Coalition evaluator Dr. Scott Young provided the latest Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) results on January 10 for board members who reviewed logic models, action plans and strategies to address underage drinking/adult alcohol abuse, Rx drug abuse, and marijuana use.

Participating in the Board Retreat were:
- Palmetto Police Chief Rick Wells (law enforcement);
- Brena Slater (state government);
- Rachelle Madrigal (business);
- Tim Whitley (media);
- Wendy Nebrija (parents);
- Lynn Anderson (county government);
- Reba Rogers (business);
- Holly Quillian (youth serving organization);
- Jane Testa (service provider);
- MCSO Captain Pat Bartholomew (law enforcement);
- and Sharon Kramer. Not pictured: Jessica May (health) and Julie Aranibar (civic).

Mark your calendar - On Wednesday, February 13 (3:00 pm, United Way) Scott will provide the FYSAS data to coalition members and ask for input on strategies to address priority problems.

Then on February 18 and 19, coalition members are invited to join Sharon Kramer, Wendy Nebrija, Lynn Anderson, Jessica Spencer, Ruth Lyster and the coalition’s new Marijuana Chairperson, Nestor Levesque (Manatee Glens) at the Marijuana Summit being held at The University of Tampa (see following flyer for details or call the office, 749-3030).

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MCSAC in the News...

Rita Chamberlain talks to ABC7 about Party Patrol

Read it here.
MCSAC is co-sponsoring this important event which features nationally recognized expert, Kevin Sabet, PhD who will discuss the impact of marijuana legalization. Other experts will discuss cartels, organized crime, and marijuana dispensaries.

On Tuesday, **February 19**, coalition members will work together to develop strategic plans.

**MCSAC Rx Drug Task Force**

Meet the new Rx Drug Task Force Chairperson Sadie Palmer with (L) Ruth Lyerly (Past Chair); and (R) Wendy Nebrija.

**Welcome Sadie!**
Sadie brings her expertise as a retired pharmacist. She enjoys health and outdoor fitness, crafts, writing, being a soccer mom, the Bridge Church, and playing games with family and friends.

Many thanks to Ruth for three years of service as the first task force chair!

Accomplishments during her tenure include being part of an expert advisory panel urging the FDA to place tighter controls on prescription drugs that contain the active ingredient hydrocodone.

Ruth continues her service now as the first Chair of the Florida Coalition Alliance Prescription Drug Task Force.

Join the task force in their efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse in Manatee County!

**Save the Date: April 24. National Rx Drug Take-Back**
Activities:

- Initiate efforts to increase the number of permanent drug drops in Manatee County.
- Explore fund-raising options to support the Florida Coalition Alliance and state efforts to address Rx drugs. The FCA serves as a unified voice for coalitions.
- Support the FCA’s Prescription Drug Task Force efforts to affect state legislation and policies related to Rx drugs.
- Ruth and Wendy are headed to the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit April 2-4 in Orlando which will focus on ways to Make an Impact in the fight against prescription drug abuse.
- Explore additional permanent Manatee County drug drops.
- Promote "Monitor, Secure, and Dispose"
- Continue to support U.S. Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Edward Markey’s (D-MA) Pill Mill Crackdown Act intended to reschedule hydrocodone combination drugs from Schedule III to a Schedule II and place tighter controls on prescription painkillers using the active ingredient hydrocodone.

Working on Priority #1: Alcohol

In October 2012 MCSAC was awarded a federal grant to support our underage drinking prevention efforts. The STOP (Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking) Act grant from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services totals $193,032 over the next 4 years. MCSAC used this new funding to focus on three initiatives for 2012-2013: a beach/party patrol enforcement and intervention effort (SACTAF), a Parents Who Host Lose the Most™ media campaign and the Manatee County Youth Commission (MCYC) that offers teens training and opportunities to affect community policy-making.

SACTAF (Substance Abuse Coalition Task Force) enforcement/intervention under the leadership of Danny Bench (BPD and Manatee HS SRO) has conducted 3 operations to date, referring 10 students - and their parents - to the School District’s SAFE program run by Steve Rinder. MCSAC is also compiling Last Drink Survey results from SAFE program participants to gather trends for where teens get their alcohol and other drugs, where they drink, and for student and parent attitudes toward alcohol and prescription drug abuse. One disturbing trend indicates that many teens drink at other friends’ houses with (and without)
adult (parent) knowledge. In an effort to combat this trend, one parent told MCSAC that they sent a copy of the SACTAF operations poster (see image on MCSAC Website or MCSAC or MCYC Facebook pages) as a warning to another parent rumored to be hosting parties where alcohol was available to minors!

At the same time, MCSAC launched a rejuvenated Alcohol Task Force (ATF) composed of stakeholder representatives to monitor and support prevention efforts. The ATF also supports current legislative efforts (brought to the ATF’s attention by Matt Bower of the Lhursen Law Group) championed by Rep. Ray Pilon for HB 5 that revises last year's Open House Party statute to apply restrictions to all open parties and not just parties occurring in a residence.

The Parents Who Host Lose the Most™ campaign is designed to coincide with MCSAC plans to raise awareness of the Open House Party statute revisions during Manatee County School District's Spring Break, Prom and Graduation dates. ATF members are currently reviewing various media proposals/strategies to make the most effective use of funds while 'spreading the word' to a broad community audience.

Through the successful implementation of these activities, in conjunction with other current and ongoing efforts (see article on MCYC), MCSAC plans to bring Manatee’s youth alcohol rates to better-than-state-average levels, effectively an additional 3% drop from 2010 Manatee students' 30-day use rates, by 2014.

Save the Date!

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
Festival Scan Training

Safe Community Festival Initiative

On January 16, 2013 MCSAC and MCYC hosted the Environmental Scan Training for Public Events Serving Alcohol conducted by our talented Rita Chamberlain and Sharon Kramer. The training was a success with community and coalition members from Pinellas, Collier, Pasco, Hillsborough and Manatee Counties in attendance.

A total of 29 attendees were there, and all of them walked away with new knowledge about how to keep their communities safe. They also learned ways to utilize the information gathered from festival scans in order to inform government and local stakeholders about best practices for community festivals and gatherings. Manatee County youth and adult members are eager to begin scanning local festivals in 2013!

Information gathered will be used to create a new Festival Scan Guide to be used in local initiatives and potential permitting and policy changes. In order to see the last version of the Festival Scan Guide please go to our website and click on "Alcohol Abuse" button on the splash page, then "Prevention" and then on the hot link "Safe Community Festival Initiative" or go directly to the PDF here.

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