On Friday, February 22nd, 2013, the Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium held its Annual Legislative Breakfast. This year’s event highlighted the legal aspects of substance abuse, the high cost of addiction, and an overview of medical marijuana. The event had an excellent turnout with over 100 people in attendance including Erie County Sheriff Timothy Howard, who spoke about substance abuse and the legal system, and Bob Pezzolesi, President and CEO of New York Alcohol Policy Alliance. Assemblywoman Jane Corwin attended the event as well, and was generous enough to share a few words of wisdom regarding the impending medical marijuana bill which is under review in New York State. She expressed her opposition to the bill and urged others who are not in favor to contact their local politicians. We also want to recognize the representatives for Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak, Senator Mark Grisanti, Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, Senator Patrick Gallivan, and Congressman Chris Collins for attending.

Immediately following the Legislative Breakfast, the Consortium held an afternoon training session which focused on the medical marijuana issue currently at the forefront of the prevention and treatment field’s radar. Unfortunately, the medical marijuana bill seems destined to pass unless drastic measures are taken by New York State citizens and their elected officials. The afternoon session was open to all professionals and provided more information and insight into medical marijuana and the pending bill.

Sally Yageric, CPP of the Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, presented during the afternoon session along with Brad Finn, Executive Director for the Onondaga Council and Dr. Robert Whitney, Former Medical Director of Addiction Treatment Services at the Erie County Medical Center and current Public Policy Chair for ECCPASA. Mrs. Yageric shared her knowledge regarding the essential educational messages that community members can carry forth while Brad Finn spoke about some very important issues other states have learned through their experience with medical marijuana. Dr. Whitney incorporated his medical knowledge and experience, informing trainees of the medical options available and of the FDA process of approving drugs as medicine. We want to again thank everyone who was able to attend this wonderful event! Please contact ECCPASA with any questions regarding the day’s materials and any information regarding medical marijuana.

**Legislative Breakfast**

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Scan Our QR Code

Check Us Out

www.eccpasa.org
April is Alcohol Awareness Month and as an affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, we are committed to working diligently to spread the word about all of the ramifications of alcohol abuse and to provide referrals to those in need of assistance. We not only focus on the prevention of alcoholism, but we are constantly focusing on working with individuals, families, communities and professionals to build essential skills and strategies that science has found decreases the likelihood that an individual will become addicted. Staff is busy in the schools and working with coalitions to provide messages that will counteract the constant images promoting alcohol use and abuse.

In addition, educators from our Fetal Alcohol and Drug Education Program, Helen Weinstein and Erica J. Boyce will be featured at the ASAP 14th Annual Conference this May 5-8 at the Adams Mark Hotel. They will provide professionals in the field with the latest research surrounding FASD. Their presentation will include information on how FASD increases the risk for secondary disabilities, which involve the individual in multiple systems such as addiction treatment, justice, mental health and social services.

Also, as we move into the spring season, please consider lacing up those sneakers for the Color Me Rad fun run on June 22, 2013 at Darien Lake. See page 6 more details. We value your support and would appreciate it, if after you read this edition of AwareNews, you “pay it forward” by passing it along to a friend so they too can learn a few things. Have a safe and sunny spring!

Andrea
ECCPASA Calendar of Events

Spring Community Education Offerings 2013
Registration begins at 8:30 am. Classes begin promptly at 9:00 am.
All classes are held at the Harlem Road Community Center
4255 Harlem Rd. ~ Amherst ~ NY ~ 14226
Class cost: $20

• CASAC/CPP/CPS credits available
• Light breakfast served

The courses listed below are part of the training series, “Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Trainings.” They are intended for anyone who is interested in becoming a credentialed Certified Prevention Professional (CPP) or Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS). They are also great for community members, health professionals, teachers or others who would like to learn more about prevention as it pertains to the community.

April 3 - Exploring Ethics
By: Sally Yageric, CPP, ECCPASA Public Educator
Many times those of us who work in substance abuse prevention, treatment, or other human-service careers are put into situations where our beliefs, values, morals and ethics are tested. This training will focus on examining ethics and accepted standards in these types of settings. Participants will identify standards of conduct, set professional goals with the ethical standards in mind, and utilize a method of decision-making for difficult ethical situations.

May 15 – Gambling, Is It a Good Chance To Take?
By: Mary McConell, Ph.D., LCSW-R, Certified Problem Gambling Counselor, Jewish Family Services and Paul Cameron, PreventionFocus
Problem gambling among all age groups has been increasing in recent years. In this training, learn the origins of gambling, how gambling addiction differs from other addictions and the criminal elements of gambling. You will also learn about techniques to prevent problem gambling as well as treatment options for a gambling addiction.

To Register Contact: Shirley Liddle
ECCPASA
(716) 831-2298
Shirley@eccpasa.org
Or visit us online at www.eccpasa.org

TLC Summer Camp
“All The Ways I Can Make A Difference”
JUNE 24 - JULY 3
St. Margaret’s School
1395 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY

More information to come!

Ages: 8 - 13
Price: $75 per child
$125 for two children
For additional pricing please call
Open: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

CALL NOW TO REGISTER
716.831.2298
www.eccpasa.org
robin@eccpasa.org
“Medical Marijuana”

FACT: Residents of states with medical marijuana had marijuana abuse/dependence rates almost twice as high as states without such laws. - Drug and Alcohol Dependence

FACT: A study of over 3,000 medical marijuana users in California found that the overwhelming majority (87.9%) of those asked about the details of their marijuana use had initially tried it before the age of nineteen. - Harm Reduction Journal

FACT: Medical Marijuana increases DWI: A 2009 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report found that more people are driving on weekend nights under the influence of marijuana (8.3%) than alcohol (2.2%).

FACT: Medical marijuana is being sold illegally. Medical marijuana card holders are dealing the marijuana to non-card holders and residents in states where the drug is not legal.

FACT: Medical marijuana dispensaries in several states are selling more than just marijuana. Many dispensaries around the country have been caught illegally dealing cocaine, heroin and even weapons such as rifles.

FACT: Medical marijuana laws are confusing youth. Young people no longer see marijuana as an illegal drug with harmful effects, but rather as medicine used to “fix” any ailment.

FACT: Medical Marijuana is easily diverted to youth. A recent Colorado study shows that 73.8% of youth from adolescent drug treatment programs in the Denver area reported using medical marijuana that had been recommended for someone else.

FACT: The THC levels (the active ingredient in marijuana) in medical marijuana are MUCH higher than marijuana sold on the street. This creates a stronger, more intense high.

FACT: Under proposed legislation, mental illness including anti-social personality disorder, depression and other life threatening mental disorders are classified as serious conditions and “appropriate” diagnoses for medical marijuana - even given that the use of marijuana can exacerbate or contribute to mental illnesses!
"All medications, particularly those containing controlled substances, should become available only after having satisfied the rigorous criteria of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process. That process has been carefully constructed over the past century to protect patient health and safety. Medical marijuana legislation violates this rigorous process."

- David G. Evans, Esq., Executive Director, Drug Free Schools Coalition

### WARNING

Side Effects Of Medical Marijuana Use Can Include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Side Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ataxia</td>
<td>Lower I.Q.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amotivational Syndrome</td>
<td>Anxiety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apathy</td>
<td>Academic Underachievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Unemployment</td>
<td>Phobias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lethargy</td>
<td>Asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distortion of Time and Space</td>
<td>Mental Confusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Problems</td>
<td>Cognitive Problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unusual Thoughts or Behaviors</td>
<td>Paranoid Reaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>Insomnia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reliance on Welfare Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Dysfunction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anger and Rage</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychosis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Impotency</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hallucinations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dizziness</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of Coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abdominal Pain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dependency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Withdrawal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      | Clinical Depression   |
|                      | Addiction             |
|                      | Emotional Liability   |
|                      | Schizophrenia         |
|                      | Cancer                |
|                      | Low Job Performance   |
|                      | DWI                   |
|                      | Rise in Medicaid Costs|
|                      | Lapses in Concentration|
|                      | Impairment of Judgment|
|                      | Rapid Heartbeat       |
|                      | Nausea                |
The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA) is a charity sponsor of the Color Me Rad, 5K Fun Run that will be held on June 22, 2013 at Darien Lake.

As one of the charity sponsors, ECCPASA will receive a portion of your registration fee as a donation. We will only receive the donation IF you register using the promotion code BUFFALO.

Color Me Rad is a “fun run” for all ages and athletic abilities. You do not need to be a runner to participate. The race is not timed and is done just for fun!

All ages are invited to participate! It is a great activity to do as a family.

For more information you can visit ColorMeRad.com or contact Shirley at ECCPASA at 716.831.2298 or Shirley@eccpasa.org.
April is Alcohol Awareness Month. It was founded by and has been sponsored by The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) since 1987. The month of April is dedicated to increasing public awareness and understanding aimed at reducing the stigma that too often prevents individuals and families from seeking help.

Alcohol addiction is a disease. The profile of the disease includes signs and symptoms, predictability, certain outcomes, and specific treatment protocols – its progress is not random but follows a fairly consistent course. Without intervention these patterns become full-blown addictions. The disease not only affects the addicted person, but wreaks havoc on one’s entire family. Alcoholism in a family is harmful to the entire unit. It is especially difficult on the children. Children with alcoholic parents are often confused, hurt, and feel alone in the struggle.

While alcoholism is a difficult disease, it is not hopeless. In fact, many people recover from their addiction each year. There is a lot of help for those addicted and their families right here in our very own community. For more information or resources on alcoholism and recovery contact ECCPASA at 716.831.2298 or at eccpasa@eccpasa.org. ECCPASA is also an affiliate of National Association of Children of Alcoholics, which provides wonderful information to children and families about addiction. Visit their website at www.nacoa.org.

Below is an image from The National Council on Children of Alcoholics. It is very telling of how an adolescent often feels when they have an addicted parent. The child never knows “which parent” they will wake up to, or come home from school to. “Will he be my sober, caring, father? Or will he be too drunk to care?”

I have two dads
The drunk one and the sober one.
Support ECCPASA

As we continue to serve the community, please become an official “supporter” of our mission!

Your tax deductible contribution can be made at any time of the year:

☐ $ 10.00  ☐ $ 50.00  ☐ $100.00
☐ $ 25.00  ☐ $ 75.00  ☐ Other $___________________

Name:__________________________________________

Address:________________________________________

Phone:__________________________________________

Email:__________________________________________

Thank you for supporting the ECCPASA community efforts!

Please mail your tax deductible contribution to: ECCPASA, 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14216