Law Sign Campaign Proves Successful!

Maybe you’ve noticed new decorations on the lawns of some houses and businesses while driving around Lancaster and Depew lately. A sign that boasts, “Alcohol and Kids Don’t Mix” perhaps?

These signs are part of a campaign promoting awareness and parent responsibility with regards to underage drinking. The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse has partnered with the Lancaster-Depew Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition to raise awareness about the dangers of underage drinking, especially around prom and graduation season to prevent or stop underage drinking.

So far, the campaign has received an astronomical amount of support from the school districts and residents. The police departments have also taken it upon themselves to mail out letters to parents in the school districts, as well as other residents and business owners, notifying them of the increased enforcement patrols during the summer months. Our law enforcement partners are also encouraging residents to report any underage drinking parties they may see or suspect.

In addition to the lawn sign campaign, the Lancaster and Depew coalition has also held two alcohol-free events at local parks called “Rock the Village,” in which local bands play for free. These fun concerts have been quite a success and very well attended.

The lawn campaign is currently on hiatus. It will resume again in October, just in time for Red Ribbon Week and will be available through the holiday season. For more information contact Sally at 831-2298 ext. 24 or at sally@eccpasa.org.

ECCPASA is funding this campaign with the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant, which we’ve received from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Along with the lawn sign campaign, the grant also funds increased police patrols in the Lancaster-Depew area around prom and graduation season to prevent or stop underage drinking.
As an affiliate of the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, ECCPASA strives to keep the Erie County community up to date on substance abuse trends and also to become involved in local efforts related to public policy. Since September is "National Recovery Month," the Council was designated the local partner to hold the "Health and Recovery Rally" in observance of National Recovery Month and to celebrate National FASD Awareness Day. Take note of the "Save the Date" announcement on page 6. In this issue we highlight a new project undertaken with the Lancaster-Depew Substance Abuse Coalition. The focus of the Coalition is to reduce underage drinking in the community—and what great efforts are being made! See the cover page for more details! We also introduce our new staff member and inform you about some current trends that have been "popping up" in the news. The "center spread" is dedicated to our summer program staff and attendees of the "Tomorrow's Leaders Camp." An educational, fun and exciting time was had by both staff and youth campers.

The ECCPASA Board of Directors and staff want to thank the several supporters of our Tomorrow's Leaders Camp. Without assistance and dedication from local partners, our work would not be possible. Hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and this edition of AwareNews. Please make sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming Annual Meeting to be held at Templeton Landing on Thursday, October 20, 2011!

Andrea
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New Staff:

Erica J. Boyce, MCJ has recently joined the ECCPASA staff as a Prevention Educator. She will be working part-time as an educator in the FADE program and the rest of her time will be spent implementing environmental strategies including Px20 initiatives. Ms. Boyce has provided substance abuse prevention to communities in Colorado for over ten years and has recently moved back to the WNY area. Her work in Colorado entailed building community capacity to aid in the planning of appropriate prevention strategies, as well as implementing and evaluating effective substance abuse prevention programs, policies and practices. Her areas of concentration include Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and female-specific substance abuse issues. She has also conducted several presentations at state and national prevention conferences. Welcome Erica!

ECCPASA Calendar of Events

Fall Community Education Offerings 2011
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
Classes cost $15 each

October 12th – Data - Who Needs it Anyways?
By Erica J. Boyce, MCJ, ECCPASA, Public Educator
Everyone can benefit from evaluation! It helps inform staff if they are achieving their intended goals for their students, clients, or program participants. This workshop will discuss evaluation and the related benefits for organizations and schools. A basic overview of evaluation will be presented including definitions of key terms, types of evaluation, and methods for implementation. Participants will also learn how to develop a program/service logic model and the associated steps for translating it into an evaluation plan.

November 9th - Binge Drinking
By Megan Kunecki, ECCPASA, Public Educator
Binge drinking is extremely dangerous and potentially fatal. So why do so many teens and young adults do it? Learn the social, emotional and physical consequences of binge drinking and how it affects young people now…as well as in the future.

December 7th – Drugs, Sex and Teens: How Teen Drug and Alcohol Use Impacts Teen Pregnancy and STD Rates
By Shari Curry, Family Planning Department of Kaleida Health, Community Educator
Teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is an ever common problem. Join us to hear about teen drug and alcohol use and how it affects the rates of teen pregnancy and the contraction of many STDs. Ms. Curry will provide background information on all STDs, including Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis since these diseases are currently on the rise here in Western New York. She will also speak about teen pregnancy and prevention methods.

To Register Contact: Shirley Liddle
ECCPASA
1625 Hertel Ave. Buffalo, NY 14216
Shirley@eccpasa.org
Or visit us online at www.eccpasa.org
ECCPASA’s “Tomorrow’s Leaders Camp” (TLC), a two-week summer camp, was once again a huge success! TLC 2011 was filled with great staff and even more amazing campers. Our camp family was a diverse, energetic, witty and intelligent bunch! The campers enjoyed carefully planned presentations, activities and field trips focusing on the theme of Diversity, Tolerance and Acceptance.

The campers received a presentation by Ms. Venita Evans, who spoke about bullying and the lasting impacts it has on individuals. They also enjoyed a puppet show by “Kids on the Block” from the Museum of Disability. The puppet show promotes disability awareness to elementary-aged children by explaining physical and mental challenges and opening up the lines of communication between youngsters and those who have disabilities. TLC campers also heard from Pete Hill from Native American Community Services (NACS). He educated the campers about the Native American culture and the significance of being Native American.

Besides the lectures, our campers had plenty of opportunity to get up and move throughout their two weeks with us! TLC welcomed Mrs. Jayme Smith, who taught the kids how to Zumba and Ms. Eilis Rochez-McKenna, of the Rochez Irish Dance Academy, who took us through the steps of Irish Dance. The kids enjoyed both, and it’s safe to say that some of our campers have got some rhythm!

Back by popular demand were water games! Campers took part in activities such as: “There’s a Hole in the Bucket,” “Pop Bottle Relay,” and a water balloon toss. In true TLC fashion, the campers found every way possible to completely soak themselves, staff and fellow campers!

We also got a little creative this year. The kids took part in many art activities as well as a Junk Jam. The Junk Jam consisted of campers and staff receiving pieces of recycled material ranging from empty aluminum cans,
plastic water bottles, and large plastic containers to use as instruments and generated an instant band. The Junk Jam was a fun, earsplitting experience!

TLC took two field trips this year: one to the Buffalo Zoo and the other to Delaware Park. Campers spent an entire day at the zoo watching the animals, exploring the Zoo’s new rainforest exhibit and enjoying all the hands-on activities the zoo has to offer. At Delaware Park, campers buddied up to create “Nature Art.” They were instructed to create an art piece with only pieces of nature found on the ground. They were able to use sticks, leaves, moss, grass, flowers, bark, coal, mud and anything else they found. It was inspiring to see their creative minds at work! After crafting such elaborate art pieces, campers enjoyed a picnic lunch at the park.

The impending last day of camp was bittersweet. We were sad to part with the campers after two weeks of camp fun and bonding, but the activities planned for the last day and the smiles on their faces more than made it worthwhile. TLC staff members provided a wonderful cook-out lunch and carnival for the kids to enjoy. There were Snow Cones, popcorn, carnival games, prizes, face painting and balloon animals filling our parking lot! Camp wrapped up with a talent show put on by the campers and a graduation ceremony to follow. We had a great time with our TLC campers and look forward to doing it again next summer!

We couldn’t have made the camp as successful as it was without our parent and board member volunteers, our speakers, and sponsors. We would like to give a special thank you to our sponsors who provided great carnival prizes, water, and well-needed snacks for our hungry campers! Sponsors included: Tops, Wegmans, Andersons, Mighty Taco, Crystal Rock Water, the YES (Youth Engaged in Service) Volunteer Program of Amherst, and the Eastern Hills Mall.
What’s Happening In the News

- There is a new drug coming out of Southeast Asia and gaining popularity here in America. The drug, called Kratom, comes from a leaf and is usually dried, similar to cannabis, and then made into a powder of oily resin. Kratom can be ingested through a tea-like preparation, placed in capsules for oral ingestion or smoked. The high from Kratom can last two to three hours depending on the dose. Kratom is a legal substance and is sold as a dietary supplement. Kratom can be purchased easily, either online or at a head shop. Beware; there are no easily identifiable symptoms of Kratom intoxication.

- Once legal, drugs Spice and bath salts have been banned! The government is making the sale of Spice illegal beginning in August. Shops have until December 24th to clear their shelves of the soon-to-be illegal substances or they risk facing a punishment similar to that of those found in possession of cocaine. Unfortunately, bath salts are not being banned on a national level. However they have just been made illegal in New York State.

- The “Good Samaritan” Law, which was just passed in late July, seeks to encourage people to call 911 in the event of a suspected alcohol or drug overdose. Since most drug overdoses occur in a home where others are present, New York State has decided to pass a law encouraging those who witness an overdose to immediately contact 911 without fear of repercussion. Oftentimes lives could be saved if emergency responders are contacted in a timely manner. Unfortunately this doesn’t always happen because those involved often hesitate to report a drug overdose for fear of police arrest or prosecution for drug possession.

- A new plan was unveiled today by the FDA in an effort to decrease cigarette smoking. They have mandated that all cigarette packs come with a graphic warning, stressing the dangers of smoking. The FDA is hoping these disturbing images and words will help prevent children from smoking, encourage adults who do to quit, and ensure every American understands the dangers of smoking.

Join the Voices for Recovery: Recovery Benefits EVERYONE

Join the Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse for our Health and Recovery Rally

in honor of National Recovery Month and National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day

**What:** An event for those in recovery, those who struggle with addition or know someone who struggles with addiction, those who want to learn more about health, recovery, and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

**Where:** True Bethel Baptist Church, 907 East Ferry St., Buffalo, NY 14211

**When:** Saturday, September 10th, 9:30-11:30 am

**Topics Covered:** What’s happening locally, personal stories of recovery, and words of inspiration from True Bethel Ministry. Special guest speaker, Dr. Luther Robinson from Women and Children’s Hospital will also speak on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. A breakfast buffet will be provided.

**Sponsored By:** [Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse], [SAMHSA], [True Bethel Baptist Church], [ONCADD], [March of Dimes]
Reconnecting Youth Students Take Part in Poster Contest

The students of ECCPASA’s Reconnecting Youth Program took part in a friendly competition creating posters to promote April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Each class was able to choose a topic as it pertained to Alcohol Awareness. All of the classes did an amazing job and received homemade brownies for their efforts. The winning class which chose Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as its topic, along with the second place class, which chose to focus on the effects alcohol has on the body, received a pizza party!

Cheers Not Fears

Cheers Not Fears, A Toast to Healthy Babies was held this past May by co-sponsors ECCPASA and Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network. The event, which was funded by a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council of New York State, provided a fun, alcohol-free afternoon for pregnant and parenting women.

Sixty-five women came out to the Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross, which was transformed into a Hawaiian luau. Students from the WNY School of Bartending donated their services by creating delicious and nutritious non-alcoholic cocktails.

The women were encouraged to sample each of the drinks and to vote for their favorite. Some of the most popular cocktails included the Blueberry Mint Mojito, Tropical Strawberry Lemonade, and the most popular: Peach Bellini!

Debbie Pacer, the mother of a child with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), also spoke to the women about the lifelong challenges her daughter must face as a result of alcohol consumption during that mother’s pregnancy. In addition to her talk, Ms. Pacer, along with Helen Weinstein, ECCPASA’s Fetal Alcohol Program Coordinator, facilitated a discussion about FAS and responded to the many questions that were asked by the event’s participants.

Cheers Not Fears was a great success and ECCPASA hopes to host a similar event again next year!
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.

Mission Statement: Consistent with its National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence heritage, the Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse will provide leadership to fight the stigma associated with chemical dependency through public and policy education, liaison with the professional and recovering communities and objective information, referral and linkage for those in need. We will provide state-of-the-art prevention and intervention programs to families, schools, faith-based institutions, health and social service agencies, the criminal justice system and interested communities that meet their needs and sustain the chemical dependency focus of the agency.

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