 at 10:00 a.m. on the Manatee County Government Administrative Center's 4th floor, Manatee Conference Room. We will examine these issues and define the contributing factors in Manatee and possible strategies. Please join us.

CADCA 2013: Coalitions in Action

by: Steve Rinder, Board Vice Chair

MCYC Project Director, Jessica Spencer, and I joined 3,000 other enthusiastic coalition representatives from all over the country (and beyond) for the 23rd National Leadership Forum of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) in Washington, D.C. February 4-7. We were proud to represent MCSAC in work sessions, at strategy meetings, networking with our partnering Florida coalition leaders, and as we advocated with our elected representatives.

The daily workshops offered both local and national perspectives and strategies. I was particularly impressed with the DEA's presentation of synthetic drugs, Arizona’s Yavapai County’s Coalition-driven confrontation of one community’s fight against synthetics, and sessions on marijuana issues. Networking between sessions and comparing notes made the energy non-stop.

CADCA’s tradition of "Capitol Hill Day" visits to the House and Senate offices is a major undertaking well worth the effort. Dedicated time spent in planning and preparation for the day allowed for us to feel focused and energized. Jessica had pre-arranged meetings with Representative Vern Buchanan and his impressive staff, and with Senator Bill Nelson’s office. We were pleased to discuss and encourage continued funding for local coalition work, STOP grant, and other legislative issues. Offering advocacy for Representative Buchanan's "Pill Mill Bill" (co-sponsored by his colleague Edward Markey of Massachusetts), was foremost in priority for us. The bill was certainly originated in part with the encouragement of the dedicated and effective work of our friends, Ruth Lyerly and Cindy Harney,
and the wonderful work they continue to do in our state. We were warmly received by Mr. Buchanan and appreciated his consideration. Jessica facilitated the discussion in Senator Nelson's constituent-packed office. Several Florida coalitions were represented; and all were eager to communicate. I appreciated Jessica's easy and friendly moderation, as did the Senator's aide.

When you are the new kid on the block, as we were at this conference, it is nice to have the wisdom and confidence of a few veterans to fortify the will. What a great gift it was for us to have our friend Susan Woodford, and her colleague Cindy Grant, from the Florida Coalitions Alliance (FCA) as guide, inspiration, and reinforcement. Susan is amazing and undaunted. I had met her when she came to town to help us brainstorm the "Party Patrol" STOP project. Her contribution and dedication to our local and state efforts is remarkable. Rounding out our "welcoming committee" there was good friend "Garcia" with the National Guard, who facilitated our KAIZEN. Good natured, compassionate, and dedicated.

Our days in D.C. reinforced for me the continuing pride that I have in our local MCSAC organization. With our amazing Sharon, Rita, and Jessica, our thoughtful and forward-thinking Board chaired by Rachelle, our growing and invested task forces, our next-generation brightness of the MCYC, and our foundation base of Coalition members and supporters, we can all be proud of our continuing partnership within our community and our voice in the state.

**Calendar**

**April 4:** MCSAC Board Meeting. **2:00-3:30 p.m.**, County Government Admin. Center, 4th floor Manatee Conference Room

**April 10:** MCSAC Coalition Meeting: **3:00-4:30 p.m.**, United Way, 1701 Tamiami Trail (14th W), Bradenton, **All Welcome!**

**April 15:** Public hearing on a candy flavored tobacco resolution. **7 p.m.**, Palmetto City Commission

**April 27:** National Drug Take-Back Day

**April 30:** Let's Talk. **6:30-9 p.m.** Pirate City

**Coalition Contact Information**

Sharon Kramer, MEd., CPP
Executive Director
941-748-4501 x3491