Red Ribbon Campaign Activities

ECCPASA staff has participated in various Red Ribbon Campaign activities around Erie County. Red Ribbon Week was celebrated from October 23rd through October 31st. The purpose of this national campaign is to provide drug education, advocacy and resources to youth.

Several staff members visited Dodge Elementary School in Williamsville to facilitate Red Ribbon activities for the students. Prevention educators visited grades kindergarten through fourth to spread important messages about self-esteem, expressing and dealing with feelings, friendship, and the importance of good decision making. The Dodge students were a fantastic audience and ECCPASA was happy to be able to partner with them!

Sally Yageric, Prevention Educator and Parent Program Coordinator, also partnered with our Px21 colleagues; West Side Community Services and WNY United Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, on a community-based Red Ribbon event. Participants gathered together on October 29th to celebrate Red Ribbon by “Taking a Stand” against alcohol and other drugs. Over one hundred students participated in the rally. The students enjoyed pizza and other refreshments provided to them. Parents were also welcomed to the community center where there were informational materials on display and prevention educators available to answer any questions they may have had regarding substance use and abuse.

We look forward to another successful Red Ribbon Campaign next year!
Letter from the Executive Director

Andrea J. Wanat, MA, CPP

As the mother of three sons ranging in age from eight to almost sixteen, my heart breaks for the family of Nolan Burch, the local teenager who tragically lost his life at the young age of eighteen in a “hazing-related incident.” Of course we may never know what exactly happened to this young man, but we do know that alcohol and the pressure to be a part of a group were factors. So, what can we do? I believe we need to reach out to our youth in many ways--through educational programs and interventions, but most importantly through the examples we can set as parents and leaders in the community.

As the holiday season approaches, please remember to celebrate safely! Before a holiday party, designate a sober driver, or choose an alcohol-free option. Talk to your children and let them know that you don’t have to drink to have a good time. More importantly, let them see you celebrate without alcohol or other drugs. Also, talk to your children about how they will deal when faced with a tough situation of feeling pressured to use mind altering substances. Let them practice their response with you. There are so many things we take for granted. Please don’t take for granted the fact that you can and DO have the power to influence our youth.

The ECCPASA Staff and Board wish you a Happy Holiday season. Stay safe and stay warm!

Andrea

Pill Pod™

It’s scary to think about, but most often teens who abuse prescription medications take the pills from family members’ homes. Keep children and teens safe by securing your medications with this Pill Pod™. It can hold up to eight medication bottles and fits easily into your medicine cabinet.


Pill Pod™ is only $19.95. Be sure to use promo code ECCPASA to receive a 10% discount!

Resources and Contacts:

- Adult Children of Alcoholics  -  c/o ECCPASA 716.831.2298
- Al-Anon & Alateen  -  716.856.2520 www.aiswny.org
- Alcoholics Anonymous  -  716.853.0388 www.aa.org
- Crisis Services  -  716.834.3131 www.crisisservices.org Kids Helpline  -  716.834.1144
- Erie County Sheriff’s Office Underage Drinking Hotline  -  1.800.851.1932
- Gamblers Anonymous & Gam-Anon  -  716.879.0555 www.gamblersanonymous.org
- Nar-Anon  -  716.875.0548 www.nar-anon.org
- Narcotics Anonymous  -  716.878.2316 www.na.org
- National Association for Children of Alcoholics  -  www.nacoa.org
- Save Our Selves  -  Non-religious support for twelve-step recovery www.cfiwest.org/sos/index.htm
- Western New York 211 Health and Human Services  -  211 www.211wny.org
ECCPASA Calendar of Events

Winter 2015 Community Education Trainings

Registration will begin at 8:30 am. Training will begin promptly at 9:00 am.
Training held at the Harlem Road Community Center
4255 Harlem Rd. ~ Amherst ~ NY ~ 14226
CASAC/CPP/CPS credits upon approval

**SPECIAL FULL-DAY EVENT:**
February 25th, 2015 - Opiate Crisis
By: Damon Berryman, M.Ed.
9:00 am - 4:00 pm (lunch on your own)
Class cost: $60

Western New York has been faced with an opiate crisis! This full-day training on opiate addiction will help attendees understand this epidemic and delve further into the issues of prescription pain killers and heroin. Mr. Damon Berryman, from Albany, NY is a professional trainer and counselor with over twenty years of experience in the addiction field. He will discuss the opioid addiction epidemic; examining the dangerous addiction crisis while discussing addictions to opioid medications such as painkillers. He will also talk about the transition into heroin addiction, as well as addiction to other prescription pills including Benzodiazepines – an “unnamed addiction culprit.” The training will also cover medical assisted therapies including Suboxone and Methadone.

March 11th, 2015 - Marijuana Today - What You Want and Need to Know About the Ever-Changing Marijuana Laws
By: Megan Kunecki, Health Educator and Communications Coordinator at ECCPASA and Sally Yageric, Parent Programs Coordinator at ECCPASA
9:00 am - 12 noon
Class cost: $25

Marijuana is the leading illicit drug used by adults and adolescents today. This training will briefly explore the ever-changing marijuana landscape in our country. Prevention educators will examine the new medical marijuana law in New York State as well as the current laws around the country. This training will also provide an overview of both medical and recreational use marijuana. New methods of marijuana use will also be discussed including dabbing and the continuing use of synthetic marijuana. It will also look at the new way in which marijuana is being advertised, comparing it to Big Tobacco. Finally, new study findings will be shared that are coming out in light of marijuana legalization.

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

Then and Now:
A Documentary on Addiction Marketing

A new documentary, Then and Now: Industry Playbooks and Addiction Marketing, examines the correlation between marketing strategies of “Big Tobacco” then and “Big Marijuana” now. Three parallel marketing tactics are revealed in this presentation. The tobacco and the marijuana industries alike have promoted the health benefits of each product, have enormous marketing budgets, and are responsible for targeting youthful customers; branding them as “lifelong customers.”

The material presented in Then and Now: Industry Playbooks and Addiction Marketing was educational and very well put together. At the end of the film, the narrator asks the audience to think about “What will the outcomes of massive public use be?” With further education on the true profiteers on or after the legalization of marijuana, hopes are high that society grasps the concept that there are better things ahead than any we leave behind; we should not want to set a trend that will be laughed at by generations to come.

This DVD will be available in our video lending library. If you wish to borrow it please contact our office. Our prevention educators also provide media and advertising trainings. If interested, you can contact our office at 716-831-2298 or by email at eccpasa@eccpasa.org.
ECCPASA held its Annual Meeting this year on Wednesday, October 8th at Buffalo’s waterfront restaurant, Templeton Landing. We celebrated our 66th year in service. There was an amazing turn-out and ECCPASA would like to thank all of our friends, supporters, and colleagues for joining us!

Keynote Speaker, Frances M. Harding, Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) provided a wonderful speech informing and updating attendees about all the new and important happenings at SAMHSA in Washington D.C. She also provided tips for success in the ever-changing behavioral health field. We were honored that she came to Buffalo to be part of our celebration.

ECCPASA also presented several awards: the Board Recognition Award, the Community Partnership Award, and the William C. MacVicar Memorial Award.

The Board Recognition Award was presented to two long-term board members who will conclude their term at the end of 2014. Mr. Gerald Erion served as Board President, co-chair of the By-Laws committee, a member of the Strategic Planning Group, an active member of the Personnel Committee and Executive Committee, and is the current Nominating Committee Chair. Mr. John Priebe is currently serving his second term as Treasurer of the ECCPASA Board of Directors. He concurrently serves as Chair of the Program Committee and has assisted the agency in the strategic planning process, served as co-chair of the By-Laws committee and is active on the Public Policy, Personnel, Nominating and Executive Committees. They’ve both demonstrated great leadership skills and dedication while serving on various committees over their 10-year tenure on ECCPASA’s Board of Directors.

The Community Partnership Award was received by Mr. Paul Crowley, Director of Student Affairs and Support Services at St. Mary’s School for the Deaf. He received this award due to his outstanding efforts to support the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). His tireless effort on behalf of all of the WNY families in need has been a great asset to the SFP. Paul even ensured that ECCPASA had adequate space for our 2014 Tomorrow’s Leaders Summer Camp.

Erie County Legislator Lynne Dixon was awarded The William C. MacVicar Memorial Award for her dedication, advocacy, and support of the substance abuse prevention field. Legislator Dixon was instrumental in the recent passage of Social Host legislation in Erie County in which she worked diligently with ECCPASA staff and the public policy committee.

Two dedicated ECCPASA employees were also recognized at the Annual Meeting for their many years of service to the agency. Mrs. Sally Yageric was recognized for her hard work in areas including educating the community and parents about new and current trends in substance abuse. This year marked Mrs. Yageric’s 30th year at ECCPASA. Mrs. Shirley Liddle was also recognized for her 20 years of service as the Administrative Assistant to the agency. Congratulations!

ECCPASA would like to once-again thank our speaker, Frances M. Harding, along with our award recipients, all our fellow colleagues, and supporters for joining us this year and helping to make 2014 a great year!
Various studies have been coming out of states that have now had medical marijuana legislation for a period of time. The results aren’t good. Specifically in Colorado, a state where both medical marijuana and marijuana for recreational use is legal, support is diminishing. A recent poll (September 2014) found the support for legalization in Colorado has greatly decreased (about 7%). Polls in other states such as Alaska are also seeing decreasing support for the drug. Americans are both concerned over how the states are handling it and also finding that “revenue projections were grossly overestimated.” Now that the public has seen an increase in traffic accidents and other negative health and safety consequences, voters are second-guessing marijuana laws.

Below are some shocking findings to come out of The Legalization of Marijuana In Colorado: The Impact report. This report was published in August 2014 by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

**Medical Marijuana: What New Research is Finding**

Traffic fatalities involving operators testing positive for marijuana have increased 100% from 2007 to 2012.

Youth use of marijuana in Colorado is 39% higher than the national average.

Total number of suspensions and expulsions for marijuana-related offenses among students in Colorado has significantly increased.

There was a 20% increase in college-age monthly marijuana use in the three years after medical marijuana was commercialized (2009).

There was a 36% increase in adults monthly marijuana use in the three years after medical marijuana was commercialized (2009).

Emergency room visits and hospitalizations have greatly increased since marijuana legalization. From 2011 to 2013 marijuana-related ER visits increased 57%. Hospitalizations increased 82% from 2008 to 2013.

Marijuana-related exposure increased 268% in young children (ages 0-5 years!)

Overall Crime in Denver increased 6.7% from the first six months of 2013 to the first six months of 2014

- Crimes against persons increased 18.1%
- Crimes against society have increased 22.8%
- All other offenses have increased 114.9%

**Sources:** Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, The Washington Post, Suffolk University/USA Today
Welcome Newer Board Members

**Kathleen Castillo**
Mrs. Castillo is the Director of Theological Field Education and a Social Worker at Christ the King Seminary. She also brings an abundance of experience to our public policy committee and we are excited to have her on board!

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**Rosemarie Goi**
Ms. Goi has a long standing history with the Council as she is both a previous employee and has also spent some time volunteering with ECCPASA. Ms. Goi was previously the Director of Personnel and also served as board president prior to the agency’s merger in 1997.

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**Renee Harns**
Ms. Harns is a Credentialed Substance Abuse Counselor at the Erie County Medical Center. She was highly recommended by one of our current board members and we look forward to her enthusiasm and knowledge on upcoming endeavors.

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**Bonnie Wallace**
Mrs. Wallace is an Executive at Wells Fargo. She brings a vast array of expertise to the board. She chose to join the Board of Directors as a mother of two and it is her passion to work with ECCPASA to continue to prevent substance abuse in youth and teens. Mrs. Wallace is also serving as the new Fundraising Committee Chair.

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Welcome New Members!
Under contract with the Erie County Department of Mental Health. Funded by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, school districts and municipalities throughout Erie County, individuals, corporations and community service organizations. Member agency of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

**ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, INC.**

The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse will deliver research driven education, prevention, intervention programs and services to promote and support the health and wellness of individuals, families and communities by focusing on solutions to alcohol and other drug misuse, addiction and unhealthy behaviors.

ECCPASA will provide leadership to fight the stigma associated with addiction through public education, policy awareness, liaison with health professionals and recovering communities, by providing objective information, referral, and linkages to those in need.

**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
- $ 25.00
- $ 50.00
- $ 75.00
- $100.00
- 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

Under contract with the Erie County Department of Mental Health. Funded by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, school districts and municipalities throughout Erie County, individuals, corporations and community service organizations. Member agency of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.