



# PREVENTION *Connection* SPRING 2021

A quarterly newsletter by The Alliance for Healthy Communities

## **PEDAL FOR PREVENTION**

*Join us for our inaugural fundraiser April 10, 2021*

*See article on page 7*



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

*ASAP News* ..... Pages 3-13

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*Research and Metrics* ..... Page 10

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)

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



# Hello prevention champions!

Welcome to this edition of Prevention Connection! We are so grateful that you are taking a moment to read over all of the exciting things that we have been up to this quarter.

All of our boots-on-the-ground committees have been hard at work this quarter, as you will see in our Committee Corner section of the newsletter. Please take a minute and check out that section. We receive many questions on how people can get involved in our initiatives, and there are many ways! If you have a specific passion, our committees focus on specific areas and substances. If you are interested in joining any of the committee meetings, take a look at our website, all of the meetings are listed under "events" and anyone can join in! Links are included on the website to join in, anytime.

We also have several amazing events coming up. Pedal for Prevention is our very first fundraising event, and it will take place at Starkey Park on Saturday, April 10th. Come out to ride, walk, run, or just for some Vampire Penguin

snow! It is going to be a great day and social distancing precautions will be in place.

We also have an upcoming Substance Exposed Newborn Lunch and Learn series in April and several great speakers. CME's will be provided! Our Opioid Town Hall this past quarter was a great success, with guest speakers like Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Attorney Jim Magazine of Lucas Magazine Law Group, people in long-term recovery, youth, and others. We thank you for all of your support!

As we continue to move throughout 2021, we are continuing to be flexible in our thinking, innovative and safe in our planning and implementation, and continuing to prevent addiction in our county in any way we can! Thank you, prevention champions, for all you do for our community.

*With Gratitude,  
Kellie Rodriguez, ASAP Coordinator  
Chrissie Parris, AHC Board President*





@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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## **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



## ASAP Committee Updates



### ALCOHOL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE & TOBACCO FREE PARTNERSHIP

The Alcohol Initiatives Committee continues to complete environmental scans to ensure retailers are in compliance with local and state policies. We have also finalized a Best Practices Brochure. The brochure is designed to be shared with retailers to educate them regarding ways to ensure underage youth are not gaining access to alcohol. April is Alcohol Awareness Month. We are working on a proclamation to be presented by the city commissioners as well as social media campaigns. Alcohol Initiatives and Tobacco Free Partnership meet the first Monday of every month at 4:30 pm. Join us!

### CULTURAL COMPETENCE COMMITTEE

The cultural competence committee finalized their guidebook earlier this year and it has made its way to different agencies throughout the Pasco County and the Tampa Bay area! This guidebook is meant to raise knowledge on how to be more inclusive in the workplace and how to create a more comfortable environment for diverse populations. Since its release, the committee has now started working on developing a community survey. The survey will focus on asking questions in order for the committee members to better understand and assess the needs of the community. For a copy of the guidebook, or to get involved with the committee, email [Parnia.roghani@flhealth.gov](mailto:Parnia.roghani@flhealth.gov). The committee meets the third Monday of every month at 4:30 pm.

*Does your agency have something to share with the ASAP Coalition? We are looking for presenters for the May and June 2021 monthly meetings on Zoom. Please contact ASAP Coordinator Kellie Rodriguez at [asap@empoweredcommunities.org](mailto:asap@empoweredcommunities.org) Thank you!*

### RECOVERY COMMITTEE

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 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. In honor of National Recovery Month this September, we are working on an awareness-raising walk. We hope to get help from community partners with this event! Additionally, we are brainstorming a picnic event this July depending on how the pandemic unfolds for Florida this summer. One of our newest initiatives is working with the Peer Recovery Specialists and people in recovery who work in the field, in order to see how we can prevent burnout and relapse. The Recovery Committee meets the 4th Monday of every month via zoom: April 26; May 24; June 28. Everyone is invited!!!

### RX COMMITTEE

The Rx Committee held its first ever virtual Opioid Town Hall on March 2nd and it was a huge success with more than 100 people present and updates from Representative Gus Bilirakis, Lucas Magazine Law Group and other community powerhouses working to eradicate the opioid epidemic statewide. The committee plans to meet again next month to discuss next steps and events to follow the town hall. For more information or to get involved with the committee, please email [Parnia.roghani@flhealth.gov](mailto:Parnia.roghani@flhealth.gov) or [crystal.willson@baycare.org](mailto:crystal.willson@baycare.org). The committee meets the First Tuesday of every month at 3:00 pm.

### SEN COMMITTEE

Substance misuse in Florida has increased while our Neonatal Substance Exposure population continues to be directly affected. Our Substance Exposed Newborn committee, known as SEN, is focused on educating those in our community who are at risk and supporting all medical providers with tools to enhance the education to all struggling and at-risk for substance misuse. Most recently, our SEN committee has been working on a Road Map to assist the community in resources for our county. Last and most importantly, our Pasco and Hernando SEN committees have been working in collaboration to bring the "Education & Beyond: Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities" to life. This will be a 4-part workshop hosted every Friday in April (see article on page 6). You will not want to miss our wonderful speakers! Up to eight CME's are available. We hope to see you there and welcome you to stand with us to overcome substance misuse and improve our SEN population in the communities in which we live!



Alliance  
for Healthy  
Communities

# Welcome New AHC Board of Directors Members!

## Alliance for Healthy Communities recently acquired two new board members!

*By Kellie Rodriguez, ASAP Coordinator*



### **DR. EDDIE WILLIAMS**

Dr. Williams has 18 years of experience in helping individuals with mental health and substance misuse issues, working in various settings such as residential, outpatient, inpatient hospitalization and home visits. Dr. Williams has a private practice providing Individual, Couples, Family and Group Counseling for patients with mental health disorders or addiction disorders and serves as Associate Professor at Pasco-Hernando State College. Dr. Williams has been an integral part of ASAP, collaborating on community events, lending venue space and helping to build programs at PHSC that support recovery. Dr. Williams is passionate about his work and community. Welcome, Dr. Williams!



### **CESAR RODRIGUEZ**

Cesar Rodriguez is a person in long-term recovery and he has been an incremental part of ASAP since 2015. As one of the founding members of ASAP's Recovery Committee, he has participated in town hall Events, Speaking Events, was ASAP's Volunteer of the Year in 2018, and has advocated and fundraised for AHC on multiple occasions. Cesar works for Suncoast Roofing as a GM, is a father to Emma and Maia and husband to Kellie. Cesar is a true example that people can and do recover, and wants to share his message with those who are still suffering from the disease of addiction. We welcome Cesar Rodriguez, serving as one of our newest board members, joining 2021!



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## Education & Beyond: Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities Summit

Hosted by The Hernando and Pasco Substance Exposed Newborn Task Forces  
Contact Tresa Watson, Hernando Community Coalition 352-596-8000



Opioid and substance misuse in Florida is a serious problem that is being felt by our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, infants. To address the epidemic of Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN), Hernando and Pasco SEN Taskforces invite you to the 2nd Annual Education & Beyond: Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities, held as a series of virtual workshops on Fridays in April. This groundbreaking summit is being held virtually from 11am to 1pm Friday April 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. This year, the Hernando and Pasco Substance Exposed Newborn Task Forces partnered to combat the alarming trends in infants born diagnosed with substance exposure, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS). An interactive lineup of experts will present current data, viewpoints, and solution focused initiatives associated with addressing this epidemic.

The esteemed speaker lineup includes doctors Alberto Augsten and Claudia Vincenzo, the co-creators of the award-winning Mothers in Recovery (MIR) program at Memorial Healthcare System; Dr. Larry Burd the director of the North Dakota Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences; Dr. Torri Metz an Associate Professor and Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at University of Utah Health and current chairs the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) Fellowship Affairs Committee; and Dr. Dawn Forbes, a nationally recognized expert in the care and improved outcomes of infants and families affected by maternal substance use disorder is board certified in neonatal-perinatal medicine and pediatrics.

The event is designed for medical, healthcare and hospital professionals, and all others involved in caring for women of childbearing age, addiction and substance exposed newborns. Thanks to our diamond and platinum sponsors Hernando Community Coalition, Pasco ASAP coalition, Community Coalition Alliance, Drug Free America Foundation, Oak Hill Hospital, Well Florida, Bayfront Health, and BayCare Behavioral Health, registration is offered at the low rate of \$45 per attendee, with CEUs for all in attendance – including physicians, nurses, social services, behavioral health. Attendees will have access to the conference's all-new Virtual Attendee Hub, offering a user friendly one-stop event experience platform. The hub harnesses what makes an in-person event so rewarding and translates it to an online experience.

You do not want to miss this opportunity to engage with national leaders and community resources to learn strategies on being part of the solution in prevention, intervention and treatment for substance exposed newborns. Register now at Education & Beyond: Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities ([Click Here](#)). Please call 352-596-8000 for more information.

**For the Press:** The presentations will begin at 11:00am. Speakers, SEN Task Force representatives and other stakeholders will be available for interviews before and after the presentations.

**What:** Education & Beyond: Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities Summit

**When:** Fridays, April 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 11:00am -1:00pm

**Where:** Education & Beyond: Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities ([cvent.com](http://cvent.com))



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# Spring Into Action with **PEDAL FOR PREVENTION**

*By Eve Hosley-Moore*

It has been a very hard year for drug overdoses in the Tampa Bay area. Nearly three times as many people have overdosed in 2020 as compared to the prior year. Imagine if all this loss and trauma could be prevented?

The Alliance for Healthy Communities and the Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention (ASAP) coalition is focused on bringing people and agencies together, raising awareness, advocacy, education and outreach.

Pedal for Prevention is AHC and ASAP's first ever fundraising event. Last year a 10-year grant that kept ASAP afloat expired, the agency became a non-profit, and is now working on being sustainable to serve the community well into the future.

"We need to be here for Pasco county years to come," says Kellie Rodriguez, ASAP coordinator, explaining that AHC is the umbrella organization that hosts ASAP as well as the youth coalition STAND Above the Influence.

Though weathering a pandemic, ASAP and STAND managed to do a lot this past year. They partnered with GRACE House Transitional Living to offer drive-through lifesaving Narcan kits for International Overdose Awareness Day; honored medical professionals who truly help recovery and prevention efforts with county commissioner Mike Wells; AHC partnered with Baycare Behavioral Health for World Suicide Prevention Day; hosted our annual NOPE candlelight vigil virtually in partnership with Pasco Hernando State College. Our STAND youth coalition hosted a virtual leadership training in February with incredible presenters such as State Representative Amber Mariano, who worked to really inspire and motivate our youth to find their voices and create change in Pasco.

On Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 9 am to 12 Noon, please join us as we bike, walk, scooter, or roller skate along the bike path in Starkey Park. The event starts at Shelter #5. In advance, adult participants are \$25 each, youth age 17 and under are free. The day of the event, adult participants are \$27. Create a team, sponsor a rider! Please sign up on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pedal-for-prevention-tickets-139970550685>

For social distancing safety, we have three start times: 9 am, 10 am, 11 am. We have five vendor spots, which are all sold out, but are offering a "pandemic package" to those businesses and agencies who wish to share their message. We will hand out your bags or place your materials in our bags. Please contact Eve Hosley-Moore at email: [Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org](mailto:Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org) or Missy Coyle at [Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org](mailto:Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org) to sign up.

Sponsors include: Lucas & Magazine Law Offices, Trinity Church of Christ, Magellan Complete Care, Suncoast Roofing, Florida Department of Health, Spring Gardens Recovery, Associate Recovery Communities. GRACE House Transitional Living, Recovery Epicenter, Jackey Bell hair design, Baycare, Bike/Walk Coalition of Tampa Bay. Pasco County Fire Department, John's Hopkins Childrens, Premier Health Care, Food by Vampire Penguin and Culvers of Trinity.

The Pasco County Fire Department along with Johns Hopkins Children's Health will be giving out free bike helmets to youth.

Do good, feel good. Support Pedal for Prevention today. Please reach out with questions to Eve Hosley-Moore at 352-345-0685.



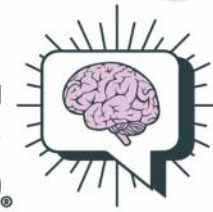
## Baker Act Transports for Youth Now Handled by TransCare

By Kristy Rodriguez

New this quarter! As many of you may have previously been aware, the Pasco County Sheriff's office was the first point of contact in schools if and when a child had a mental health related emergency or disruption during school hours (mainly regarding Baker Acts from school). However, effective February 8, 2021, Baker Act transports for students age eight and up will be conducted by TransCare Medical Transportation Services. This service is being utilized to support the physical and psychological safety of students during transport. The TransCare staff have compliant background checks, training in trauma informed practices and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

There are only certain instances in which law enforcement would still be needing to transport children who meet criteria for Baker Act which include the following: if a child is unable to be transported safely via TransCare, law enforcement personnel may still transport and due to liability, children under the age of eight years of age will still need to be transported by law enforcement personnel. Students under the age of eight meeting Baker Act criteria should continue to be an isolated case. Before a school employee contacts a law enforcement officer, he or she must verify that de-escalation strategies have been utilized and outreach to a mobile response team has been initiated unless the employee reasonably believes that any delay in removing the student will increase the likelihood of harm to the student or others.

# COPE NOTES.



## Free Subscription to Daily Positive Texts Nearly Sold Out

At our February ASAP meeting, One Community Now's Patti Templeton and Melissa Heid shared about Cope Notes, a text message service that can help boost your mood. On March 17, they were also featured on ABC Action News. And now they have given away nearly 500 subscriptions! They were able to offer full-year subscriptions via funding through the Cares Act. After that, there's a monthly cost for the service. As of publication time there are only a few subscriptions left, if you would like to sign up, click here: [www.copenotes.com/redeem](http://www.copenotes.com/redeem) and use the redemption code "OCN."

The Cope Notes concept is simple: a once-a-day positive text can over time, train your brain to think more positive thoughts. The texts are randomly timed and include exercises, journaling prompts, meditation tips, and more. After a few months, the Cope Note hope is that your "stinking thinking" will improve.





## Best Practices to Prohibit Underage Access to Alcohol

*By Bonni Snider, MA, Co-Chair*

The Alcohol Initiative Committee and Tobacco Partnership is excited to announce the completion of its best practices brochure. The project began as a way to address underage access to alcohol as well as providing guidelines to retailers on strategies to reduce the access.

Although underage access to alcohol has been an issue, additional challenges have been identified in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions. Policies have become complacent to “drinks-on-the-go” and home and curbside delivery. The concerns also include the increase of the hours or days of sale and home delivery laws being expanded. COVID-19 has seen an increase of alcohol consumption among certain groups, specifically women, Blacks and those with children in the home. The increase of “off-premise” sales has resulted in incidences of violence; robberies; assaults; child abuse; intimate partner violence; alcohol related hospital admissions; and impaired driving. According to the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association, COVID-19 has seen a 17% decrease in miles driven yet a 20% increase in fatalities January through June 2020 when compared to the same time-period in 2019. The study also indicated each year, of the 95,000 alcohol attributed deaths, 3,500 are by individuals under the age of 21.

The best practices brochure was developed to educate retailers on strategies to not only ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws, also to help prevent alcohol from getting into the hands of underage youth. The brochure reminds retailers to check identification for all alcohol sales and deliveries. COVID-19 requires mask wearing. A suggestion is that retailers ask those purchasing alcohol to pull their masks down, the same as required for TSA agents during travel. Additional suggestions include responsible vendor training; shoulder tapping (asking someone of age to purchase for someone underage); restricting employees who sell alcohol be at least 21 years of age; having a smart floor plan and avoiding advertisement that is enticing to youth.

The Alcohol Initiative Committee continues to focus on the next steps in its mission to restrict access to underage youth. We are beginning work on compiling the data collected during our compliance checks as well as continuing to engage our STAND Above The Influence youth in a sticker shock campaign.

We invite community partners who would like to join us on the projects we have going to reach out, with ideas or to join us at our meetings. The AIC meetings are the first Monday of the month, at 1630 (4:30 PM) via Zoom.



## RESEARCH AND COALITION METRICS Q1 (January, February, March 2021)

### ASAP Coalition Metrics

*Check out our outputs for the quarter:*

**Outreach:** This quarter, ASAP members continued to socially distance and hold monthly committee meetings virtually. We have not attended any in-person events. The Opioid Task Force Virtual Town Hall on March 2, 2021 hosted by the RX Committee reached 100. STAND Above the Influence Virtual Youth Summit reached 39.

**Social Media:** ASAP Total Quarter Reach: 56,770 with January Total Reach: 3,150; February Total Reach: 12,367; March Total Reach: 41,253. We saw 78% Engagement and a 109% increase in traffic in March!

**Medication Dropoff:** Dade City Police Department received 200 pounds of disposed medicine January, February and March 2021. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office lobby is still closed due to Covid-19. The City of New Port Richey Police Department received 146.2 pounds of disposed medicine in December, January and March.

**Deterra Bags:** ASAP coalition members handed out 155 Deterra Medicine Disposal bags this quarter.

**Narcan Deployments:** Pasco County Sheriff's Office, February 2021 saw 25 deployments of Naloxone to 16 community civilians, all successful overdose reversals. No deployments in detention facilities.

**Narcan Distribution:** GRACE House Transitional Living distributed 500 boxes of Narcan to the community.

**Timer Caps:** ASAP has distributed 88 medicine bottle timer caps this quarter.

### Data and Research

Each Year ASAP creates a Needs and Coalition Capacity Assessment. Here are a few facts and figures about Pasco County, compiled from a variety of sources. Nearly 1/5 of Pasco County Adults are considered excessive drinkers.

- Spike in marijuana use after the passing of Amendment 2 (legalization of marijuana) in 2018. Consistent with FYSAS data, focus group results indicated that marijuana was the most commonly used drug other than alcohol and tobacco products, and marijuana is often the drug of choice over alcohol and tobacco and vaping is the method of choice for any smoked substances.
- Pasco is ranked 6th out of 67 counties as having the highest fatalities from drug poisonings (Florida CHARTS, 2019). Drug poisonings are the leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations among youth ages 15-19 and adults ages 25-54.
- 84% increase in calls related to suspected suicide attempts using poisons or medications for 10-to-14-year-olds from 2019 to 2020.
- 24.1% of Pasco County high school students report being exposed to at least 4 Adverse Childhood Experiences known as ACEs. Students with 4 or more ACEs are more than twice as likely to drink alcohol, black out, and vape nicotine.



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STOP Human Trafficking

# SUPER BOWL UPDATE

Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking

The Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking would like to thank you for your support.

You were instrumental in helping us to prepare for the Super Bowl.

Your efforts **MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION

1.5+ million impressions made across 9 counties via TV and social media campaigns

11,000+ people received information via email blasts, trainings, and material distribution at events

4 victims of trafficking sought help from the Commission.

### Thank you to the following businesses/organizations for their support:

Pasco County Government (Resolution)	Clear Channel (free billboards)
Gulash Graphics (free graphic design)	Pasco County Public Transportation (partnership on bus placards & staff training)
Diamond View Studios (reduced rate on PSA production)	Spectrum/Bay News 9 (news coverage)
CBS Television Stations/CW 44 (free promotion of PSA & value add to TV campaign package)	Fox News (news coverage)
Entravision (value add to digital campaign package & free Spanish interview)	Univision (news coverage)
Black Jack Media (partnership on bus wraps)	Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church (event planning manual development)

*"I just wanted to mention that Morgan has attended the webinars you shared and she's loving the information. She hasn't seen the details of what the victims go through and this is giving her a different perspective of the topic. Thank you so much!"*

— Gabby Flores, Executive Director, Healthy Start Coalition of Pasco, Inc.



Report suspected trafficking. **National Human Trafficking Hotline** 1-888-373-7888

Follow us on social media @knowmorepasco





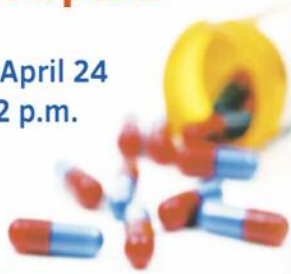
Alliance  
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Communities**

## Keep Rx Meds out of Youth's Hands with Annual Medicine Disposal

DEA NATIONAL Rx  
**TAKEBACK**

Saturday, April 24  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

DEATakeBack.com



Got unwanted prescription or over-the-counter medications? The Pasco County Sheriff will be participating in a Drug Enforcement Administration takeback day on April 24, 2021.

The Drug Enforcement Administration hosted its first Take Back event in 2010. The purpose of the event is to provide citizens with a safe way to dispose of unwanted or expired medications. The event also serves to educate the public on medication abuse. ASAP is proud to support these events by providing brochures on medication abuse and drop box locations.

The last Take Back Day was in October 2019. During that event, 6,100 sites across the country, collected 882,919 pounds (441.5 tons) of unwanted or expired medications. Over 12,000,000 pounds (6300 tons) of unwanted or expired medications have been collected since the fall of 2010.

The drop locations for this event are the Pasco County Sheriff Operations office, Little Road, New Port Richey as well as the Shops At Wiregrass, Wesley Chapel. The times of the event is 10:00 AM through 2:00 PM.



## City of New Port Richey gives Proclamation for Alcohol Awareness Month

*By Bonni Snider, MA, Co-Chair, Alcohol Initiatives  
Committee/Cultural Competence Committee*

In 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence began observing Alcohol Awareness month as a way to educate individuals on alcohol use and alcohol use disorder. The common name most individuals associate with the disease is alcoholism.

NCAA was in 1944 created by Marty Mann. She was an alcoholic herself and recognized there were many like her with the same struggles. The public viewed alcoholism differently than it does today. She believed it was necessary to destigmatize the disease. The original name was the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism. Although she was the inspiration for alcohol awareness month, she died before its creation.

### NCADD has three creeds:

1. Alcoholism is a disease, and the alcoholic is a sick person
2. The alcoholic can be helped and is worth helping
3. Alcoholism is a public health problem, and therefore a public responsibility

The City of New Port Richey mayor and council members have always supported ASAP's mission in bringing awareness to challenges of alcoholism and alcohol use disorder. Additionally, we are proud to be partnered with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). This year, as in the past, the NPR City Council will present Alcohol Initiatives Committee with a proclamation in honor of Alcohol Awareness Month and MADD's PowerTalk21, a program designed to educate parents on how to talk to their children about the dangers of alcohol use. The proclamation will be presented April 6 at 7:00pm, at the New Port Richey City Hall, 5919 Main Street, NPR, 34652.



## Network to End Hunger expands program to Pasco

Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger (TBNEH), a tri-county leader in hunger relief, research, and program development, expands Creating a Regenerative Community Food System (CRCFS) program into Pasco County to help divert food surplus from the waste stream. This is in partnership with the Pasco Food Policy Advisory Council. The program is a part of the FPAC's Plant for Pasco initiative with hopes to inspire and educate community members to sustainably manage their food, in a more responsible and impactful way.

Launched in 2017 in Hillsborough County, the CRCFS program has allowed community members to collaborate by reducing food waste while improving their local communities. This same goal will be accomplished in Pasco through free educational classes and an easy-to-use food collection, donation, and pickup system for excess food or scraps via the "Waste No Food" app, this program will help change food waste behaviors. Efforts will include increasing partnerships between local farms and non-profit agencies.

"We are excited to launch a program that is much needed in Pasco County," said Caitlyn Peacock, Executive Director. "Our goal is to change the way our food surplus is integrated into the community food system ... while conserving resources and saving money."

Community members are invited to visit the programs website [www.networktoendhunger.org](http://www.networktoendhunger.org) for information and tools for diverting food from the waste system, including redistribution and composting. Visitors will learn how they can donate extra food to hungry community members and how easy the composting process can be. This program expansion is presented in partnership with Pasco Food Policy Advisory Council.

"Although not new, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many areas of concern with our current food system. It is heartbreaking to think about people going hungry when there is so much food entering our waste system,"

stated Patty Jackson, long-time resident of Pasco County and member of the Pasco Food Policy Advisory Council. Adding, "Giving farmers and businesses an easy way to connect to non-profit agencies who distribute food to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity is a huge benefit of this program."

To prevent and divert wasted food from its associated impacts, multiple components of the program address different layers of the Food Recovery Hierarchy, recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency. The different levels of preventing food waste include source reduction, redistribution (donating extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters), feeding animals, and composting.

"Changing our food waste behaviors and reducing food insecurity has the potential to impact our environmental and economic health and improve the overall well-being of the community," says Jackson.

Businesses, agencies, or individuals interested in participating in the #WasteNoFood movement can sign up to donate or receive excess food or food waste the "Waste No Food" app. Learn more or find out how you can get involved in the #WasteNoFood movement by visiting [www.NetworktoEndHunger.org](http://www.NetworktoEndHunger.org). The Network is currently accepting donations online to help support the CRCFS program. For more information, please call (813) 344-5837.

The Pasco County Food Policy Advisory Council supports an equitable, resilient, local food system in Pasco County. The FPAC serves at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners and provides advisement to the BCC by adhering to its mission of facilitating the review of responsible policies that improve the access to culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound and affordable food produced in Pasco County.





Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities

### 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

April 20

May 18

June 15

#### STAND General Coalition Meeting Location:

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

#### Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81898434542?pwd=M2dDZlZlZWtoeVYwdmNjY2w3Rng4dz09>

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 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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### 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



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### STAND Spoke at Pasco County School Mental Health Symposium

By Sharon M. Schmidt  
STAND Above the Influence  
Youth Program Coordinator

STAND Above the Influence youth were cordially invited to be guest speakers on the virtual Pasco County School's Mental Health Symposium in which their Student Service Staff as well as Guidance Counselors, Nurses, Social Workers, and Psychologists were in attendance along with faculty, administrators, and staff – a total of 64 in attendance. The main presentation was given by Lauren Moore, MSN, RN, School Nurse Specialist, Overdose Data to Action-OD2A for the Pasco County Schools.

The key topic of the symposium was the Opioid Crisis, not only nationally or county wide here in Pasco but also the harsh effects and consequences hitting our schools in Pasco County.

STAND Vice President Maddie Horn, freshman at Gulf High School, was the key guest speaker sharing her truths as to why she joined STAND three years ago explaining that her father was/is heavy in his addiction to drugs. Instead of always being angry at him for not being there for her and her younger brother, she joined STAND Above the Influence and was able to become more informed and gain understanding of her father's addiction. Maddie is very strong in her convictions and works to educate herself and her peers on substance misuse, underage drinking, vaping/tobacco products, bullying, dating violence, Youth & Mental Health. Now she is speaking on panels and informing our Pasco County School personnel about STAND and their mission and vision for Pasco Schools.

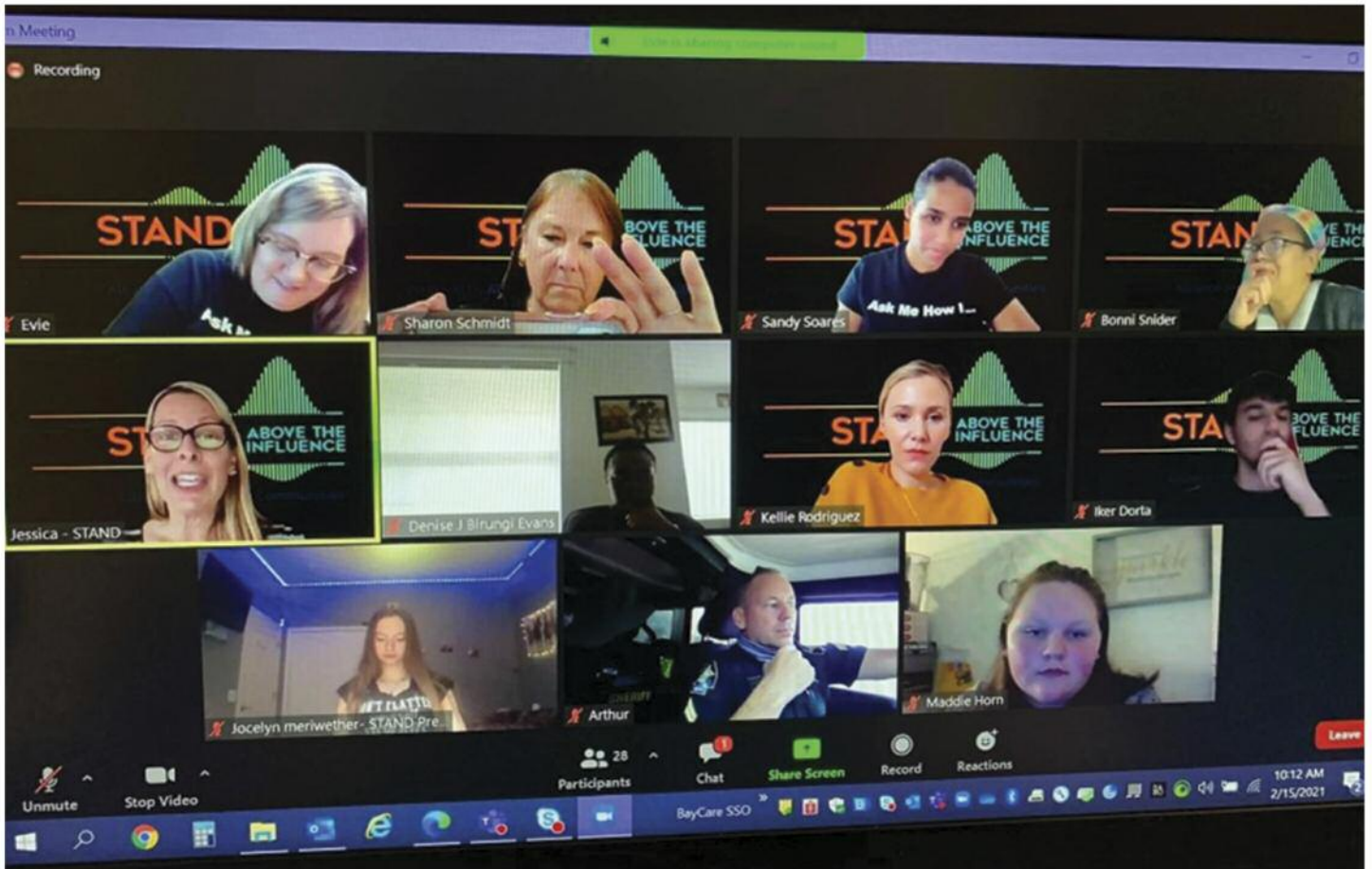
STAND members during the symposium spoke on how youth in middle and high school can join STAND in their respective schools or a virtual STAND group. Youth spoke of their experiences, accomplishments and the fact that their voices are now being heard which fuels their passion for growth, education, and advocacy.

#WeAreInThisTogether #STANDAboveTheInfluence  
#STANDUpPasco



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## Annual STAND Summit a Virtual Success



By Sandra Soares, STAND Mentor

The annual STAND Above the Influence Youth Summit was held on February 15, 2021. The annual summit is held to empower youth to make change, promote education and become a voice in their community. This marked the event's first time being virtual as to stay aligned with Covid precautions. The virtual platform allowed for youth around the nation to participate with a few joining from outside the US as well. The presenters were Cpl Arthur Madden (PSO), JJ Whitson (Whitson Digital Strategies, Christina Johnson (On3PR), Drug Free America Foundation and State Representative Amber Mariano. During the presentations, youth were able to ask questions, share their thoughts and opinions. Music, games and a Grub hub gift card for lunch enhanced the event. Youth stated that they learned ways to use their voice to help others in their community and shared ideas for upcoming events. STAND youth also received certificates as well as volunteer hours for participating.

### Welcome to STAND's New Elected Officials

In February, STAND's General Coalition elected officers to lead the youth coalition from January 2020 to January 2021. Each group may also have their own elected officials.

**Jocelyn Meriwether**, President, Land O'Lakes High School, 10th grade

**Maddie Horn**, Vice President, Gulf High School, 9th grade

**Iker Dorta**, Publicity Chair, Anclote High School, Junior

**Jakob Horn**, Secretary, Bayonet Point Middle School, 8th grade