Happy Holidays from MCSAC!
We hope you have a joyous and safe New Year...
Here's to continuing Manatee County's effort to keep the community substance abuse-free!

December 2013 - January 2014

**MCSAC Calendar**

12/4 - Board of Trustees Meeting, 2-3:30 p.m.
Co. Gov't. Administration Center, 3rd floor conference room

12/4 - Marijuana Task Force Meeting, 4-5:00 p.m.
Manatee Glens

12/9 - Alcohol Task Force Meeting, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Co. Gov't. Administration Center, 3rd floor conference room

12/17 - VetCorps Meeting, 10-11:30 a.m.
Co. Gov't. Administration Center, 4th floor Osprey conference room

12/18 - Coalition Meeting, 3-4:30 p.m.
United Way, 1701 Tamiami Trail (14th St. W)

1/6/14 - Rx Drug Task Force Meeting, 5-6:30 p.m.
Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. West

1/15/14 - Board of Trustees Retreat, Noon
Pirate City, Bradenton
From Executive Director Sharon Kramer, M.Ed., CPP

At the October Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, members approved the 2014 slate of officers and elected new members to represent community sectors. The 2014 Board of Trustees Officers include: **Board Chairperson** - Steve Rinder (Education), Manatee School District's Student and Family Education (SAFE) Program; **Vice Chairperson** - Palmetto Police Chief Rick Wells (Law Enforcement); **Treasurer** - Reba Rogers (Business) AAA Bookkeeping; **Recorder** - Jane Testa (Service Provider) Manatee Glens; **Past Chairperson** - Rachelle Madrigal (Business) Pittsburgh Pirates

New Trustees include: Alexdrena Green (Faith Based Sector) 13th Avenue Dream Center; Steve Gulash (Parent Sector) parent liaison at Manatee High School; Jim Christinidis (Media Sector) Bradenton Herald; Ella Biggins (Youth - MCYC Chair/Braden River Junior) and Becky O'Brien (Youth - MCYC Past Chair/Southeast Senior).

The full Board will meet **January 15** at Pirate City for the Annual Board Retreat/Orientation and will welcome new members, hear coalition evaluator, Dr. Scott Young's update on community use rates and discuss Board 2014 priorities.

Marijuana Task Force Update

**by Nestor Levesque**

As the year winds down, the debate about medical marijuana heats up. Recently those opposed to the medical marijuana amendment got some much needed support from Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi. AG Bondi has read the proposed

In This Issue

**Marijuana Task Force**

**Overdose Deaths are Preventable**

**Stay Safe & Sober this Holiday Season**

"Heroes Among Us"

MCYC Update

Alcohol Task Force Update

**by Monica Johnson**

We all know that the holiday season is a time to celebrate, often with food and drinks. Unfortunately, alcohol use turns a time for celebration into tragedy for many families each year.

The Alcohol Task Force discussed various strategies to help keep our community safe and sober this holiday season. Skip Pryor and the Manatee County Alcoholics Anonymous chapter are giving support to those in recovery, by distributing "12 Steps on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous". This handout empowers those who struggle with alcoholism to make positive choices that will assist in their recovery.

The holiday season can be an especially stressful time of year and the added temptation of alcohol use can make the season particularly challenging for those in recovery. A.A. suggests lining up extra A.A. activities, keeping candy handy, and remembering to take one day at a time. Local A.A. groups often plan special parties, meetings or other celebrations during the holiday season. To pick up a "12 Steps on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous" or to learn about upcoming A.A. activities in the area, visit www.AASRQ.org.

Across the country and right here in Manatee
amendment and has expressed serious concerns about its accuracy. She writes in part, "In this case, the Sponsor has presented its proposal in a way that does not convey its "true meaning and ramifications." She continues, "Indeed, the Sponsor has obscured the most fundamental issue underlying its proposal: the nature and scope of marijuana use the amendment would allow." The amendment, as written, allows for uses of marijuana well beyond the suggested medical reasons. If the amendment is found to be misleading or inaccurate it can be stricken from the ballot. The Florida Supreme Court will address this issue on December 5. Let's hope for the best.

Recently Bradenton Police Chief Michael Radzilowski expressed his agreement with the Attorney General's position of the amendment. In the Bradenton Herald he wrote that the amendment is not what it appears to be. He sums up rather well what opponents of this amendment fear most when he says, "Law enforcement across the state has worked hard to rid the state of pill mills, and we all can see the result of this effort. But if this amendment passes in its current form, we will have three times as many marijuana stores popping up all over our city, county and state." The full text of Chief Radzilowski's article can be viewed here.

Finally the task force continues to work with our legislators to provide them with new and accurate information about the current potency of marijuana and its effects on individuals and society at large. The task force has recently reached out to Congressman Vern Buchanan, Senator Bill Galvano, and Representative Greg Steube. Each has offered their support and encouragement.

Red Ribbon Breakfast Honors Local Heroes
Law Enforcement

This year MCSAC decided to honor local law enforcement, fire and EMS at the 11th annual Red Ribbon Breakfast. The honor is due in part for the work done by local law enforcement in substance abuse prevention as well as all first responders keeping us safe, alive and caring for us in our time of need.

Meredith Garofalo sings National Anthem

This year’s breakfast featured guest speaker Dr. Mitchell Hall from MMH Emergency Department and Troy Pumphrey with the office of professional standards with the Manatee County School District. The Colors were expertly presented by the MCSO Honor Guard, National Anthem was sung by Meteorologist Meredith Garofalo, pledge led by MCYC student Ella Biggins and the invocation was performed by Ret. BFD Chaplain Paul Ewers.

EMS

Attendees were delighted with this year’s program. "What a wonderful way to honor those in our community who put their lives on the line every

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2011, 931 people were killed in drunk driving crashes between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Eve, and a total of 66 people were killed nationwide in drunk driving crashes on New Year’s Day, a staggering 144 percent increase over the average day that year.

Local law enforcement agencies throughout the county will be cracking down on drunk driving
day to keep us safe. I couldn’t begin to express to you how inspiring the speakers were,” says Teresa Herbst, SWAT Coordinator.

"Outstanding event! Really! Great theme, excellent speakers” - Wendy Nebrija, community member.

Nominations for department’s "Hero" were received for Officer Ligman and Lovett from Palmetto Palmetto Police Department. Also to Charge Paramedic Maria Lowery, Paramedic Suzie Leonard, Engineer Adam McDaniel and Fireman David Manning EMFD, SAO Drug Court Alfred James, Jackie Smith, Detective's Todd and Kim Zink with MCSO as well as Deputy Grant Steube. Also Detective Michael Skoumal from BPD. MCSAC also took the time to honor drug court staff: Jackie Smith and Alfred James.

"Substance abuse touches all families and the message delivered today was very relevant for me and I am sure to many in the audience.”
- Jeffrey S. Hoyle, Fire Chief Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue

through their "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Campaign. The Crime Prevention Unit of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office will be distributing red ribbons to anyone in the community interested in placing one on their vehicle. If you would like red ribbons for your family or business, contact Monica Johnson.

More from Red Ribbon Breakfast, "Heroes Among Us"

Ret. Chaplain Paul Ewers, invocation

Ella Biggins, MCYC student pledge of allegiance

Troy Pumphrey, ret. detective and
Rx Drug Task Force Update by Wendy Nebrija

Rx Drug Task Force Meeting
In response to the recent heroin overdose deaths in our community, the Prescription Drug Task Force voted to focus efforts on addressing this issue.

Overdose Deaths: National and Local Statistics
100 people die from drug overdoses every day nationwide. In 2010, drug overdose caused 38,329 deaths. Of those, 16,651 were caused by prescription painkillers. (CDC) In 2012 there were 524 drug-related deaths in the 12th Judicial District, which includes Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. In the first week of November, there were at least eight deaths as a result of 13 overdoses in Manatee County; heroin was blamed for most of these deaths. (Bradenton Herald)

What is Naloxone?
Naloxone (aka Narcan) is a prescription medication that reverses opiate overdose. It is not a controlled substance, has no abuse potential, and has no effect in the absence of opiates. It can be injected or administered by nasal spray, and when given in a timely manner, it saves a life. Naloxone is usually administered by EMTs, but it can also be given by a minimally trained layperson. Community-based opioid overdose prevention programs train and distribute naloxone to persons who use drugs, their families and friends. Currently there are 50 programs in at least seven states. Since the first one started distributing naloxone in 1996, more than 10,000 overdoses have been reversed. (CDC) Read more: Naloxone Program Case Studies

Support for Expanded Access to Naloxone
In June of 2012, the AMA adopted a policy to support further implementation of community-based programs that offer naloxone as well as

current School Board of Manatee County Office of Professional Standards

Dr. Mitchell Hall, MMH ER Physician

Steve Rinder MCSAC board member- next chair

Join Our Mailing List

VetCorps Update
The next VetCorps meeting is December 17 at 10am in the 4th Floor Osprey conference room in Manatee County Government Administrative Center. The meeting will focus on HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers to aid Manatee homeless veterans.
education of health care workers and opioid users about overdose prevention. Expanded access to naloxone is also supported by CDC, Office of National Drug Control Policy, American Public Health Association among others.

Despite such widespread support, some people believe that providing Naloxone sends the wrong message. Dr. Stancliff of the Harm Reduction Coalition disagrees and says it tells opiate users "that the program cares about their lives even if they relapse, a very positive message for someone at a low point in life".

As of November 2013, 17 states and the District of Columbia passed laws to make it easier for physicians to prescribe naloxone and lay people to administer it. While such a law has not yet passed here, Florida’s Prescription Drug Diversion and Abuse Roadmap 2012-2015 does seek to expand the number of physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians, and law enforcement professionals who are trained to administer naloxone.

Since laws to expand access to naloxone can be implemented at little or no cost, and will likely save both lives and resources, they represent some of the lowest-hanging public health fruit available to policymakers today.

Spread the Word!
In 2012 Florida passed the 911 Good Samaritan Act to protect those seeking medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug overdose from being penalized.

Kelli Pond
VetCorps Coordinator Kelli Pond, along with community partners Goodwill (Chris Davis) and Salvation Army (Ellen Potrijus and Justin Creel) met with Representative Greg Steube to discuss VetCorps’ role in addressing returning veteran’s needs - substance abuse/mental health, homelessness, education and unemployment. The group asked Steube for his direction in determining why Manatee County does not receive federal funded HUD/VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers for local homeless veterans.

On November 12, Kelli and Ellen met with Sally Tibbetts, Congressman Vern Buchanan’s District Director, to introduce VetCorps and discuss HUD/VASH vouchers.

Kelli Pond gave birth to daughter Amelia on November 13. Join us in congratulating Kelli and mark your calendar for the meeting on December 17!

Manatee County Youth Commission Update
Ella Biggins & Katie Cafiero
These past couple of weeks, the Manatee County Youth Commission has been focusing, communicating, and planning. At our first meeting in November, we spoke to the United Way Community Impact Team. We discussed ways to make our community flourish and brainstormed ideas. It was a growing experience for members because we learned more about each other and our community as a whole.

The second meeting in November was based around planning. Thanks to Dr. Spencer, we got the flip
charts out and discussed committees, likes/dislikes, and new goals for this year. A popular idea among the group is adding another committee based around education. Member Anay Patel is heading the process by bringing in an official proposal next meeting. We also discussed our feedback to the Student Code of Conduct which is being reformed.

Other events we are looking forward to include helping the Healthy Teens Coalition with their new Teen Health Educator program, hearing from guest speakers Jim Boyd, Luhrs Law Group representatives and the Chair of the Alcohol Task Force, Monica Johnson; new grant opportunities (headed by treasurer Lacey Sanchez), and celebrating the holidays with a potluck at our December meeting.

MCYC Members: Toby, Meg, Lindsay, Ella

Thank you all for your continued support!

Get Social with MCSAC!

2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
**New Vice Chairperson, Chief Rick Wells (PPD) with Sheriff Brad Steube**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>COMMUNITY SECTOR</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHAIRPERSON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Rinder</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Manatee School District (SAFE Program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICE CHAIRPERSON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Wells</td>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>Palmetto Police Department - Chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECORDER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Testa</td>
<td>Treatment Provider</td>
<td>Manatee Glens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREASURER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reba Rogers</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>AAA Bookkeeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST CHAIR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachelle Madrigal</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Pirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Anderson</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Manatee County Community Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Bartholomew</td>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>MCSO - Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella Biggins</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>MCYC - Braden River High School Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Christinidis</td>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Bradenton Herald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexdrena Green</td>
<td>Faith Based</td>
<td>Greater St. Luke P.B. Church/Dream Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Gulash</td>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>Manatee County HS Parent Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica May</td>
<td>Tobacco Coalition</td>
<td>Manatee County Health Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Nebrija</td>
<td>Civic</td>
<td>Am. Assoc. University Women (AAUW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becky O'Brien</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>MCYC - Southeast High School Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brena Slater</td>
<td>Youth Serving Org.</td>
<td>Safe Children Coalition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Us**
Sharon Kramer, M.Ed., CPP  
Executive Director  
941-748-4501 x3491  
skramer@drugfreemanatee.org

Rita Chamberlain, MBA  
Associate Director  
941-748-4501 x3477  
rchamberlain@drugfreemanatee.org

Jessica Spencer, Ed.D, CPP, CAP  
Project Director  
941-748-4501 x3483  
ispencer@drugfreemanatee.org

Kelli Pond  
VetCorps Prevention Coordinator  
941-748-4501 x3490  
kpond@drugfreemanatee.org

Manatee County Substance Abuse Coalition  
Manatee County Government Administrative Center  
1112 Manatee Ave. W, Suite 303  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
941-749-3030  
www.drugfreemanatee.org