2015 Board Retreat

The 2015 Board of Trustees held their annual Board Retreat on January 28 at the Renaissance on the 9th. The meeting titled, Yesterday - Today - and Tomorrow celebrated the many successes identified by past chairs Lynn Anderson, Rachelle Madrigal and Steve Rinder. The successes included state licensing as a level 1 prevention provider, Manatee County Youth Commission Chair Ella Biggins’ selection to the Florida Youth Commission, VetCorps, and defeating the 2014 marijuana constitutional amendment. Following a presentation of the Florida Youth Substance Abuse results by USF evaluator Dr. Scott Young, and presentation of the Comprehensive Community Action Plan by Rita Chamberlain, trustees held a business meeting and then reviewed bylaws, discussed sustainability and the possibility of a name change to better capture the work of prevention in Manatee County.

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Upcoming Schedule of Events

Board Meetings
February 4 & March 4
2:00pm
Manatee Co. Gov’t. Center
1112 Manatee Ave. W
3rd Floor Conf. Room
Bradenton

Coalition Meetings
February 11 & March 11
3:00-4:30pm
United Way of Manatee Co.
1701 Tamiami Trail
Bradenton

Alcohol Task Force

VetCorps
February 17 and March 17
10:00 am
Manatee Co. Gov’t Center
1112 Manatee Ave
3rd Floor Conf. Room

Rx Drug Task Force
February 17 and March 24
1:30-3:00 pm
LECOM
Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Bradenton
TRUSTEES (left to right): Vice Chair Javier Cordova, Alexdrena Green, Brena Slater, Wendy Nebrija, Executive Director Sharon Kramer, Treasurer Reba Rogers, Chair Rick Wells, Rachelle Madrigal, Steve Rinder, and Lynn Anderson

Not pictured: Recorder Jane Roseboro, Pat Bartholomew, Megan Jourdan, Ella Biggins

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**Legislative Update**

by Jessica Spencer

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**Summer Campaign**

As many of you know I had the fortune of being allowed by the board to take a leave of absence last June-November. The purpose was for me to be able to work on the campaign to defeat the proposed state Constitutional Amendment to legalize marijuana under the guise of medicine that was on the November 4, 2014 ballot. With lots of work by many across the state, we were able to closely defeat the amendment with 42.40% against the Amendment and 57.60% voting to pass the Amendment. Florida requires any proposed amendments to the state constitution have a super-majority vote of 60% plus 1 to pass. 44.25% voted against the measure in Manatee County.

We were up against big dollars from in-state and out-of-state resources. Despite the disadvantage we were able to educate many people on the truth about today's marijuana and the significant loopholes in Amendment 2.

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**Meetings**

February 12 & March 12
9:00-10:30am
Manatee Co. Gov't. Center
1112 Manatee Ave. W
3rd Floor Conf. Room
Bradenton

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**SAVE THE DATE**

Let's Talk

April 28, 2015
6:30-9:00pm
On January 8, 2015 the other side filed another petition to legalize 'medical marijuana' as a change to our constitution for 2016.

Alcohol is different from other things that our state regulates. It is intoxicating and addictive, and it's important we find ways to mitigate the risk. We must always consider and keep a wise-eye on safety and health with any laws related to alcohol. The cost to our state, according to a 2009 study, exceeded $21 Billion, and impacts numerous systems such as the healthcare system, the child welfare system and the criminal justice system.

Principles that we always consider when looking at potential legislation or changes in laws/ordinances/regulations:

- Increased access always means increased use
- Decreased perception of harm always leads to increased use
- Decreased price always leads to increased use

Malt Beverage and Craft Distillery bills have been pre-filed and are currently moving through committees. These bills are concerning for the prevention field because they create confusion for consumers between single serving and bulk servings of alcohol, do not require labeling to include the percentage of alcohol or that it contains alcohol, and removes the safety of spirits being sold out of view of minors in separate store.

A boating under the influence bill was filed by Harrell. HB 289 provides that conviction for BUI be recorded in person’s driving record; provides that convictions for BUI are considered prior convictions for DUI; provides that

The Latest from VetCorps

by Patti Durham

Manatee County VetCorps, with financial support from Bradenton Home Depot, spread Christmas cheer to 20 homeless veterans currently living in transitional housing. Eleven Christmas trees, lights, ornaments and wrapped gifts were presented to the Manatee County Veterans' Village. The Director for Veterans' Village, Fritz Potter, stated that the donations "melted the hearts" of even the most stoic veterans.

MLK Day of Service - Bradenton's Riverwalk

Additionally, Manatee County VetCorps participated in the MLK National Day of Service campaign (week of Jan 19th), which provided two opportunities for community members to participate. Non-perishable food items were collected and donated to Manasota Operation Troop Support for shipment to locally deployed troops.
A bill to include Kratom to the list of Controlled Substances was filed by Jacobs, **HB 287**. She is currently trying to find a co-sponsor.

A Substance Abuse treatment, assessment, and stabilization bill was filed by Garcia. **SB 304** providing that, in considering whether to voluntarily admit a person, the determination as to whether the medical and behavioral conditions of the person are within the safe management capabilities of the service provider shall be made exclusively by the service provider; providing that, with regard to involuntary admissions, specified determinations shall be made at the exclusive discretion of the service provider; clarifying that a specified assessment is required only if the individual is admitted; specifying that after involuntary assessment, the decision as to the disposition of the individual shall be made at the discretion of the qualified professional, etc.

A substance abuse and services bill was filed by Harrell and Hager. **HB 21** requires DCF to create voluntary certification program for recovery residences; requires DCF to approve credentialing entities to develop & administer certification program; requires background screening of recovery residence employees; provides for denial, suspension, or revocation of certification; directs DCF to approve at least one credentialing entity by specified date to develop & administer certification program; requires DCF to publish list on its website. The identical version was filed by Clemens, **SB326**. We anticipate multiple marijuana bills to be introduced this legislative session. Clemons will introduce around February 20, 2015.

MCSAC will continue to track all drug and alcohol related bills through the duration of the legislative session. In late January, Florida Coalition Alliance members went to the capitol to educate legislators about the pitfalls of several bills currently moving through committees and potential bills this session.

**What can you do?**

See an issue that is important to you? Register to track these bills at [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov), write a letter to representatives expressing your concern or call their office! Want to know more? **Ask us!** Write

Also, MCYC and Manatee Elementary School took part in a letter writing campaign in honor of our local law enforcement personnel. Letters of appreciation and support were presented to local law enforcement jurisdictions e.g. Bradenton and Palmetto Police Departments and Manatee County Sheriff’s Office on January 19, 2015.

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**Manatee County Youth Commission**

*by Ella Biggins*

The Manatee County Youth Commissioners have had a great month. We are starting on many of our various projects and plans. We have also heard from local community leaders and discussed issues affecting you in Manatee County.

Sheriff Steube talked with us about his path to becoming Manatee County Sheriff. He inspired us and allowed us to see that we all have potential to become great community leaders. He gave each Youth Commissioner a "Challenge Coin" that made members excited to make a difference.

The Education Committee met with Superintendent Mills to discuss student perspective in district schools. We discussed implementing "Know the Law", a program to teach students about various laws to prevent them from getting involved in illegal activity. Next time we meet, Youth Commissioners plan to bring back a list of three positives and three constructive criticisms within Manatee County Schools for the Superintendent to review.
Jessica an email at jspencer@drugfreemanatee.org.

We look forward to starting on other new projects, like Drug-Free Youth (D-Fy) and teen pregnancy awareness public service announcements.

Mark Your Calendar:
March 18, 2015

Kick Butts Day is a day to stand out, speak up and seize control against Big Tobacco.

Get Social with MCSAC

Sharon Kramer, M.Ed., CPP
Executive Director/CEO
941-748-4501 x3491
skramer@drugfreemanatee.org

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

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

Patti Durham
VetCorps Prevention Coordinator
941-748-4501 x3490
pdurham@drugfreemanatee.org