5th Let's Talk ~ April 28; Free Pizza Dinner at 6:30 pm

Youth Commissioners (MCYC) and Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition invite teens and adults to dinner and discussion.

Let's Talk will be held Tuesday, April 28 from 6:30pm to 9:15pm at Pirate City, 1701 27th St. E, Bradenton.

The goal of Let's Talk is to provide an opportunity for youth and adults to discuss topics that matter. MCYC high school students are being trained to lead the discussion groups that encourage teens and adults to listen and learn from each other.

RSVP by April 15!
Let's Talk - 2014

There is no cost for the dinner and discussion but space is limited. RSVP's are encouraged. All who RSVP by April 15th will be entered into a drawing for prizes! Reserve your dinner by contacting pdurham@drugfreemanatee.org

Manatee County Youth Commission Update

by Ella Biggins
Chairperson

In This Issue

Latest Legislation in Tallahassee
Latest from VetCorps
Spring Cleaning? Start With Your Medicine Cabinet!
Spring is a busy time for the Manatee County Youth Commission! The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Committee is gearing up for May and Teen Pregnancy Awareness Month. They have written a PSA and are excited to film it with METV and disperse it into the community for awareness on the issue. Also, they will be assisting the Healthy Teens Coalition in presenting proclamations during May.

Judicial Circuit 12 State Attorney Ed Brodsky recently spoke to commissioners about the role of the prosecutor's office in seeking justice, safeguarding the innocent and advocating for victims. Additionally, MCYC participated in the 2015 Kick Butts Day by collecting 267 cigarette butts on Coquina Beach in just one hour!

We are also excited for Let’s Talk, the April annual community event hosted by MCYC with the purpose of bridging the gap between adults and teenagers by facilitating a conversation on difficult topics.
Legislative Affairs

Hard to believe, but we are more than halfway through this year's legislative session!

Actions since our last update include the following:

- SB 186 Malt Beverages- passed Commerce and Tourism Committee (6-0) and is now in Fiscal Policy
  - The house bill is now in the regulatory affairs committee
  - SB 468 Package Stores - passed Regulated Industries (9-3) and is now

Tuesday, April 28
Let's Talk, 6:30pm - 9:15 pm
Pirate City, 1701 27th St. E

Spring cleaning? Start with your medicine cabinet!

by Wendy B. Nebrija, MPH
Rx and Emerging Issues Task Force Chairperson

On March 20 the Rx Drug and Emerging Issues Task Force launched the Spring Cleaning Campaign. The annual event reminds us when doing our spring cleaning to start with the medicine cabinet, and to always safely dispose of expired and unused medications at one of the county's eight permanent disposal sites.

Colonel Rick Wells, Chief Deputy with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office kicked off the campaign on March 20 - the first day of spring - on the ABC7 noon show. Watch here.

The campaign culminates with the Health Expo at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center on April 25 (10am-1pm).
pending reference review

- The house bill is now in the regulatory affairs committee
- SB 548 Use of Tobacco Products in Motor Vehicles passed Regulated Industries (8-4) and is now in Health Policy. This bill was written by kids!

Since last year's campaign, a new permanent site was added in Longboat Key. In 2014 the Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and 3 Substations collected a total of 1109 pounds of medications.

As of this year the DEA will no longer sponsor community take-back days, so please help spread the word about the permanent medication disposal sites!

RX MEDICATION DISPOSAL SITES
Bring your expired/unused medications to these locations for disposal:

**Manatee County Sheriff's Office/Substations**
600 301 Blvd. W, Suite 202 (24 hrs/7 days a week)
407 57th Ave. E (Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm)
5030 U.S. 301 N, Ellenton (Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm)

**City of Bradenton Police Dept.**
100 10th St. W (24 hrs/7 days a week)

**Bradenton Beach Police Dept.**
403 Highland Ave. (Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm)

**Holmes Beach Police Dept.**
5801 Marina Dr. (Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm)

**Palmetto Police Dept.**
1115 10th St. W (24 hours/7 days a week)

**Longboat Key Police Dept.**
5460 Gulf of Mexico Dr. (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm)

*Liquids and needles are not accepted at these sites. Refer to Manatee County’s Household Waste for disposal instructions.*
SB 758 Prescription and Use of Opioid Antagonists for Emergency Treatment of Opioid Overdoses no in health policy committee

SB 902 Hemp Production was passed unanimously by the Agricultural committee

SB 1040 Infectious Disease Elimination Pilot Program is moving through committee

SB 1106 Human Trafficking is moving through committee

Concerned about any of these bills?

MCSAC in the News...

Wendy Nebrija was recently profiled in the Bradenton Herald, along with the Spring Cleaning Campaign. You can read it here.

Alcohol Task Force (ATF) Update
Medical Examiner Dr. Russell Vega recently expressed his concern about the heroin epidemic in Manatee County, resulting in overdoses. At the February Coalition meeting Cedar Hammock Fire District Firefighter Mike Dunn presented his hope to be able to provide overdose patients with a resource card that identified options for help.

Firefighter Dunn's idea has finally been realized. The first batch of 6,000 pocket cards has been distributed to all Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, and EMS in Manatee County.

Cards are available for local businesses to provide for patrons and may be picked up at the Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition at

by Jennifer Venuto, LCSW
Hanley Center Foundation
ATF Chairperson

**Powdered Alcohol**

What is it? Have you heard of it? Have your children? It's out there and it might be here sooner then you know it. It's important to be informed.

Alcohol powder is molecularly encapsulated alcohol. It is also referred to as "Palcohol". The powder, when mixed with water, produces alcohol - usually rum or vodka but also cocktails like Lemon Drop and Cosmopolitans. The implications for powered alcohol can be numerous and dangerous to track and regulate. For example, how much powder is in the bag? Or, how accessible will it be? It certainly adds to the concerns that we have for our children in a world that is getting harder and harder to navigate safely. On "Good Morning America", right before heading out to the MCSAC Alcohol Task Force meeting on March 12, they featured Dr. Richard Besser who was speaking
the Manatee County Government Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue, 3rd Floor.

For more information about these cards please feel free to contact Project Director Jessica Spencer atjspencer@drugfreemanatee.org

VetCorps Update
by Patti Durham
Prevention Coordinator

On March 23, Vet Corps coordinator Patti Durham accompanied Manatee and Sarasota County veteran advocates, including State Attorney Ed Brodsky and a representative from Congressman Vern Buchanan's office, to view veteran court proceedings in Pinellas County.

Manatee County is currently exploring the possibility of launching a Veterans' Court which will serve both honorably and dishonorably discharged veterans who suffer from PTSD, traumatic brain injury, homelessness and unemployment. Florida currently has 14 veteran courts, which is the third-largest number of veteran courts in the country. Through the Vet Court, Veterans are not provided preferential treatment. They still must face the consequences of their actions, but intervention programs are initiated to assist the veterans with substance abuse-related crimes.

Powdered alcohol has the potential to be a public health nightmare. Beyond the fact that it's easy for underage drinkers to use discreetly (in movie theaters, school, etc.), the potential for users to snort it is serious business. Snorting alcohol is dangerous because it's quickly absorbed, and users get intoxicated immediately.

Powered alcohol has been approved at the federal level so it is legally sold, but states have a right to say NO. Some states, like Iowa are being proactive. The Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division is urging lawmakers to ban its sale in the event federal regulators grant permission. "We're trying to get out ahead of this," division administrator Stephen Larson said, citing a variety of health and safety concerns. Among them are the possible abuse and misuse of powdered alcohol.


If you would like to voice your concern about powdered alcohol being legalized in Florida:
Call your local representative and ask them to support any initiative that seeks to ban this substance in our state as in Alaska, Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Carolina and Vermont.

This session, Senator Flores introduced a bill banning the sale of distilled spirits in powdered form. You can contact her office at (850) 487-5037 to say thank you and ask what else you can do!

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