Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
Events - September & October 2015

Wednesday, September 2, 2:00 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting
1112 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, September 9, 9:00 am
Veterans Court Council
1112 Manatee Avenue W., Bradenton, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, September 9, 3:00 pm
MCSAC Meeting
United Way: 1701 Tamiami Trail, Bradenton

Thursday, September 10, 9:00 am
Alcohol Task Force
1112 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton - 3rd floor Conference Room

Thursday, September 24, 12:30 pm
Prescription Drug Task Force Meeting
LECOM Bradenton: 5000 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.

Recovery is Visible, Vocal, Valuable!
National Recovery Month is a national observance held every September to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to

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live a healthy and rewarding life.

Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery, just as we celebrate health improvements made by those who are managing other health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and heart disease. The observance reinforces the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover. There are millions of Americans whose lives have been transformed through recovery.

Recovery Month promotes the message that recovery in all of its forms is possible and encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective prevention, treatment and recovery services for those in need.

This year's theme is visible, vocal, valuable!

How will you spread the message?
Adapted from http://www.recoverymonth.gov

Legislative Update

It seems like the legislative session just ended, yet the routine is about to start over again! Session will start early this year and many of our representatives will be heading to Tallahassee soon!

This year's Manatee Legislative Delegation meeting was held on August 24th at State College of Florida. Dr. Jessica Spencer presented MCSAC's 2015-2016 priorities including urging our legislators to fund what works. She cited the need to use evidence based practices to treat and manage opioid overdoses including: 1) the availability of naloxone, 2) ensuring access to treatment, 3) encouraging the use of 911 and educating the public on the Good Samaritan Act.

A Message from Ally Bergmann, MCSAC's New Prevention Coordinator!

I am excited to be a part of Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition staff. We have been busy this summer with no sign of slowing down.

In September, the Prescription Drug Task Force which I co-chair along with LECOM's Dr. Kersten Schroeder, will have booths at both the USF Health Fair (9/10) and the Lakewood Ranch Health Fair (9/26). We expect to educate the general public and college students, in particular, on the danger of abusing prescription drugs (especially opiates), what signs to look for in accidental overdose, the importance of calling 911 and saving a live and how to properly dispose of unused medications.

The Opioid Overdose Task Force (OOTF) held their first meeting in July. This task force was formed in response to the alarming heroin/opiod overdose epidemic that has Manatee County reeling (Manatee County EMS gave 203 people at least one dose of Narcan to reverse an overdose in July alone). Heroin overdoses are a national problem. The CDC reported that heroin use has more than doubled in adults 18-25 years old. Wendy Nebrija and Ruth Lyerly co-chair this community initiative that brought together representatives in July and August from Manatee County EMS, Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Suncoast Behavioral Center, Centerstone, Operation PAR, Manatee Memorial Hospital, Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, WGCU/NPR, Department of Children and Families/ SAMH, Manatee Department of Health, Ramos Center/Manatee Medical Society, Nar-Anon, Manatee County Government, Blake Medical Center, and Florida Poison Control.

The OOTF task force is working to reduce the number of overdose deaths and to move addicts into treatment. They are advocating third party prescriptions of Narcan, the drug that EMS uses to reverse an opioid overdose. That means family members will be able to get a prescription for and be able to administer the drug to their loved one in the event of an overdose. Other hurdles include funding and beds for treatment. The task force is exploring options on how to find/ use treatment beds in other counties.
Remarking that only seven out of the 164 U.S. medical schools require courses on substance use disorders, she noted that physicians and other health care providers can make a major contribution toward reducing the toll of opioid overdose through the care they take in prescribing opioid analgesics and monitoring patients' response, as well as through their acuity in identifying and effectively addressing opioid overdose. She further recommended the need for SBIRT (Screening, Brief intervention and Referral to Treatment), and support of the PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program).

Other MCSAC priorities include protecting the Florida State constitution from future amendments designed to create a "monopoly, oligopoly or cartel". Dr. Spencer cited efforts to place medical marijuana in a state constitution as an example of efforts by groups for personal or financial gain.

For those who may be afraid to call for help when they see someone overdosing, MCSAC cites the Good Samaritan law that went into effect in 2011. This law provides significant legal protection against criminal charges and prosecution for possession of controlled substances (including marijuana and paraphernalia). This law applies to both the person seeking assistance and the person who overdosed.

Also, if you or a loved one needs help getting treatment you can call: Centerstone (formerly Manatee Glens) (941) 782-4150 or (941) 782-4617; First Step of Sarasota 1-800-266-6866; or Operation PAR (941) 753-0877. For more information visit us on the web at www.drugfreemanatee.org.

The International Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), International Forum - June 2015

The International Forum Poster Session featured a presentation by Javier M. Córdova on The Application of Outreach Strategies to International Collaboration Research. He serves as a Senior Fellow for the Comprehensive Drug Research Center (CDRC), University of Miami Miller Medical School. Javier also serves as Vice-Chair for the Board of Trustees for the Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (MCSAC).

The center-piece of discussion, shared by more than 200 participants from 45 at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), International Forum was: how evidence-based approach in drug prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery works; for who,

Manatee County Youth Commission (MCYC)

Are you a high school student (or do you know of a high school student) interested in government? Do you or a high school youth you know want to make a difference in Manatee County through policy and advocacy? We want you!

The youth voice is critical to the advancement and understanding of a changing political climate and community issues. Manatee County Youth Commission are dynamic youth engaged in community and county activism in several areas. You can find the application and more information at http://www.manateeysouthcommission.org/

Grand Opening Benefits MCSAC!

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and under what circumstances. The event was held in Phoenix, Arizona, June 12-15, 2015 in conjunction with the annual scientific meeting of NIDA College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD).

The International Forum poster session highlighted the collection of a well-crafted drug abuse and addiction research, conducted around the world. It featured the presentations of international research by 136 scientists from the United States and 43 other countries.

Recognizing that addiction and substance abuse disorders knows no borders, and that no country can solve the problem by acting alone, NIDA supports global research to find evidence-based solutions to the public health problems of drug abuse, addiction and drug-related HIV/AIDS. The International Forum serves to promote cooperative research and scientific information exchange between distinctive drug abuse researchers.

Through the studies conducted globally, the scientific community is kept abreast of the effect of addiction and substance abuse disorders; share and disseminate proven practices for drug prevention, interventions, and treatment; translate research into effective programs; and increase the quality of program standards. Long-term research studies, and evaluations are giving us an understanding of what works, for whom, and under what conditions.

Justice for Vets Conference
by Javier M. Cordova, Vice Chair

Wawa opened their 700th store (71st in Florida) at 5306 14th St W in Bradenton on August 20. The opening festivities at the new location included a Finest vs. Bravest Hoagie Building Contest to benefit a community project. Deputies from the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office and Fire Personnel from Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue (Captain Joe Falcone, Lt. Doug Brett, FF Eddie Anderson, FF Brant Gomez, and FF Mike Dunn) battled to benefit their favorite charity.

SURPRISE OF SURPRISES!! Both hero teams chose the same community project - Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition!

Thank you to the men and women from Cedar Hammock and Manatee County Sheriff’s Office for the donation of $1,000 each = TOTAL $2,000!!

Perfect timing because the Coalition is working with School Resource Officers to implement Know the Law in all 7th and 9th grade classrooms and the money will be used to purchase the books for students.
treatment court professionals from across the country, including international visitors, longing to witness and learn "what works" in U.S. national drug policy. The gathering was held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Justice for VETS conference.

Drug court programs date back to 1989 when an innovating group of justice professionals decided to open the first specialized treatment court docket in Miami-Dade County. The approach also found a solution to improve the excessive backlog cases involving drug offenses. As a result, the Miami-Dade Drug Court gave way to an unprecedented transformation of our national judicial system. Today, there are more than 3,000 drug court programs operating throughout the U.S. and territory. Due to its success, the trend continues throughout the country. A recent national site evaluation concluded that Drug Courts work, significantly reduce drug use and crime, are cost-effective and most importantly, are transforming the lives of millions of people.

Veterans Fought For Our Freedom, It's Our Turn to Fight For Theirs

With this leading motto, the Justice for VETS conference opened its 3rd Annual event by bringing together the largest gathering of Veterans Treatment Court personnel ever assembled. Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, volunteer mentors, Veteran Administration (VA) personnel, and treatment professionals were present for the four days. The event featured cutting edge education, remarkable Opening and Closing Ceremonies, including The 7th National Veteran Mentor Corps Boot Camp. Mentoring is a key component of the VETS court.

The first Veterans Treatment Court was founded in January 2008 by the Honorable Robert Russell of Buffalo, New York. According to the story, Judge Russell noticed an increasing number of veterans appearing at his regular drug court and mental health court. Judge Russell saw firsthand the trans-formative power of military camaraderie when veterans on his staff assisted a veteran in treatment courts; he recognized that more could be done to connect veterans to benefits earned through military service. In response, Judge Russell asked his local U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to consider a Veterans Treatment Court.

Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (MCSAC), in collaboration with Manatee County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO), Bradenton and Palmetto Police Departments, and the School District of Manatee County, is pleased to launch a new in-school prevention initiative - Know the Law - during the 2015-2016 school year.

The Know the Law booklet and presentation were originally created by Nassau Alcohol Crime and Drug Abatement Coalition (NACDAC) to both inform and educate students through a condensed representation of the law. Through NACDAC coordination with affiliated partners, the program has been running in middle and high schools in 40 counties in Florida for the past 3 years. MCSAC is pleased to bring this proven program to Manatee County students.

Through Know the Law, students gain a deeper insight of rules and regulations, what is expected of them and the consequences they will face if caught breaking the law. Know the Law also provides clarity to obscure misconceptions that students may currently hold as true as well as an opportunity for SROs to engage with youth and be recognized as the resources they are. Through this classroom presentation, adapted to include Manatee-specific ordinances and statutes, MCSAC hopes to enlighten students, preventing them from unlawful behavior and helping them to avoid the adverse consequences.

Know the Law
by Rita Chamberlain
Associate Director

Catherine Wilson, Centerstone's Director of Community
Veterans Affairs Medical Center and volunteer veterans in the community, to join in creating a new court docket that would exclusively on justice-involved veterans. As a result, additional states followed and today there are more than 200 Veterans Treatment Court in our country with hundreds more in the planning stages.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a hybrid of the successful adult and mental health drug court model; similar attributes include, alternatives to incarceration - connecting participants to rehab for substance abuse disorders via drug treatment, drug testing, among other key principle components. One key factor, how the Veteran Mentoring Program, which is a requisite mecha guide participants during the length of the intervention proc of a financial assistance with lifestyle changes. The goal is to en veterans to rejoin their communities as law-abiding citizens.

At this juncture, there is limited research that measures the the Veteran Treatment Court model. However, self-reporting suggests that the model is taking the necessary positive step of the potential attributes to succeed.

Since the launch of the first Veteran Treatment Court in January 2008, the Justice for VETS movement is picking up steam and continues to take shape across the country. Each year, new court dockets, specifically designed for veterans, are added within the criminal justice system. Community groups and supporting organizations are propelling a line of support with a common goal: to improve the lives of returning veterans, victims of mental health, and substance abuse disorders.

According to NADCP figures and statements, there are two million Americans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than once. The VA states that about 20 percent of veterans have post-traumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD. Returning is harder than they imagined. The suicide rate for returning is up 15 percent over last year. For the Marines, it's up 28 percent. Few of our troops return to become something they never thought they could be: felons, for the first time in their lives. Therefore, an urge to support the Justice for VETS movement is a noble case: it is compelling and moral obligation.
received groceries. The Coalition provided a coloring contest and raffle for participating children with three $25 gift cards for winners.

**Day of Hope** provided the Coalition with an opportunity to talk with parents about a free Active Parenting class being offered by Hanley Foundation and to recruit older brothers and sisters for Manatee County Youth Commission. Coloring contest winners were: Abraham Garcia and Saroya Garcia and the raffle winner was Jeimer Diaz.

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

Ally Bergmann  
Prevention Coordinator  
941-748-4501 x3490  
abergmann@drugfreemanatee.org

Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
Manatee County Government Administrative Center  
1112 Manatee Ave. W, Suite 303 Bradenton, FL 34209  
941-749-3030  
www.drugfreemanatee.org

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