



# Alliance for Healthy Communities

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Building a Strong Foundation  
for Continued Growth

2023 **REVIEW** ★★★★★





# Alliance for Healthy Communities

## OUR MISSION

To improve the health in our communities through cross-sector partnerships and programs.

## OUR VISION

We envision safe and healthy populations in all communities we serve.

## WHAT WE DO

Alliance for Healthy Communities (AHC) is a convener, collector, conduit, and catalyst for change. Multi-agency collaboration and coordination is at the heart of AHC. We are a group of community members working toward a common goal: joining skills and resources to address community needs and focus on local issues to produce change. These changes improve overall health and well-being in our rapidly growing county, utilizing evidence-based and data driven environmental strategies, to improve sustainability and outcomes. We aim to improve the relationship between individual members and organizations to reduce barriers, enhance access, and strengthen the community as a whole; thereby creating conditions for all people to enjoy true health and experience physical, mental and social health.



# Our Coalitions 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

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

**Alliance for Healthy Communities (AHC)** was built from the successes of our two coalitions, **Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention (ASAP)** & **STAND Above the Influence**, for sustainability, continued growth, and expansion.



**ASAP** is our coalition that coordinates efforts to reduce county-wide risk factors for addiction, thereby preventing and decreasing substance misuse in a comprehensive and long-term manner that primarily impacts the youth in the community.



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



## OUR APPROACH

Utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework, we assess the needs of the community and account for community readiness. We aim to reduce barriers and create opportunities for high-risk populations by developing plans and putting them into action, building upon success where possible. We deliver evidence based interventions as needed and examine the process and outcomes of interventions.

- Provide Information
- Reduce Barriers and Enhance Access
- Enhance Skills
- Provide Support
- Change Consequences
- Change Physical Design
- Modify Policy





## QUARTER 1 | SUCCESSES

### ■ PSA #EndStigmaASAP

The SEN Committee created a PSA highlighting the need to End Stigma associated with Addiction and Pregnancy. SEN received a grant from AHEC to fund the #EndStigmaASAP Campaign and filmed the PSA with JL Video.

### ■ Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

ASAP's Recovery Committee thanked Pasco County Law Enforcement for saving the lives of those who struggle with addiction by dropping off drinks and snacks at each office.

### ■ Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM)

ASAP Participated in Pasco's Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) with University of South Florida and community partners.

### ■ Health, Wellness and Funfest

ASAP was proud to partner with Premier Community Healthcare and Gulfside Elementary School for this community event.

### ■ Converse with a Nurse

SEN Committee facilitated the Converse with a Nurse series on Wednesdays for the entire quarter.

### ■ Narcan Presentations

Board Member Art Rowand facilitated several Narcan presentations in the community.

### ■ WFLA Todo

Coalition Member George Wilkins represented ASAP on WFLA Todo on overdose prevention and medication safety for our Spanish speaking population.

### ■ WFLA's Bloom

SEN Committee Co-Chair Gabby Flores represented ASAP on WFLA's Bloom.

### ■ Journey to Healing Hearts

ASAP Facilitated Journey to Healing Hearts Virtual Support Group for those that have lost a loved one to addiction.

### ■ CW44-WTOG Tampa Bay's Bayside Show

Coalition Member and STAND Advisor Makayla Damato represented ASAP on CW44-WTOG Tampa Bay's Bayside Show.

### ■ Healthy Pasco Collaborative

ASAP & Pasco Department of Health combined forces for a new ASAP committee titled "Healthy Pasco Collaborative" to address the nutritional and health needs of the county.



## QUARTER 2 | SUCCESSES

### ■ Mental Health Awareness Month

ASAP participated in NAMI Pasco Walk. ASAP formed a team, walked for the cause and facilitated a vendor table at event.

### ■ The Rotary Club of Holiday

Board President Chrissie Parris presented on behalf of ASAP at The Rotary Club of Holiday. Chrissie was presented a check for \$1,000 for the Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship assists with first month of transitional living in a sober environment.

### ■ National Fentanyl Awareness Day

ASAP honored May 9 as National Fentanyl Awareness Day by posting social media content and campaign material.

### ■ Vincent House Pasco

ASAP Coalition Meeting hosted an in person meeting at Vincent House Pasco in April.

### ■ Converse with a Nurse

SEN Committee facilitated the Converse with a Nurse series on Wednesdays for the entire quarter.

### ■ DEA Take Back

ASAP participated in the DEA Take Back with Pasco County Sheriff's Office. The event collected a total of 699.9 pounds of prescription medication.

### ■ Cultural Competence Committee

Cultural Competence Committee held an in-person Town Hall at PHSC with interactive activities for the participants with the theme being "Leading Inclusive Teams" led by Meriel Martinez, Program Director at the Nonprofit Leadership Center. 39 people attended.

### ■ SEN Resource Fair

The Substance Exposed Newborn committee partnered with Healthy Start Coalition to bring all partners together to provide resources to the Pasco County community. This event was hosted at PHSC with sponsorship from Chrysalis Health. 65 professionals attended the event.

### ■ Pasco ASAP's 3rd Annual Opioid Town Hall

Pasco ASAP's 3rd Annual Opioid Town Hall provided a needed event and invited Vendors and Panelist to join together to share resources and view the film "Tipping the Pain Scale" which is a feature documentary film investigating the current systemic failures of how we have dealt with addiction to date. After the viewing a Panelist took to the stage to answer questions and lead discussion on solutions.

### ■ Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship

ASAP expanded the Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship and built out domain for donations. All proceeds go towards supportive sober living for those in need.

### ■ Pedal for Prevention 3rd Annual

In honor of National Prevention Week more than 120 people gathered to ride bikes through Starkey Park, in collaboration with Swamp Mountain Biking Club.

### ■ ASAP in The News

- ASAP Member and The Alliance for Hope Project's Justin McPadden represented ASAP on Bay News 9 to talk about substance misuse and resources.
- Board Member Dr. Eddie Williams represented ASAP and our Pedal for Prevention event on Channel 8 News Daytime and WFIS ABC Action News.
- Board Member Dr. Williams and Coalition Member Dr. Jones represented ASAP on the Morning Blend talk show.







## QUARTER 3 | SUCCESSES

- **Live Tampa Bay's Breaking Down Silos**  
 Board Member Billy Major presented on behalf of ASAP at Live Tampa Bay's Breaking Down Silos webinar..
- **WFLA Media**  
 Board Member Cesar Rodriguez represented ASAP on WFLA Media.
- **Town Hall with Congressman Gus Bilirakis**  
 ASAP Members attended a Town Hall with Congressman Gus Bilirakis to Discuss gaps in behavioral health.
- **Annual STAND Panel at the July Pasco ASAP Meeting**  
 STAND Youth, along with youth from Pasco Hernando State College, spoke on issues that are important to them including vaping and mental health. The in-person meeting was held at the PHSC Porter Campus, and 9 Youth participated on the panel.
- **Stronger Together Recovery Walk - 3rd Annual**  
 The walk was a huge success this year with more than 500 participants, 40 vendors and speakers sharing their journey to recovery. Fun was had by all.
- **United Way of Pasco County**  
 ASAP and STAND members teamed up with United Way of Pasco County and presented to Publix Employees on community initiatives.
- **Pasco County Opioid Task Force**  
 Board President Chrissie Parris, and The Alliance for Hope Project Director Kellie Rodriguez presented at the Pasco County Opioid Task Force on behalf of ASAP.
- **Family Fun Day**  
 ASAP members supported Healthy Start Coalitions Family Fun Day by hosting a table at event.
- **Converse with a Nurse**  
 SEN Committee facilitated the Converse with a Nurse series on Wednesdays for the entire quarter.
- **Premier Community Healthcare luncheon**  
 ASAP members attended and supported Premier Community Healthcare luncheon on behalf of ASAP.
- **Back To School Events**  
 ASAP members hosted several vendor tables at local back to school events.



## QUARTER 4 | SUCCESSES

### ■ The Morning Blend

Board Member Dr. Eddie Williams and PHSC Student Government members represented ASAP on The Morning Blend talk show.

### ■ 13th Annual NOPE Candlelight Vigil

ASAP partnered with PHSC to host this powerful event, with Guest Speaker Greg Swan from Fentanyl Fathers, sharing about his loss of his son and the need to advocate for change and support in all communities. Sponsored by PHSC student government.

### ■ Interactive Townhall for Teens and Parents focused on Alcohol Misuse Prevention

This year the STAND Youth partnered with the Alcohol Initiatives Committee (AIC) for a Townhall event. The event focused on the dangers and misuse of alcohol. There were Law Enforcement guest speakers to discuss with youth and parents in attendance the dangers and risk of underage use and access to alcohol. There were interactive booths set up where the youth could experience what it would be like to get a DUI.

### ■ The Alliance for Hope Project

A one year project in partnership with The Hope Shot kicked off to create an essential initiative for Pasco County residents. The project is funded by a Congressional appropriation and brings prevention and recovery support to people of all ages in Pasco County.

### ■ Annual Brunch

A chance to come together and share about the challenges and successes of the year and look forward, together, at decreasing the overdoses and minimizing stigma and help more people find the path to recovery with keynote speaker Tony Hoffman.

### ■ DEA Take Back

ASAP Partnered with DEA and Pasco Sheriff's office to assist with Drug Take Back Day. Collecting a Total of over 496.1 lbs of expired or unused prescription drugs are off the street.

### ■ Red Ribbon Week

ASAP ran social media content and ads for the largest drug prevention week in America. Red Ribbon Week is a way for communities to unite and take a visible stand against drug use.

### ■ Converse with a Nurse

SEN Committee facilitated the Converse with a Nurse series on Wednesdays for the entire quarter.







# STAND ABOVE THE INFLUENCE

## QUARTER 1 | SUCCESSES

- Visioning 2023 Pizza, Bowling & Games**  
 STAND youth outlined initiatives. They voted for Vaping, Youth Mental Health, Inclusion and Bullying, 30 attendees.
- STAND Youth went to Tallahassee**  
 STAND youth spoke to lawmakers along with 70 others from various prevention coalitions in honor of Advocacy Day at the Capitol. They advocated for mental health parity and the dangers for youth on the over-the-counter sale of Delta 8. 13 attended.

## QUARTER 2 | SUCCESSES

- Pedal for Prevention**  
 STAND Hosted a Table at Pedal for Prevention.
- NEW STAND Meeting begins**  
 STAND started a new community meeting for middle and high school youth in Dade City and the East Side of the county.
- 2nd Annual STAND's Change Begins With Youth Summit**  
 Youth hosted event with the theme of Teen Survival Guide to help build resiliency and skills, helping teens avoid common pitfalls. Hosted by Maddie Horn, STAND president and Liam Moore, STAND vice president. Featuring guest speaker from Teens Against Human Trafficking. 80 attended.
- STAND in The News**  
 STAND president Maddie Horn appeared on the Morning Blend to talk about the Summit.



## QUARTER 3 | SUCCESSES

- **Stronger Together Recovery Walk**  
STAND hosted Table at the Stronger Together Recovery Walk.
- **Annual STAND Panel at the July Pasco ASAP Meeting**  
STAND Youth, along with youth from Pasco Hernando State College, spoke on issues that are important to them including vaping and mental health for teens. Held at the PHSC Porter Campus, 9 Youth on the panel.
- **Back to School Bash**  
Both East and West side STAND Youth gathered at the Main Event in mid-county to have one last hurrah before schools started. 25 Youth attended.
- **STAND's First Teen Art Contest "What Do You Live For?"**  
STAND's first teen art contest to raise awareness for Suicide Prevention. Middle and High School entries. Winners shown below.



## QUARTER 4 | SUCCESSES

- **NOPE Candlelight Vigil**  
STAND hosted Table at the NOPE candlelight Vigil. STAND Youth said the Pledge of Allegiance at event opening.
- **Fall Festival Event**  
STAND hosted Table at the Fall Festival at First United Methodist Church.
- **Trunk or Treat Event**  
STAND hosted Table at the Trunk or Treat event at Gulf Middle School.
- **Alcohol Townhall Event**  
STAND hosted Table at the Alcohol Townhall.
- **Pancake Breakfast Event**  
STAND is Hosting a Pancake Breakfast to raise funds for community service project to fund donation to Helping Children in Need LLC, a non-profit that purchases gifts for Pasco County youth for the holidays.
- **Holiday Party**  
Holiday Party scheduled on the East Side and the West Side to celebrate the year's accomplishments.





## COALITION METRICS

### MEDICATION DISPOSAL

From January through November 2023, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Dade City Police Department, and New Port Richey Police Department collected 748.9 pounds of medication via their permanent pill drop boxes. The DEA Takeback held in April and October collected 1,196 pounds of medication.

### ASAP IN THE MEDIA

We are proud to have been featured on numerous media outlets in 2023. We created a STAND PSA in 2022 and were able to air it in 2023. In partnership with the Pasco Sheriff's Office we created three PSAs on Opioids. We also created a PSA for the SEN committee which is airing now.

- *STAND PSA aired on CW44 - 1.1 Million Views*
- *Opioid PSA aired on WFLA - 2.8 Million Views*
- *Other appearances on WFTS - 4.1 Million Views*

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Pasco ASAP Facebook page reached 101,508 to date. This is up 5.6 percent. We have 3,288 followers.

### DETERRA BAGS

From January to November 2023, we have distributed 4,381 DOSC - Deactivating Opioids for a Safer Community-Kits.

### NARCAN

Along with our community partners, we have distributed 682 Narcan kits at our events.

In Pasco County there were 1,009 overdoses from January to October 2023. Of those, 219 were fatal, giving us a 21.7% fatality rate. Pasco County Sheriff's Office provided this data from their records management system and contains data from partner agencies.

Narcan QR Code Collaboration - We have had 678 scans to date for people requesting Narcan be mailed to them.

### OUTREACH

ASAP, in partnership with YFA and BayCare, tabled 40 community events in 2023. Through these events we were able to disseminate prevention and awareness information to thousands of Pasco County residents.

SEN Knowledge is Power Virtual Series reached more than 100 people in 2023 with weekly virtual presentations focused on substance misuse prevention and safe sleep.

ASAP hosted the following community engagement events:

- *Pedal for Prevention 3rd Annual Reached 120 people*
- *Stronger Together Recovery Walk 3rd Annual Reached 500 people*
- *Opioid Townhall - 100 people*
- *Alcohol Townhall - 50 people*
- *SEN Resource Fair - 65 people*
- *Cultural Competence Townhall - 39 people*

### JDH SCHOLARSHIP

Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship raised more than \$10,000 in donations for 2023. We were able to support 13 people with transitional living scholarships as they begin their journey to long term recovery.





A BIG  
*thank you*  


**TO OUR  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS,  
COALITION  
MEMBERS &  
SPONSORS,  
FOR BEING A  
PART OF OUR  
SUCCESS!**

## A Message from the Alliance for Healthy Communities

Wrapping up the year is a time to celebrate success, take stock of current challenges, and set goals for the coming year. We are incredibly appreciative for the continued funding from BayCare and United Way of Pasco County to sustain our prevention initiatives. Additionally, this year we were awarded a one-year grant to launch a stigma-busting campaign for women who are pregnant or post-partum and struggling with addiction through the Gulfcoast North Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and proudly announced a one-year project, The Alliance for Hope Project (TAFHP), funded by a Congressional Appropriation sponsored by Congressman Gus Bilirakis.

Thank you to our board of directors who continue to work tirelessly on building an infrastructure that convenes partnerships and collaborations making the coalitions a catalyst for community level change. And thank you to all of our coalition members and community supporters, you are making meaningful change happen in Pasco County!

### How To Get Involved

- Monthly General Membership Meetings:  
4th Tuesday January - October 10am- 12pm
- Facebook:  
Pasco County Alliance for Substance  
Addiction Prevention
- Website:  
[www.EmpoweredCommunities.org](http://www.EmpoweredCommunities.org)
- Participate in community events and join  
a task-focused committee.



Alliance  
for **Healthy  
Communities**

AHC THANK YOU!





# Alliance for Healthy Communities

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