Marijuana Task Force Update  
Nestor Levesque, Chairperson

Substance abuse officials and coalitions across Florida continue to prepare for legislation that could legalize medical marijuana in the state. Orlando attorney John Morgan is the force behind the ballot measure. People United for Medical Marijuana raised nearly $200,000 in the first three months in 2013; more than half of that from Morgan, a well-known personal injury lawyer. He has committed to spending $3 million to get an amendment on the November 2014 ballot. Passage would require support of 60% of Florida voters. Morgan says that his position on the subject is personal; that marijuana helped ease his dying father’s pain. In order to get the issue on the ballot, he’ll have to get nearly 700,000 signatures.

The proposed constitutional amendment would not allow people to grow their own marijuana. Cultivation and distribution would be restricted to state-regulated dispensaries. But legal possession amounts have not yet been approved, which would be determined by the Department of Health. And officials with St. Petersburg-based Drug Free America Foundation say that others states have found regulating a "nightmare." (Tampa Bay Times)

Legalization activists often argue that marijuana is harmless and not addictive; the general public often has the same perception. In light of the national trend to normalize and legalize marijuana use, we need to educate them on the harms and impacts of marijuana use. Read more at UnmaskingMarijuana.org.

MCSAC's Marijuana Task Force is meeting on August 15 at 2pm in the 3rd floor conference room of the Manatee County Administration Building. The committee will be discussing its upcoming meeting with Rep. Jim Boyd (District 71) on September 3. The committee will continue to identify resources that present a balanced and comprehensive perspective of the issue and strategies to inform Floridians of the dangers associated with medical marijuana, in hopes of defeating any efforts toward legalization.

Read the proposed amendment and join the MCSAC Marijuana Task Force on August 15 and help defeat this effort to legalize marijuana in Florida! The more people involved, the better chance we have to be successful.
Chief Bill Tokajer demonstrating the new kiosk at Holmes Beach Police Dept. 
Photo Courtesy: The Islander

The Manatee County Substance Abuse Coalition, Manatee County Sheriff's Office, and local Police Departments wish to thank Walgreens for generously purchasing six new kiosks. You can now dispose of your unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications at these seven locations throughout Manatee county. Liquids and needles are not accepted.

**Rx Drug Disposal Kiosks**

**Manatee County Sheriff's Office and Substations**
- 600 US Hwy 301 Blvd, Suite 202
- 407 57th Ave E
- 5030 US 301 N, Ellenton

**City of Bradenton Police Department**
- 100 10th St W

**Bradenton Beach Police Department**
- 403 Highland Ave

**Holmes Beach Police Department**
- 5801 Marina Dr

**Palmetto Police Department**

*Meet our newest members in this month's newsletter!*

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**In This Issue**

- The Kiosks are HERE
- VetCorps Teams Up with Law Enforcement
- Welcome New MCSAC Members

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**Special Thanks**

Many thanks to Sadie for serving as the Chair of the Rx Drug Task Force! Highlights during her term include the National Take-Back Day in April, Safe Rx fund-raising project, and acquisition of six Rx Drug Disposal Kiosks. Once again, a big thank you from us all!

Are you concerned with Rx drug abuse in our neighborhoods, schools and homes? Do you have ideas to reduce Rx drug abuse in our community?

If so, we need you! Join us following the MCSAC meeting on August 14th at the United Way on Tamiami Trail and 17th. For more information call 749-3030, ext 3491.

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**MCSAC on Social Media**

[Facebook]
[Twitter]
[YouTube]
The kiosks are an effective strategy to prevent theft, abuse and accidental poisonings. Flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them in the trash pose a potential hazard to humans and animals. Do your part for a safe community and a clean environment!

National Rx Drug Take-Back Day

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in April collected 14 tons of unused Rx drugs in Florida from 124 sites. That's equal to about two elephants or seven cars! Manatee County alone collected 453 pounds!

Alcohol Task Force Update

Alison Stambaugh, Chairperson

Alcohol remains the drug of choice for underage students in Manatee County. The Manatee County Substance Abuse Coalition launched its Alcohol Task Force (ATF) in the fall of 2012 with several priority initiatives funded, in part, by a Federal STOP grant. These included conducting safe festival scans, launching "Party Patrol" enforcement, implementing national media campaigns and creating locally-focused PSAs.

The ATF partnered with Manatee School District high schools to implement the national "Parents Who Host, Lose the Most," campaign to raise awareness and reduce the incidence of drinking parties hosted by parents for their adolescent

MCSAC Calendar of Events

August 8; 8:30 am
Alcohol Task Force Meeting
County Government Admin. Center
1112 Manatee Ave. W, Bradenton
3rd floor Conference Room

August 8; 2:00 pm
MCSAC Board Meeting
County Government Admin. Center
3rd floor Conference Room

August 14; 2:00 pm
Board Capacity Bldg. Committee
United Way
1701 Tamiami Trail, Bradenton

August 14; 3:00 pm
MCSAC Coalition Meeting
United Way
1701 Tamiami Trail, Bradenton
All Welcome!

August 14; 4:30 pm
Rx Drug Task Force Meeting
Following Coalition Meeting
United Way

August 15; 2:00 pm
Marijuana Task Force Meeting
County Gov't. Admin. Center
3rd floor Conference Room

August 19
Manatee County Back to School

August 27; 10:00 am
VetCorps Meeting
County Government Admin. Center
4th floor Manatee Room

August 31; 6:30 pm
Marauders Tobacco-Free Night
McKechnie Field, Bradenton

September
National Recovery Month
children. Special thanks to two high school Principals: Bayshore Principal David Underhill, for allowing ATF partner organization Manatee Glens to pass out campaign materials to students at their "Operation Prom" event targeting drinking and driving around prom and graduation season; and Lakewood Ranch Principal Mike Mullen, for providing access to students during lunch hours for education purposes and including ATF materials in Spring Semester report cards, reaching over two thousand homes.

As a result of Safe Festival Scans conducted by Manatee County Youth Commission and adult volunteers in 2012-2013, MCSAC/ATF is working on an updated version of the Safe Festival Handbook originally distributed in 2010. The group is also working on language for a proposed County ordinance to address festival safety, such a requiring volunteer training for alcohol servers and the use of ID scanners.

Supported by ATF partner agency Manatee Glens, MCSAC/ATF is running an underage alcohol prevention PSA at a large local multi-screen (20 screens) cinema for 28 weeks (May - November). These PSA's reached over 24,000 viewers just in the month of May! In addition, the MCSAC/ATF also initiated the "Party Patrol," utilizing School Resource Officers (SROs) to conduct monthly weekend enforcement activities with referral to intervention rather than adjudication. Over 50 students were referred through this program.

The MCSAC/ATF meets monthly to review strategies and formulate actions to address underage alcohol use and adult overuse. Please join us on any or all of the following dates at 8:30 AM in the third floor conference room in the Manatee County Administrative Center (Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7). Everyone is welcome to attend!

**MCYC Update**
*by Jessica Spencer*

Representative Jim Boyd was the guest at the last MCYC meeting. He provided information, shared the behind the scenes process in Tallahassee and

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**September 21; 9:00am - 2:00 pm**
Children's Summit
Bradenton Area Convention Center, Palmetto

**September 28; 7:00 am**
Manatee Glens *Walk for Life* ~
Sutton Park, Palmetto

**October 15**
Florida Drug-Free Workplace Summit: A Call to Action, St. Petersburg College - Allstate Center

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**Meet Our Newest MCSAC Member**
**Christina Brighenti**

Christina Brighenti has worked in the childcare industry for more than 12 years and recently joined Just for Girls. She specializes in developing programs for school-aged children and feels it is important that children have a safe, fun and caring environment while their parents are at work. When she is not working she can be found at one of the Suncoast's beautiful beaches. Kristina is interested in the Rx Drug Task Force and Safe Community Festivals. Feel free to email her.

*Just for Girls strives to make girls’ lives better through academic, developmental, and prevention programs.*

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**Meet Our Newest MCSAC Member**
**Hugh Clark**
was engaging and eager to answer all questions. He even offered to come back and work with the students during the 2013-2014 MCYC school year.

In late July some members filmed public service announcements and a back to school show featuring wrap up discussions from the Let’s Talk event that was held in April.

Regular meetings start back up again on August 21, 2013. On September 7, 2013 they will have their team building ropes course challenge at DaySpring Conference Center working with Pathfinder Inc.

Check the MCYC Facebook page for health and wellness posts. We are attempting to provide some fun information and ideas for families! If you have any health and wellness tips or photos you want us to feature, contact Jessica!

Mark your calendars now!! The annual Red Ribbon Breakfast is coming October 22 from 7:30-9am at Pirate City! This year, we’ll honor the individuals that keep us safe every day, not just during Red Ribbon Week! Our local law enforcement officers, paramedics, firefighters, lifeguards and military veterans will be honored for taking care of us and reducing crime in Manatee County!

VetCorps Update
by Kelli Pond

VetCorps has created a fantastic new partnership with Manatee County Sheriff's Office to help veterans!

Palmetto Police Chief Wells and Captain Waiters from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office suggested we speak to the Law Enforcement Council about collecting local data. At the Council meeting on July 17th, I provided information on the VetCorps project, as well as a proposed Manatee County veteran-centered resource guide for law enforcement to hand out when they encounter veterans in the community.

Captain Waiters updated us at our last meeting on MCSO's efforts to include a veteran data-collecting component to their procedures that will allow VetCorps to better identify the needs and struggles our community’s veterans are facing. A huge thank

Hugh Clark
Dir. of Adult Substance Abuse Services,
Manatee Glens

Hugh Clark assists others reach their full capacity, remain resilient during troubled times and improve their overall quality of life. He is a clinical and educational specialist with more than 15 years experience which includes the military, state, public and private sectors. Hugh joined MCSAC because he knows that alcohol and drug issues do not improve if they are ignored. He enjoys collaborating with other agencies, meeting new people and beginning new adventures. Feel free to email him.

Manatee Glens is the area's leading specialty hospital and outpatient practice for mental health and addictions.

Join Our Mailing List

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Kelli Pond
you to all those involved for their support of our project!

We would also like to thank our veteran partners who attended the June and July VetCorps meetings.

The next VetCorps meeting is **August 27 at 10am** on the 4th floor of the Manatee County Government Administrative Center, in the Manatee Conference Room. **Please join us!**

VetCorps Prevention Coordinator
941-748-4501 x3490
kpord@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

The Women’s Resource Center of Manatee offers counseling, financial and legal workshops, career coaching, and much more. [Click here](#) or call (941) 747-6797 to learn more.