



# PREVENTION *Connection* FALL 2021

A quarterly newsletter by The Alliance for Healthy Communities



## NOPE

VIRTUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

A COMMUNITY UNITED

## NARCOTICS OVERDOSE PREVENTION EDUCATION

Join us as we unite in the fight against addiction and honor the lives lost in our community to narcotic overdose.

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 18, 2021  
6 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

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If you have a story you would like to share in this quarterly Newsletter, please contact Kellie Rodriguez: [asap@empoweredcommunities.org](mailto:asap@empoweredcommunities.org)

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

- Kellie Rodriguez
- Eve Hosley-Moore • Parnia Roghani
- Sharon Schmidt • Bonni Snider
- Chrissie Parris • Kristy Rodriguez
- Sandra Soares • Taylor Turosz

[WWW.EMPOWEREDCOMMUNITIES.ORG](http://WWW.EMPOWEREDCOMMUNITIES.ORG)





@PascoASAP



@ASAP\_Pasco



@ASAP\_Pasco



**Alliance for  
Substance  
Addiction  
Prevention**

*Pasco ASAP uses local data to direct our prevention programs*

## **ASAP 2021 PRIORITY ISSUES**

- Youth Drug Use
- Underage Drinking
- Opioid Use, Misuse and Addiction
- Rates of Substance Exposed Newborns
- Impaired Driving
- Intravenous Drug Use
- Tobacco Use

## **ASAP MISSION**

To coordinate community efforts to reduce county-wide risk factors for addiction, thereby preventing and decreasing substance use in a comprehensive and long-term manner that primarily impacts the youth in the community.

## **ASAP CONTACT INFORMATION**

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 7809 Massachusetts Avenue  
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## **ASAP MEETINGS ARE ON zoom**

### **GENERAL COALITION**

Fourth Tuesday of every month • 10:00am • Meeting ID: 894 8050 6106 Password: 399526

### **RECOVERY**

Fourth Monday of every month • 5:00pm • Meeting ID: 826 7025 4538 Password: 451180

### **SUBSTANCE EXPOSED NEWBORN**

Second Wednesday of every month • 10:00am • Meeting ID: 828 6547 9166 Password: 061677

### **ALCOHOL INITIATIVES**

First Monday of every month • 4:30pm • Meeting ID: 844 2750 9059 Password: 207615

### **OPIOID / RX**

First Tuesday of every month • 3:00pm • Meeting ID: 834 6615 6874 Password: 344143

### **CULTURAL COMPETENCE**

Third Monday of every month • 4:30pm • Meeting ID: 815 1525 0641 Password: 883088



Alliance  
for Healthy  
Communities



# ASAP Committee Updates

## ALCOHOL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE & TOBACCO FREE PARTNERSHIP

The AIC is in the process of revamping the SafeRide Pasco campaign. The campaign is designed to reduce DUI arrests and crashes. The survey has been updated and we have already received responses from the DUI school. We have also adopted a stretch of highway and will partner with our STAND Above the Influence Youth. In addition, community members will be asked to participate in one-on-one conversations to address alcohol related issues. Our youth will also continue to ask adults to complete the Talk It Up. Lock It Up! Pledges. AIC meets the first Monday of every month at 4:30 on Zoom.

## CULTURAL COMPETENCE COMMITTEE

The cultural competence committee has continued to discuss ways we can get involved with other community partners and expand into the community. We are continuing to work on the community survey to better assess our communities needs. If you would like to get involved, please look at our website, [www.empoweredcommunities.org](http://www.empoweredcommunities.org). The committee meets the third Monday of every month at 3:30 pm.

## RECOVERY COMMITTEE

We are so proud of how the community came together to support the Recovery Committee's first Stronger Together Recovery Walk 2021 on Saturday, August 21, 2021. Please read the article on page 5. The Recovery Committee focuses on reducing stigma and works to give recovery allies and those in recovery a voice in our community. We advocate for

### **PRESENTERS WANTED!**

*Does your agency have something to share with the ASAP Coalition? We are looking for presenters for our monthly meetings on Zoom.*

*Please contact ASAP Coordinator Kellie Rodriguez at [asap@empoweredcommunities.org](mailto:asap@empoweredcommunities.org) Thank you!*

recovery-related issues and bring everyone together for our common goal of reducing addiction and alcoholism with the hopes of overcoming the barriers to wellness. Since the success of the walk, we are looking forward to the fall season and further engaging the community in recovery related initiatives. We will be helping out with the NOPE Candlelight Vigil and we would like to increase our membership. Please join us! The Recovery Committee meets the 4th Monday of every month via Zoom. For more information, please email our Committee Co-Chair Cesar Rodriguez at [cesar.a.rodriguez2012@gmail.com](mailto:cesar.a.rodriguez2012@gmail.com), or Eve Hosley at [Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org](mailto:Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org) Everyone is invited!!!

## RX / OPIOID COMMITTEE

Rx/Opioid committee has continued to meet since partnering with local agencies. We have continued to pass out Deterra bags into the community, with more than 1,800 being distributed! We have also seen a growing number of attendance in our meetings! This will allow for more collaboration and impacts in our community. The committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. Please email Parnia.Roghani@flhealth.gov or [crystal.willson@baycare.org](mailto:crystal.willson@baycare.org) for more information.

## SEN COMMITTEE

Our SEN committee is continuing to thrive virtually, and we continue to meet monthly the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10 AM on Zoom. You can find the link on our ASAP website. The SEN committee has started to update our second SEN brochure. We are excited to continue our work with Healthy Start Coalition of Pasco, and assist with the MORE Project (Maternal Opioid Recovery Efforts). This month the Pinellas SEN task force is hosting a virtual symposium and we encourage your attendance to assist your community with prevention, treatment, and intervention. We continue to ask that you share the "Converse with a Nurse" AKA, "Knowledge is Power" Flyer and help us increase our attendance and reach our SEN initiative goals. Please read the article on page 9. The flyer and zoom link can be found on the ASAP website.



# STRONGER TOGETHER RECOVERY WALK 2021

What an amazing day! More than 300 people showed that we can and do recover from addiction at our inaugural Stronger Together Recovery Walk 2021. This meaningful event pulled together those in recovery and recovery allies to walk in honor of National Recovery Month and to shine the light on the amazing possibility of a second chance at life through recovery and health-seeking behaviors.

This event, hosted by ASAP's Recovery Committee, raised more than \$10,000 for ASAP. It featured 36 vendors and many, many volunteers. It was held at Sims Park in New Port Richey from 9 am to Noon.

A great big "Thank You" to event sponsors Recovery Epicenter and The Hope Shot. AHC Board member Cesar Rodriguez emceed the event. New Port Richey Mayor Rob Marlowe and County Commissioner Christina Fitzpatrick spoke to efforts on a city and county level. Jennifer Webb of Project Opioid Tampa Bay spoke of all the efforts to bring data and resources to our area to help combat the epidemic. Will Atkinson, of Recovery Epicenter, is starting a Recovery Community Organization and asked for support from the community. Ken Brown,

Recovery Oriented System of Care Q.I. Specialist for DCF shared on the importance of Narcan distribution and gave out 260 doses to the community. Two people in long term recovery Justin McPadden of The Hope Shot (see page 9) and Rochae Zwicharowski shared their experience, strength and hope and really brought the sense of optimism and hope to the crowd.

DJ Brownie kept the mood high and everyone dancing throughout the event. Thank you DJ Brownie!!!!

We were able to hand out 200 T-Shirts and reach many, many families. The Recovery Walk was so important as Pasco County has seen a 71 percent increase in overdoses in 2020 from 2019 resulting in 268 deaths, according to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. Less than 10 percent of the 20 million Americans with substance use disorder get the help they need. This event showcased providers, resources and recovery support.

Thank you also to Scout Troop 24 for volunteering to distribute waters to vendors and to the Networking Group "The Hub" as they really turned out to support the community. It was a fun family day and we are looking forward to an even bigger and better event next year!





## Proclamation Honors National Recovery Month

By Taylor Turosz



## Giving Tuesday

Last year, in lieu of our annual brunch, we kicked off our first Giving Tuesday campaign, going live on Giving Tuesday on our social media platforms. This year, we will continue building momentum to sustain our initiatives for the foreseeable future. Giving Tuesday is a day set aside to give back to causes that make an impact in our communities. The date allocated is the Tuesday following Thanksgiving each year, which falls on Tuesday, November 30th, 2021.

We need YOU! Please, spread the word to keep our initiatives going, as we continue to initiate solutions to prevent addiction and create a culture of sustainable recovery in Pasco County. You can donate by going to our website and clicking the “donate” tab, OR by texting the word “prevention” to 243725! That’s the word “Prevention” in the text box, to the number 243725.



September is National Recovery Month, and the City of New Port Richey is celebrating the ongoing recovery efforts of the community.

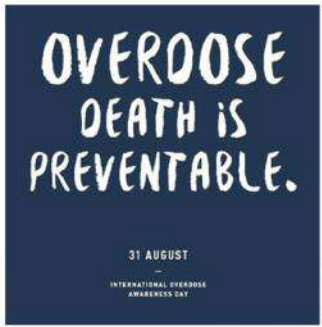
On September 7th, Mayor Rob Marlowe read into record a Proclamation to announce September as National Recovery Month in the City of New Port Richey. ASAP took this opportunity to honor treatment providers who support those in recovery and who work to reduce stigma. A great big “thank you” to notable professionals: Toni Reynolds, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist at BayCare; Selena Paxton, BayCare Mental Health Technician; Janelle Dickson, Outpatient Program Director at Westcare; Missy Coyle, BayCare CHAT; Lance Mock, BayCare FITT; and Jerry Brewster, minister of Trinity Church of Christ.

Thank you to the city New Port Richey for working to reduce the barriers to wellness for all residents.



## GRACE House Hosts International Overdose Awareness Day Event

By Bonni Snider



On August 31, GRACE House, a women’s transitional living recovery home in New Port Richey, hosted an incredible event titled “A Night Of Hope” featuring many recovery providers and supported. According to the website OverdoseDay.com, the day is “the world’s largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind.”

In 2020, Pasco County, reported 1.491 overdose, 268 resulting in death. Death by overdose is preventable and the event and its message is a huge need for Pasco. Overdose is an epidemic that affects millions. In every community, in every family, one has either experienced addiction firsthand or is aware of someone that suffers the disease of addiction. Addiction does not discriminate. It knows no boundaries. The addict no longer looks like the misconstrued or stereotypical picture one thought. The individual suffering from addiction might be the attorney arguing the high profile case, the teacher overwhelmed by the demands of the classroom. The parent attempting to juggle demands of family or work, or the homeless person dealing with depression and the uncertainty of where the next meal is coming from.

We want to extend a thank you to Rachel Starostin and GRACE House for all you do for the community.

## Operation Stand Down

By Patti Templeton,  
One Community Now Executive Director



One Community Now's Operation Stand Down for Veterans (OSD) will be taking place from October 22-24, 2021, at the Rotary Concourse Pavilion. Every year, OSD offers veterans a crucial hand up by providing dental services, employment opportunities, basic medical care, haircuts, veteran's court, and more, all for FREE! Services are donated by partners in the community who want to serve those who have served us. This year, it is estimated that between 300 and 400 veterans will be provided with free services during Operation Stand Down. One Community Now is seeking volunteers and financial donations for this event. If you or someone you know is interested in supporting our veterans through this life-changing event, visit [ocstanddown.org](http://ocstanddown.org).



Community Alternative  
Pasco and Pinellas

Can you imagine opening your heart and home to a foster child? Have you or a family member or friend ever thought about fostering? Eckerd Connects is the lead agency in Pasco and Pinellas counties. They serve more than 3,100 children in the foster care system. Please join them to explore the world of foster care. Facts, data, and information on fostering will be shared. Register today for a Virtual Foster Care Event by contacting Diane Johnson at 727-456-0600, ext. 2085, email: [djohnson@eckerd.org](mailto:djohnson@eckerd.org); or online at [Eckerd.org/Fostering](http://Eckerd.org/Fostering).

### Virtual Events:

Monday, 10/18/21, 6-8 pm

Monday, 11/15/21, 6-8 pm

Monday, 12/20/21, 6-8 pm



## Suicide Awareness

By Bonni Snider

**STOMP OUT SUICIDE**

**5K & 1 MILE TRAIL RACE/WALK**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021**  
8AM-5K-\$35 | 9AM-1 MILE RACE/WALK-\$15  
REGISTER ONLINE AT [RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/FL/DADECITY/STOMPOUTSUICIDESKTRAILRUN](https://runsignup.com/race/fl/DADECITY/STOMPOUTSUICIDESKTRAILRUN)

*\*ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A RACE SHIRT, COMPLIMENTARY SNACKS, AND FINISHERS AWARD.*

**WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER PARK**  
12449 Withlacoochee Blvd, Dade City, FL 33525

COME FOR THE RUN/WALK!  
STAY AFTER FOR OUR **RECREATE YOUR MIND** EVENT!  
ENJOY THE **FAMILY FUN ZONE**,  
**STRESS RELIEF ACTIVITIES, FOOD TRUCKS,**  
**VENDORS, RAFFLES, MUSIC AND MORE!**

PASCO COUNTY FLORIDA  
ALSO A PARTNER WITH NAMI FLORIDA

AdventHealth

DADE CITY FLORIDA

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

- C – Care: The individual contemplating suicide needs someone to show they care, to create the feeling they are not alone.
- E – Escort: Do not leave a suicidal person alone. Escort them to a hospital or connect them to a resource.

*Some statistics regarding suicide, as reported by NAMI, include:*

- Pasco County has consistently ranked in the top quartile for suicide death rates in the state of Florida since 2002 (Florida CHARTS)
- 84% increase in calls to the Poison Control from Pasco County related to suspected suicide attempts using poisons or medications for 10-to-14-year-olds from 2019 to 2020
- The overall rate of suicide increased 35% since 1999
- Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the U.S.
- 90% of individuals who attempt suicide have experienced a mental health condition
- 78% are male
- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide
- Transgender individuals are 12 times more likely to attempt suicide

It is also important to recognize the warning signs of suicide: depression, shame or guilt, feelings of hopelessness, talking about or a preoccupation of death or suicide, preparing for death by updating or preparing a will, gaining access to the means to take one's life, giving away possessions, or a dramatic change in behavior.

*There are several resources for those either contemplating or assisting someone who might be contemplating, suicide to include:*

- Call 911
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, press #1
- Local mental health professionals
- Trevor Project LGBTQ Community 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678-678

It is important to understand it is ok to talk about suicide. It was once thought that talking about suicide resulted in an attempt or completion, that the suggestion itself somehow might result in an individual considering an option they would not have otherwise considered. This cannot be further from the truth. Asking an individual if they are considering suicide may be the very thing that prevents it. The acronym A-C-E is a reminder that can be used when responding to an individual who might be considering suicide.

September was Suicide Prevention Month, a great time to bring awareness to the suicide prevention and the epidemic of suicide.

Many Americans have had either a friend, family member, or acquaintance attempt or complete suicide. The importance of knowing the warning signs and strategies to address this epidemic may potentially save the life of the individual who may be considering taking their life.

- A – Ask: “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” Often, the individual contemplating suicide needs someone to simply show they care.







## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!



**FREE VIRTUAL GROUP  
WENSDAYS  
FROM  
1 – 2 PM**

### WEEKLY TOPICS INCLUDE:

**MINDFULNESS**

**HOW TO HOLD BABY & CHILD SAFETY**

**EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE**

**MONTHLY ROUND TABLE OF PROVIDERS**

**CONNECTION TO RESOURCES**

**WONDERFUL GUEST SPEAKERS!!!!**

Register Today! Visit our Website for Event Brite link:

[empoweredcommunities.org/event/](https://empoweredcommunities.org/event/)

Missy Coyle, LPN, at [Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org](mailto:Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org) OR  
Eve Hosley-Moore at [Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org](mailto:Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org)

*"Knowledge is Power" is a  
Nurse-Moderated Group  
focused on Family Empowerment*

*Join for the education, stay to  
Converse with a Nurse!*



## A Shot at Hope

*By Taylor Turosz*

The Hope Shot virtual recovery support is a light in the darkness for those in Recovery, and for those who are contemplating change.

The Hope Shot is an online podcast and community which hosts weekly peer support podcasts and interactive support groups on Wednesday and Sunday nights starting at 8:00PM. The meetings and podcast are run completely online through their Facebook page "The Hope Shot", and Facebook group, "The Hope Shot Recovery Vibes". Their community reaches more than 10,000 people through the social media platform, which is not only astounding, but an absolute game changer for the people in need of a stable and supportive community.

Justin McPadden and Johnny Caputo started The Hope Shot in response to a need for positive and safe spaces during the pandemic.

Since starting the Facebook page and Facebook Live events, they have really branched out. A driving force behind the Stronger Together Recovery Walk 2021, The Hope Shot sponsored the event and also really helped put the event together. They have also partnered with Pasco Sheriff's office and Captain Toni Roach to offer peer support and recovery services. They want to bridge the gap between peer support and 12 step programs by bringing their services to those who have recently survived an overdose. To do this, The Hope Shot has made their community available by creating the (833)-myhope4 or (833) 694-6734 line. Justin and Johnny and the rest of The Hopeshot team, to include Nathan Cantie, Lisa Caputo, Tiffani McPadden, James Morris, Kellie Rodriguez & Cesar Rodriguez, want to provide meaningful engagement with the people struggling to find help.

To contact The Hope Shot please visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/thehopeshot> or call (833)-myhope4 or (833) 694-6734.

## Upcoming Virtual Groups

*By Sandy Soares*

Virtual Groups can provide support and education in a convenient way. BayCare's CHAT (Community Health Activation Team) has continued to offer free virtual groups providing education on children's mental health, common challenges that teens face, information for new parents as well as adult self-development. Through Eventbrite, individuals have registered to attend these weekly groups. As a facilitator of the groups, I have seen great success in connecting participants throughout the United States as well other countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada to name a few. Empowering ourselves and others through education as well as breaking the stigma around mental health.

To find these groups, search Eventbrite: Stronger Together: Children's Mental health; Empowering our teens; Finding Happy, and Knowledge is Power: Converse With a Nurse.



## RESEARCH AND COALITION METRICS Q3 (July, August, September 2021)

### ASAP Coalition Metrics

*Check out our outputs for the quarter:*

**Outreach:** This quarter, ASAP members have continued to socially distance via zoom meetings. We were able to host a socially-distant Stronger Together Recovery Walk 2021 on August 21, 2021 in Sims Park New Port Richey with 300 people in attendance. SEN Knowledge is Power: Converse with a Nurse Series has reached 60 people for the quarter. STAND & ASAP Table at A Night of Hope August 31, 2021 reached 210 people.

**Social Media:** ASAP reached 34,003 people via social media this quarter, with 1,632 post engagements.

**ASAP in the Media:** Bay News 9 featured a preview of the Stronger Together Recovery Walk 2021 aired on 8/20/21 reached 210,000 people. Channel 10 News featured ASAP on an in-depth segment on Overdose Awareness Day aired on 8/31/21 reached 140,000 people.

**Medication Dropoff:** New Port Richey Police reports that on 8/03/21 the poundage was 41.95 lbs and on 9/14/21 the poundage was 40.60 lbs.

**Deterra Bags:** Project DOSC, the Deterra Bag Project, handed out 1800 medication disposal bags.

**Narcan Deployments:** Pasco County Sheriff's Office: July 2021, 18 Narcan deployments by deputies to 15 subjects; 17 were successful and 1 was unsuccessful and subject was pronounced deceased. All were civilians. August 2021: 26 Narcan deployments by deputies to 22 subjects; 25 were successful and 1 was unsuccessful and subject was pronounced deceased. All were civilians.

**Narcan Distribution:** GRACE House transitional living distributed 3,000 doses of Narcan to the community. Ken Brown, Recovery Oriented System of Care Q.I. Specialist for DCF, distributed 260 doses of Narcan at the Stronger Together Recovery Walk 2021.

### Data and Research

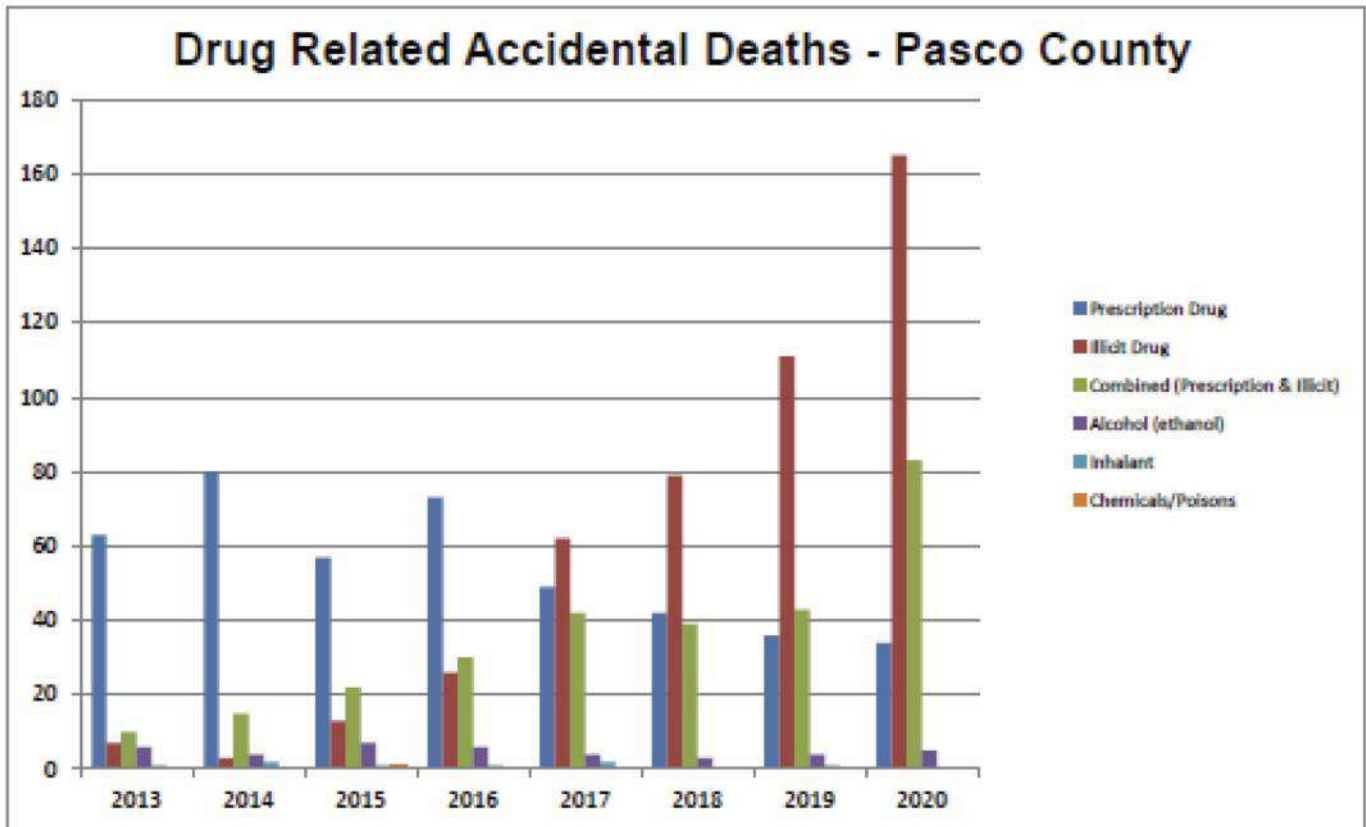
In honor of National Recovery month and International Overdose Awareness Day, we thought we would share some national data obtained from Project Opioid Tampa Bay:

- In the United States, approximately 20 million people battle substance use disorder each year.
- Only 2 million enter substance use treatment in the United States per year.
- Only 1,300,000 will complete treatment.
- 40 to 60 percent will relapse.



## Data Shows Shift to Illicit Drugs

Below are a few slides from Reta Newman's presentation at our September ASAP General Coalition Meeting. Reta is the Director of Pinellas County Forensic Lab, District Six Medical Examiner. She will be giving quarterly updates at our Opioid/Rx Committee meeting. The presentation, in its entirety, has been emailed to the coalition.



- While prescription drugs were historically the driving force behind accidental drug related deaths, there has been a dramatic shift to illicit drugs since 2017.
- Most illicit drug increases are attributed to fentanyl & fentanyl analogs, methamphetamine, and cocaine

### PASCO COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES TESTING POSITIVE FOR DRUGS

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alcohol	101	119	118	130	147	150	141	158	172
Cannabinoids	7	4	9	7	9	23	24	25	32
Hydrocodone	31	26	27	27	23	23	19	19	27
Oxycodone	71	37	44	43	53	47	56	59	78
Methadone	47	33	29	28	31	24	27	21	29
Alprazolam (Xanax)	57	46	50	49	53	44	53	55	86
GHB	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fentanyl & Fentanyl Analog	5	8	10	14	26	75	128	123	224
Heroin	0	0	1	6	7	12	15	23	15
Methamphetamine	8	19	6	18	22	38	58	66	139
Cocaine	30	25	27	33	38	58	62	62	72



## Ninth Annual Drug Prevention Summit

By Bonni Snider

Drug Free America hosted its 9th Annual Prevention Summit on August 30-31 at the Double Tree Hotel in Tampa. The purpose of the summit was to discuss the impact of drug abuse, research, current policies, emerging trends, and prevention strategies that strengthen communities. Amy Ronshausen, Executive Director, Drug Free America Foundation began the summit with a welcome and an overview of the two-day summit. Participants were able to select from multiple breakout sessions after powerful guest speaker presentations.

Opening remarks began with words from Regina LaBelle, Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Wilson M Compton, MD, MPE, Deputy Director, National Institute on Drug Policy and Jennifer Webb, Project Director, Project Opioid Tampa Bay. The keynote speaker for day one was Randy Grimes, former NFL player and member of Athletes in Recovery who gave a powerful speech on his experiences with substance use as a result of injuries sustained while playing in the NFL.

Breakout sessions included "Prevention of Adolescent Substance Use: Overview of Best Practices and Future Challenges"; a Panel-Development and Establishment of Tampa Police Department's New Behavioral Health Unit; Transnational Criminal Organizations and Drug Trafficking Trends; "Things at My Corner Store: CBD and Kratom"; "Culture Is The Strategy: Leading Your Prevention Team to Achieve Your Goals; Inhalant Abuse", This Could Be Your Last Breath-What Parents, Educators and Law Enforcement Need To Know; Building Cultural Intelligence in Prevention Services and Let's Talk About DEC Baby! The afternoon was concluded with a presentation "The Fierce Urgency of Now! Changing the Conversation About Prevention Commercialization and Inequity".

Summit attendees were also able to take advantage of the many vendors present, each providing information and resources to continue to effort to combat and reduce substance misuse in the country.

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## Get Ready for DEA Take Back Day

By Taylor Turosz

Fall marks the beginning of exciting times for our community. Pumpkin spice is in the air and Pasco County is gearing-up to start the Fall Holiday Season.

We are all more than ready to curl up in our cozy scarves, grab our favorite spiced holiday drink, and take our unused medications back to our local DEA Drug Take Back Site!

This day gives communities all over the country the opportunity to safely dispose of unused medications, drugs with no questions asked. Easily and most importantly, safely without contributing to pollution or leaving the medications and articles unattended in the community where they could potentially end up in the wrong hands.

According to the DEA website, last October the annual event removed almost 500 Tons of unused substances from the community. This year's take back day is hoping to match this number and more.

Visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.

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## Walk Like MADD Honors PCSO Deputy Mike Magli, Killed by an Impaired Driver

By Sharon Hall, MADD Program Manager

Walk Like MADD is Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) signature event to promote our life-saving efforts. It is a fun, community-oriented event that gives us the chance to walk for those who can no longer walk for themselves, and to remember those whose lives have been affected by an impaired driving crash. Every step taken and donation made is used to help MADD continue working towards eliminating drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support victims of these violent crimes, and prevent underage drinking in our community.

In 2018, MADD West Central Florida reached 22,000 citizens and presented the Power of Youth Prevention program to over 15,000 students in our area. In addition, we served over 325 victims and provided approximately 6,000 victim services.

The 2021 Walk Like MADD presented by Burnett, P.A. is dedicated to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mike Magli, who was killed in the line of duty by a suspected impaired driver. You can find out more on the website: [www.walklikemadd.org/Pinellas](http://www.walklikemadd.org/Pinellas).

This year's event will take place on Saturday, October 9th at Oldsmar Sports Complex in Oldsmar, FL. We are asking for your help to create awareness and promote safety within our community at this year's Walk Like MADD by setting up your team and joining us, or by signing up as an individual.

Register today: [www.walklikemadd.org/Pinellas](http://www.walklikemadd.org/Pinellas).



## The Dash to Deactivate Opioids

By Taylor Turosz

The ASAP Rx Committee has been working hard to get the word out about medication deactivation and the benefits are showing. We now have more than 1,800 Deterra Drug Deactivation Pouches in the community and the number keeps climbing!

This is all thanks to the initiative titled Deactivate Opioids for a Safer Community or D.O.S.C, for short. This summer, ASAP volunteers distributed medication disposal products (such as Deterra Bags) and medication compliance products (such as TimerCaps) to pharmacies, hospitals, treatment facilities, schools, and 55+ Communities. Through their efforts we have contacted 105 neighborhood communities, 4 Local Hospitals, 20 schools, and 68 pharmacies.

Deterra bags help people to dispose of their unused and unwanted medications so that the medications do not end up in landfills, the water table, the hands of minors or adults without a prescription. The medication disposal pouches have been an invaluable resource for senior citizens as the bags allow for convenient and easy disposal at home.

TimerCaps help indicate to citizens when they last took their medication so as to avoid over and

undertaking their medications, or to track the number of pills in the bottle.

In addition, the Florida Department of Health Bureau of Epidemiology has been distributing surveys to get a gauge on what people think about medication disposal. Namely: "how do residents in Pasco dispose of their medications and what information do they already have about medication Take Back Locations?"

The survey results have been shocking but informative with many participants stating they did not know about medication disposal locations or Deterra Bags as a resource. Additionally, nearly all respondents to the survey have stated that they would utilize Deterra Bags after being provided information about them.

This is exciting news for everyone here at ASAP and the FDOH Bureau of Epidemiology, because it is one step closer to a cleaner and healthier community. For more information or to learn new ways to help please contact the Pasco ASAP Coalition at <https://empoweredcommunities.org/ASAP/> or for more information about project D.O.S.C. and to request Deterra Bags please contact Parnia Roghani, MPH at [Parnia.Roghani@flhealth.gov](mailto:Parnia.Roghani@flhealth.gov).

# STAND ABOVE THE INFLUENCE

Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities

## Car Wash Fundraiser

Proceeds will go to STAND Above the Influence Youth Team  
**\$10 PER TICKET FOR \$20 DELUXE CAR WASH AT TIDAL WAVE**



**GO AT YOUR OWN CONVENIENCE**

**Locations:**

3500 Tampa Road • Oldsmar, Florida 34677  
3893 Atmore Grove Drive • Lutz, Florida 33548  
2209 Sun Vista Drive • Lutz, Florida 33559

For questions, please contact: [stand@empoweredcommunities.org](mailto:stand@empoweredcommunities.org)



### STAND MISSION

STAND Above the Influence is a youth led coalition that empowers youth to be agents of change by strengthening their voices and educating others to build a healthier community.

### STAND VISION

To inspire innovative communities that embrace the voices of youth to affect positive change in cultivating safe and healthy communities.

**Program Coordinator:** Sharon Schmidt  
**Events Coordinator:** Eve Hosley-Moore  
**Youth Trends Coordinator:** Bonni Snider

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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[www.empoweredcommunities.org](http://www.empoweredcommunities.org)

## STAND 2021 Priority Issues

- Youth Mental Health
- Youth Drug Use
- Underage Drinking
- Impaired Driving
- Tobacco and Vaping Use
- Safety
- Violence
- Bullying

## You are Invited to STAND's Monthly General Coalition Meeting

### STAND General Coalition

#### Meeting Location:

4:45PM on Zoom, room opens at 4:30PM

#### Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81898434542?pwd=M2dIZ211VWtocVYwdmNjb2w3Rng4dz09>

**Meeting ID:** 818 9843 4542

**Password:** 742597

For more information, please reach out to Eve Hosley-Moore. STAND Events Coordinator and Mentor at: [stand@empoweredcommunities.org](mailto:stand@empoweredcommunities.org) or text or call 352-345-0685.

## STAND is on Social Media



STAND is staying connected via Group Me App.  
Email: [Stand@pascoasap.com](mailto:Stand@pascoasap.com) or text 352-345-0685 to be added to the conversation



STAND in Pasco County  
#STANDUpPasco



[stand\\_up\\_pasco](https://www.instagram.com/stand_up_pasco)



[Stand\\_up\\_Pasco](https://www.tiktok.com/@stand_up_pasco)



[StandupPasco](https://www.snapchat.com/add/StandupPasco)

## Avery's Spotlight

By Maddie Horn



“Inspiring”; “strong”; “empowering”; “a leader” are just some words that come to mind when I think of Avery. Around May, we welcomed Avery to our team and every week since then he has been in all meetings, sharing ideas, and just being an awesome person to be around. He brings joy and happiness to all our meetings by encouraging others when ideas are shared and giving positive feedback constantly. Avery, like all of us at STAND, is super passionate.

## Underage Drinking

By Avery Mertes, 11th Grade - Fivay High School

According to the CDC, underage drinking is dangerous since it can cause legal problems such as arrests for driving or physically hurting someone while drunk. Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience changes in brain development that may have life-long effects. There is also an increased risk of suicide, homicide, physical and sexual violence. It can also cause school problems and social problems such as having more absences or lower grades, fighting and lack of participation. It can also cause hangovers or illness. If you drink early in life, you run the risk of developing alcohol problems, including alcoholism.

A 2019 Study shows that 29% of high school students drink alcohol, 14% binge drink, 5% of them were drivers and 17% of them rode with a driver that had been drinking in the past 30 days. Binge drinking is an especially dangerous problem with underage drinkers as it can cause serious brain damage, coma and even death. This has long been a prevalent problem with teenagers in fraternity hazing incidents and at parties. Some reasons teenagers use alcohol is a curiosity, to feel good, to reduce stress, or to fit in. If you think you or someone you know may have a problem with alcohol you may contact: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

## More Mental Health Training in Schools

By Maddie Horn

As a Pasco County student, I see firsthand the issues that happen in our schools. One of the biggest concerns I have is Youth and Mental Health in schools. Some things students have heard from the counselors are “You are too young to have panic attacks.” “You don’t know what real stress is.” “You shouldn’t be worrying about anything but your grades at this age” etc. These things will not help anyone in a moment of panic and anxiety but make the situation worse. Us youth at STAND believe that we can help students. Trainings on how to help students having panic attacks, finding the warning signs of anxiety or depression, and stress management tools would be good starting points. It would help the students during their times of panic, stress, or anxiety and help them form a better relationship with school.

## STAND Summer Blast



On July 09, 2021, our youth members and advisors of STAND Above the Influence had so much fun in person finally at SunWest Park in Hudson, FL celebrating not just the end of the school year but also all they’ve accomplished this past year within their community and schools while enduring the lockdown demands of COVID-19. They were beyond overjoyed to see each other and spend the day at the beach swimming, playing games, eating, eating and more eating (teens, LOL) and just relaxing on the beach catching up with each other. From playing tag in the water, to creating a STAND logo in the sand, playing beach games it didn’t matter what they were doing if they were together having fun, they were happy.

STAND Executive Youth Directors: Jocelyn Meriwether, President, Maddie Horn, Vice President, Iker Dorta, Publications Officer, Avery Mertes, Secretary started the festivities off by talking with all who attended to thank them for their contributions to STAND this past year and express their gratitude to the youth and their advisors for their relentless guidance, education and always being available for the youth.

The youth talked about upcoming issues of concern they plan to focus for the new school year which are but not limited to: Stronger Mental Health Services in the schools, Underage Drinking, Dating Violence, Substance Misuse, Vaping and Tobacco, as well as Bullying.