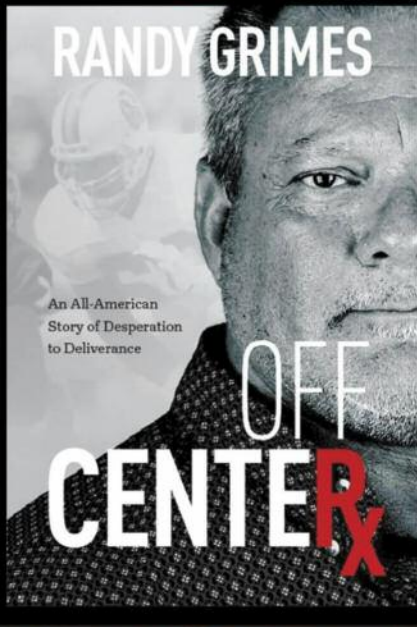




PREVENTION Connection WINTER 2022

A quarterly newsletter by The Alliance for Healthy Communities



#ItTakesUs Social Justice Series



Pasco County NOPE
Candlelight Vigil



Alliance for
Substance
Addiction
Prevention

Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities

Featuring: Randy Grimes Off Center: Families Can Recover and Do

Thursday, November 17 • 5 p.m. • West Campus
10230 Ridge Road • New Port Richey, FL 34654
phsc.edu/about/events



Alliance
for Healthy
Communities

See Article
on Page 8

From the AHC Family to Yours,

Happy Holidays!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- Research and Metrics Page 9

WWW.EMPOWEREDCOMMUNITIES.ORG



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Annual Brunch

Thursday, December 8, 2022
10:00am - 12:00 Noon
St. George Orthodox Church
9426 Little Rd. • New Port Richey, FL 34654



Alliance
for Healthy
Communities

Hello prevention champions!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have been affected by Hurricane Ian. Our state has encountered one of the worst natural disasters, and many Floridians will be suffering for months to come. We are working with area agencies to support those most deeply affected.

The Alliance for Healthy Communities is a convener, that is, our purpose is to bring people together for a shared view of hope and health. We envision a strongly aligned community working to prevent addiction and support families who have been negatively effected by substance misuse. We see a community of partners, sharing resources, sharing information, and sharing this goal. There are so many ways we can work together, and we want and need everyone at the table.

As we are entering the last quarter of the year and are heading in to the winter season, we take a moment to reflect on 2022, and look forward to 2023. We ask ourselves, how can we break down barriers to wellness? Our goal has been to create EVENTS that bring people together, shining a light on our community's strengths, while also making our organization sustainable so that we can be here for many years to come. We have done so with Pedal for Prevention and Stronger Together

Recovery Walk, both of which were held for a second time, both of which brought in valuable funds. Thank you all for making those events a success.

How can we bring community members to the table to tackle the toughest issues? We create COMMITTEES! Our five break-out committees meet monthly and there is surely a committee that aligns with your goals. Please read more about each committee on page 4 of this newsletter along with the zoom link.

And how can we stay relevant and connected? We stay connected with our monthly GENERAL COALITION MEETING on the 4th Tuesday of the month on zoom. Each month we invite a community member to present on a topic. If you would like to present, please reach out to Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org.

We hope you join us at our annual brunch held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 from 10:00am - 12:00 Noon. Its our chance to talk about all the great work we have been doing together. We will be sending out lots of information on our annual event.

Thank you for all you do,
Christine Parris, *AHC Board*



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Please take a moment and nominate someone who really stands out as part of ASAP and STAND!

***Volunteer of the Year • Youth Volunteer of the Year
Community Partner of the Year***

Send nominations to: Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org



@PascoASAP



@ASAP_Pasco



@ASAP_Pasco



**Alliance for
Substance
Addiction
Prevention**

Pasco ASAP uses local data to direct our prevention programs

ASAP 2022 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

ASAP@empoweredcommunities.org
 7809 Massachusetts Avenue
 New Port Richey FL 34653
 727.315.8658
 www.empoweredcommunities.org

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 • 3:30pm • Meeting ID: 815 1525 0641 Password: 883088

See Committee List on Page 4



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ASAP Committee Updates

Alcohol Initiatives Committee and Tobacco Free Partnership

AIC has begun collating data collected from the environmental scans. As we process the information, we are looking for patterns to address signage and advertisements. The committee is also creating a narrative based on the results of the one-on-one conversations. We continue to focus on reducing access to underage youth as well as the upcoming focus on National Impaired Driving Prevention Month in December. Our committee meets the first Monday of the month on Zoom. Please email Bonni.Snider@baycare.org for information.

Cultural Competence Committee

The Cultural Competence Committee is working on an initiative to increase access to care for community members who may have transportation challenges. The initiative will provide funds to be specified agencies so they may issue transportation passes to their clients. Tom Panagopulos, the committee co-chair continues to be available to provide trainings on areas related to cultural competence. The presentations include Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Defined; The Principles of Cultural Competence; Understanding The Dynamics of Differences; Navigating Bias; The 5 Steps of Cultural Competence; Organizational Cultural Competence; and The Culture of Western Medicine. The committee meets the third Monday of every month. Please email: Bonni.Snider@baycare.org for information.

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 email: asap@empoweredcommunities.org for more information.

Thank you!

Recovery Committee

Our committee just completed the Stronger Together Recovery Walk initiative and it was incredible! Please read the story on page 7. A great big thank you to our committee, it is a lot of work but furthers our efforts to make recovery more accessible, and to change stigma regarding addiction. We have voted to honor law enforcement as an initiative and are planning something special for National Law Enforcement Day on January 8, 2023. If you would like to attend our committee, please email co-chairs Eve or Cesar at Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org or C.Rodriguez@SuncoastRoofing.net. We meet the 4th Monday of the month at 5:00 pm on Zoom, all recovery allies and those in recovery are invited to attend.

RX / Opioid Committee

The opioid committee has been keeping busy the past few months. We officially have handed out more than 5,000 DOSC kits out into the community! We have been able to drop off kits at major pharmacies, and other community partners such as Meals on Wheels. Reach out to Parnia (pr@livetampabay.org) if you would like a kit or want more information. The committee also partnered with the Recovery Committee for International Overdose Awareness Day to host Naloxone Drive throughs. A huge thanks to Suncoast Roofing and Groups Recover Together. Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month on zoom. Visit empoweredcommunities.org for times and zoom link.

SEN Committee

The Substance Exposed Newborn (SEN) Committee's mission is to Help Support families with substance exposed newborns and provide prevention efforts. We appreciate all the community collaboration and are excited to continue to support our initiatives in Pasco County. If you are interested in learning more, we meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and you can find the link on our ASAP website. For more information, please contact Missy Coyle at Missy.Coyle@BayCare.org



Department of Health. ASAP supplied Deterra bags and DOSC kits to help our community dispose of medication safely.

Approximately 200 boxes or 400 doses of lifesaving Narcan were given out at two locations in West Pasco County on Wednesday 8/31/22; and one location in Dade City on Thursday 9/1/22. We partnered with Groups Recover Together, Suncoast Roofing, and Farmer's Self Help. A great big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31 each year and aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related death. #EndOverdose



International Overdose Awareness Day Narcan Giveaway

According to the CDC, there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent. Overdose death is completely preventable! Thanks to Narcan, the brand name of Naloxone, an overdose does not have to be fatal. Naloxone is a non-prescription drug delivered via nasal spray that temporarily blocks the opiate receptors in the brain reversing an overdose for up to 90-minutes. This gives people time to call 911.

ASAP's Rx and Recovery Committees joined forces to organize a Narcan Drive-Through Giveaway event in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day on 8/31/22 and 9/1/22. Pasco Sheriff's Office donated the Narcan they received from a grant through the

National Recovery Month Visible in New Port Richey

*A great big THANK YOU to
New Port Richey Mayor ROB MARLOWE
and LIVE TAMPA BAY*

**For lighting up the bridge in
downtown New Port Richey purple
to honor National Recovery Month!**



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Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship *To assist those seeking recovery with transitional living*

More than eight years ago Jason Daniel Hughes died of an overdose. His loss, and the years spent trying to help him fight his addiction, galvanized his mom Kelly Mothershead to fight against substance misuse on a policy-level and to work to support those in recovery. She currently serves as an AHC Board Member and New Port Richey City Councilwoman.

In honor of her son, Jason, we have started the Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship will pay for the first month in a FARR Accredited transitional living house. We have identified that this is a gap where those starting a life in recovery can sometimes fall through. Transitional living is not covered by insurance, and those that leave in-patient treatment or incarceration are much more likely to return to substance use if they go back to their homes. The applicant can receive funds one time only, funds go directly to facility, not to person seeking housing. The average cost of one month at a transitional living house is \$742.00. If you would like to donate to the fund, please go to our website at empoweredcommunities.org and click the "donate" button. Please list "Jason" in the memo line. So far we have funded 2 people.



Losing a loved one to addiction is hard. You are not alone.

Journey to Healing Hearts

Virtual Support Group
First Thursday of the month | 6:00pm

Zoom Link:
Meeting ID: 820 5783 1059
Passcode: 442098

For inquiries:
ASAP@empoweredcommunities.org



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Addiction
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Thank You to the West Pasco Board of Realtors

Thank You West Pasco Board of Realtors for your generous donation to our Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Fund. This fund is helping people bridge gap into long term recovery and save lives. We appreciate all you do for Pasco County. #RecoveryMonth #RecoveryIsPossible



Alliance
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Communities



2nd Annual Stronger Together Recovery Walk

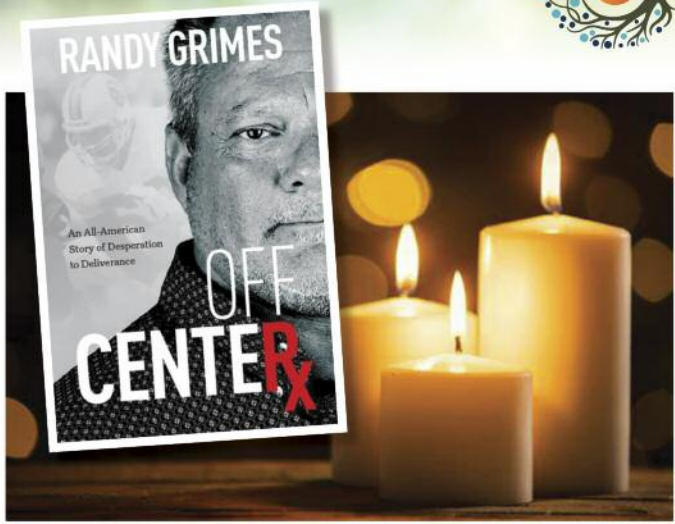
Despite a little rain, on Friday, September 9, we hosted the 2nd Annual Stronger Together Recovery Walk in Sims Park, New Port Richey. A great BIG Thank you to our partners the Hope Shot and Real Recovery. The event featured vendors, raffle baskets, Kona Ice, wonderful speakers who shared their stories, DJ Brownie, free t-shirts and water, a photo booth set up by the Hope Shot, and of course, a walk around the lake in Sims Park to show our support for those in recovery. There were more than 300 attendees and many volunteers and despite the rain, everyone had a great time dancing, connecting with all the vendors and hearing some life-changing stories geared towards stomping out the

stigma of substance use. The planning committee, April, Bonni, Cesar, Dena, Evie, Jackey, Justin, Kellie, Makayla, Missy, and Sandy would like to thank everyone who attended and are proud to announce that we surpassed our \$10,000 goal! Every dollar raised stays right here in Pasco County to fund prevention efforts for youth and adults. Together, we are showing that we can and do recover. This is such a meaningful event, and so important for our community. We are breaking down barriers to health-seeking behaviors and changing stigma, showing the world that addiction can be overcome and that life can begin again, better than before. We look forward to another successful event next year!



April's
Spring Cleaning LLC





SEN Committee and Healthy Start Deliver Care Packages

In August our Substance Exposed Newborn committee in collaboration with Healthy Start delivered baby care packages and Lyft gift card for transportation needs to four neonatal intensive care units; Countryside Hospital, Trinity Hospital, Oak Hill hospital and Bravera Health Springhill. Each substance exposed newborn and their family will receive a bag containing essential baby care items along with items for the mother to promote breastfeeding. Thank you to all of our community partners and the facilities that worked with us on this amazing project! Special thanks to Sunshine Health and WhiteSands Treatment Center

Pasco ASAP & PHSC Partner for Candlelight Vigil honoring those lost to Overdose

PASCO – The annual NOPE, Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education, Candlelight Vigil is back in person after two years presenting virtually. This year we have a very special event – Pasco Hernando State College – as part of their 50th Anniversary #ItTakesUs Social Justice Series – has partnered with Pasco ASAP to bring in athlete, author, and advocate Randy Grimes.

Join us for this FREE event Thursday, November 17, 2022 from 5 to 8 pm to hear his story of redemption and hope. Please honor your loved ones by bringing a photo of those that have passed to place on our NOPE Memorial wall.

A former NFL player whose career spanned 10 years with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Randy Grimes used prescription pills to treat his career-related injuries. Those pills fed an addiction that would last more than 20 years. Upon retiring from the NFL, Randy fell deeper into his addiction—eventually jeopardizing his family and risking everything. “In football, I always had a playbook—and a team—to get me through the day,” states Randy. “Without that structure, I didn’t know what to do; I lost myself, and my addiction took over.” After losing a former teammate to an overdose, Randy finally had the courage to raise his hand and ask for help. “I literally crawled into treatment,” states Randy. “The tools I found there saved my life. I prayed that God would open the gates of heaven and let me in. Instead, He opened the gates of hell and let me out!”

Please join us as we remember those we have lost to overdose and learn about recovery efforts here in Pasco County. FREE event Thursday, November 17, 2022 from 5 to 8 pm, Pasco Hernando State College West Campus Auditorium, 10230 Ridge Road, New Port Richey FL 34654. Vendors, Speakers, and candlelight vigil. If you would like to have a FREE vendor table, please reach out to Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org





RESEARCH AND COALITION METRICS Q3 (July, August, September 2022)

ASAP Coalition Metrics

Check out our outputs for the quarter:

Outreach Initiatives: ASAP reach a lot of folks this quarter at the following ASAP Tabled events, thank you to our partnership with Youth & Family Alternatives and Baycare CHAT who tabled many of these events: Juneteenth Event in Sims Park, New Port Richey 6/18/22; Juneteenth Event at James Irvin Civic Center in Dade City, 6/18/22; Premier Health Funfest and Wellness Event, New Port Richey, 7/30/22; Department of Health's Big Latch On in Hernando County 8/6/22; Angus Valley Back to School Event 8/6/22; PHSC Welcome Back Event, West Campus 8/17/22; Smile Faith Wellness Fair, New Port Richey, 8/20/22; Woodland Elementary Open House, Zephyrhills 8/25/22; Art for Hope Bobby White Foundation, Lutz, 9/8/22; Stronger Together Recovery Walk, Sims Park New Port Richey, 9/9/22; Mexico's Independence Day Fiesta & Health Fair, Dade City, 9/19/22; Healthy Start Reconnect Event, New Port Richey, 9/22/22

Social Media: ASAP reached 43,277 from July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

SEN Knowledge is Power: Our weekly Virtual Series has reached 38 people for the quarter.

Deterra Bags: ASAP and partners have distributed more than 5,715 DOSC kits to date. If you would like a kit which includes a Deterra Bag and other information on medication disposal, please reach out to Parnia at PR@livetampabay.org

Medication Poundage Collected: Dade City Police Department Reports that 200 pounds of medications were collected from July to September 2022. Pasco Sheriff's Office collected a total of 231 pounds of medication from July to September 2022.

Narcans Deployments: ASAP and partners distributed 201 boxes during the International Overdose Awareness Day drive through event on 8/31/22 and 9/1/22.

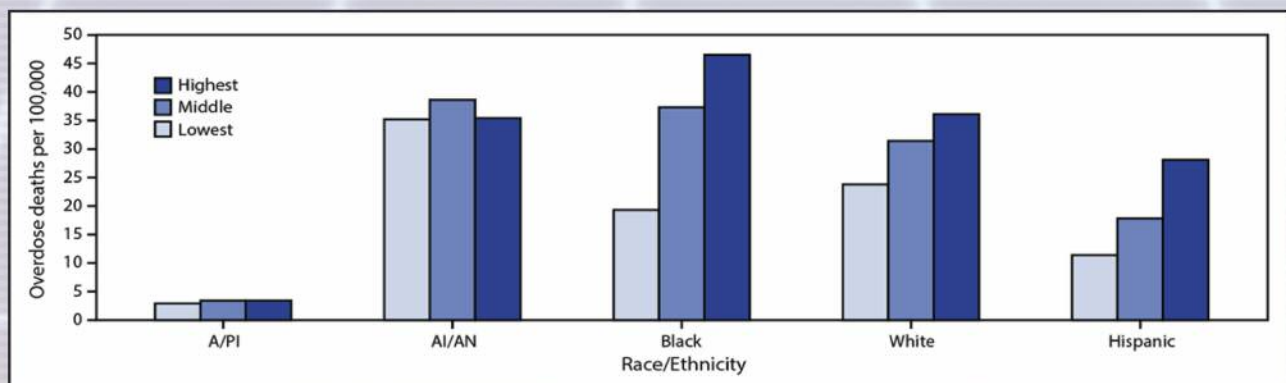
News Media Generated: 800,000 people reached via 2 campaigns: Morning Blend 8/31/22 and 9/6/22.

DATA HIGHLIGHT

Submitted by Abigail Shockley, MPH

While much is known about the devastating impacts of drug-related overdose fatalities, less is documented about the disproportionate affects these overdoses have on minority populations. In July, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued its Vital Signs report, titled "Drug Overdose Deaths, by Selected Sociodemographic and Social Determinants of Health Characteristics — 25 States and the District of Columbia, 2019–2020". The report provides critical data about the disparities in overdose rates among minority populations. In a one-year period (2019–2020), overdose fatalities increased at higher rates than the national average (30%) for Black (44%) and non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native persons (39%) (Figure 1). At the same time, despite nearly two-fold higher rates, substance use treatment access for Black persons was less than 10%.

Figure 1. Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths, by race/ethnicity and income inequality ratio — 25 states and the District of Columbia, 2020



We are becoming increasingly aware of the need for culturally competent and sensitive approaches to substance use prevention, treatment and recovery interventions. At ASAP, we are committed to continued exploration of innovative and evidence-based ways to address these disparate rates. Examples of such approaches include culturally competent stigma campaigns, addressing transportation and other barriers to service access disproportionately experienced by minority populations, and continued policy and systems transformation initiatives that ensure equity in treatment access and overdose prevention services.

Source: Kariisa M, Davis NL, Kumar S, et al. Vital Signs: Drug Overdose Deaths, by Selected Sociodemographic and Social Determinants of Health Characteristics — 25 States and the District of Columbia, 2019–2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022; 71:940–947. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7129e2>.



Alliance
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Communities**



Mental Health FIRST AID
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adolescents ages 12-18. You'll build skills and confidence you need to reach out and provide initial support to young people who are struggling. You'll also learn how to help connect them to appropriate support.

AFTER THE COURSE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, eating disorders and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD).
- Recognize common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- Understand how to interact with a young person in crisis.
- Know how to connect a young person with help.
- Better understand trauma, substance use, self-care and the impact of social media and bullying.

Join the more than
2.6 MILLION

*First Aiders who
have chosen to be
the difference in
their community.*

**Register TODAY for a
Mental Health First Aid Class!**
Monday, November 14, 2022 • 9:00am - 5:00pm
Baycare Behavioral Health
7809 Massachusetts Ave. • New Port Richey
SPACE IS LIMITED!!
TO REGISTER: Christine.Parris@baycare.org
727-315-8644

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (**ALGEE**):

- A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- G**ive reassurance and information.
- E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

For more information about the program, please visit [MHFA.org](https://www.mhfa.org)

Suicide Prevention Month **How to Talk to Your Youth About Suicide**

Talking about suicide does not 'plant a seed', have the conversation with your youth and be as direct about the questions as possible. Most of the time if someone is contemplating suicide, asking them directly will actually be a relief and will save their life. One may ask, how can I protect my child from suicide risk? The first step is modeling healthy behavior, this means taking care of your health, and use healthy coping skills when coping with stressors. Teach your youth

empathy, and check in with your youth regularly so you have an open line of communication. Lastly, monitor their mental health by checking in and noticing any changes in their behavior, mood, or appearance. Small changes can be an indicator of mental health issues. If your youth expresses thoughts of wanting to harm themselves or others, or being actively suicidal, you can call 911, 988 (Suicide Crisis Line) or bring them to the closest emergency room. The biggest part of preventing suicide and supporting your youth, is to be open, take any suicidal or homicidal ideation seriously, and never leave a suicidal person alone.



STAND ABOVE THE
INFLUENCE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022
FROM 8:30AM TO 11:30AM**



CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

**DONATIONS GO TO FAMILIES IN
NEED OF HOLIDAY GIFTS!**

Located at Advance Auto Parts
8634 Little Rd in New Port Richey



STAND in
Pasco County



@stand_up_pasco

For more information, email: Eve.Hosley@Baycare.org OR
Makayla.Damato@Baycare.org
Visit our Website: www.empoweredcommunities.org/STAND



Alliance
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Communities**

EMPOWERING TEENS

with

TEEN TALK!



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Teen Talk is a FREE workshop series for teens dedicated to supporting mental health and wellbeing. Participants are encouraged to bring issues to explore, talk about challenges, discuss how to overcome adversity, and feel empowered to make healthy decisions. To kick off the series, planned topics will include dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, parents just don't understand, peer pressure, and how I cope. Teens can stay anonymous if they choose!

**SCAN QR CODE
TO SIGN UP**



THE LINK TO JOIN WILL BE PROVIDED AT
THE END OF THE SIGN UP PROCESS!
TO JOIN BY PHONE DIAL 1-301-715-8592 AND ENTER
MEETING ID: 811 0008 5664
PASSCODE: 742597

EVERY
THURS
VIRTUALLY

4PM-5PM



Presented by the BayCare CHAT Team

Contact Makayla Damato at makayla.damato@baycare.org with questions



ASAP IN THE NEWS



Parnia Roghani, chair of ASAP's RX Committee and the regional coalition Live Tampa Bay, appeared on Tampa Bay's Morning Blend to discuss International Overdose Awareness Day events schedule for 8/31/22 and 9/1/22.



Cesar Rodriguez, AHC Board member and Justin McPadden of the Hope Shot, represented ASAP on Tampa Bay's Morning Blend to discuss the Stronger Together Recovery Walk held on 9/9/22. Both are in long term recovery and were on the event planning committee.

18 FOREVER

by Bonni Snider, MA



The rates of suicide continue to be of concern to Americans. According to the CDC, in 2020, 45,979 people died by suicide, an average of 1 death every 11 minutes. Additionally, 12.2 million adults previously thought about suicide, 3.2 million made a plan and 1.2 million attempted suicide.

In addition, there are alarming rates of suicide among young people of color. To bring awareness to the epidemic among this population, 18 Forever Foundation was founded by Dr. LaTonya Poole. Dr. Poole lost her niece, Ashanti on 10/15/2020, nine days after her 18th birthday. The mission of the foundation is to prevent youth and teen suicide through awareness, proactive education, training, emotional support and intervention. The belief is awareness and education are the first steps to prevention. Unfortunately, recent social injustices and the COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for such organizations. An additional focus of the foundation is to raise awareness of teenage suicide prevention

and empowering youth and teens who have experiences suicidal ideations. Resources and support for individuals and suicide survivors are also available.

On September 10, 18 Forever hosted its second Lunch and Learn. The event consisted of a groups of panelists who shared their respective experiences with suicide and suicide loss. The experiences included a mother who lost her daughter, a motivational speaker who provided words of hope, and a young man who attempted due to the reaction from his family when his disclosed his sexual orientation. I had the privilege of attending and speaking at this event as well. I shared the loss of my grandson and son to suicide and addiction.

It is the hope that through foundations such as 18 Forever and others, the stigma surrounding suicide and suicide loss and its rates can be reduced.



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YOUTH COALITION

STAND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, October 18 – 4:45 to 5:45 pm: STAND General Coalition Meeting on Zoom. This meeting invites youth from all STAND clubs as well as community partners to hear about the great stuff STAND is doing as well as strategically plan for the coalition as a whole.

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 818 9843 4542; **Passcode:** 742597

Thursday, November 3 – 5:30 to 6:30 pm: STAND Club Monthly Meeting at the New Port Richey Recreation Center, 6630 Van Buren St, New Port Richey, FL 34653, Oak Room. Join us as we discuss the STAND initiatives and upcoming volunteer opportunities. Pizza and refreshments provided.

Tuesday, November 15 – 4:45 to 5:45 pm: STAND General Coalition Meeting on Zoom. This meeting invites youth from all STAND clubs as well as community partners to hear about the great stuff STAND is doing as well as strategically plan for the coalition as a whole.

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 818 9843 4542; **Passcode:** 742597

Saturday, November 19: STAND Car wash (See page 11 for details)

Thursday, December 1 – 5:30 to 6:30 pm: STAND Club Monthly Meeting at the New Port Richey Recreation Center, 6630 Van Buren St, New Port Richey, FL 34653, Oak Room. Winter Break Party!

Tuesday, December 20: - NO STAND General Coalition Meeting

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

STAND@empoweredcommunities.org
7809 Massachusetts Ave.
New Port Richey, Florida 34653
www.empoweredcommunities.org

STAND 2022 Priority Issues

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

STAND is on Social Media

STAND is staying connected via Remind App.
Email: Stand@pascoasap.com or text 352-345-0685 to be added to the conversation



STAND in Pasco County
#STANDUpPasco



stand_up_pasco



Stand_up_Pasco



StandupPasco



Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities

STAND Meeting with Gus Bilirakis

The STAND students had the honor being asked by Congressman Gus Bilirakis to speak to them about cyberbullying and social media and how he can address the issue on a policy level. On September 1, the STAND students met and spoke with him at their monthly meeting about what they see in their daily lives, what they feel the main issues are, and what they feel needs to be changed. All the students were very engaged in the conversation and arrived dressed in business casual, just as they voted for at a meeting prior. After the meeting, the STAND students awarded the congressman with a STAND

shirt, saying that he is now an honorary member of STAND. Congressman Bilirakis reported that he learned a lot and believed them to be a wonderful focus group. He also told STAND advisors that he may want to speak with them in the future! Through this, the students were able to make their voices heard and affect real change in their community. This was an amazing opportunity given to the STAND youth, and we the STAND advisors, are so proud of the change they are making in their community through their advocacy and volunteer work.





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STAND PSA Filming

In the past couple months, STAND has been working closely with JL Video to film and develop six Public Service Announcements. The hope with these videos is to show positive messaging, such as prevention of substance use and mental health, stumping out stigma, why it is important to be a good influence, volunteer work, and that youth voices are important. We hope that these messages will empower teens in Pasco County to want to make a difference in their community. JL Video recorded at the Leadership Summit in July and over the course of the past couple months, the youth have participated in three other in person recordings at various

locations to include two different parks and the New Port Richey Library. The biggest filming featured more than 40 students. These recordings not only gave the students volunteer hours, but gave them a chance to get to know each other, hang out and enjoy snacks and pizza, and have fun in between recording scenes! Thankyou to the New Port Richey Library. The youth had an amazing time acting and representing who STAND is and what STAND believes in! We, the STAND youth and advisors, are so excited to see how these PSAs turn out and are so grateful to JL Video and all who have put in such hard work to make these filming days a success!

