

COALITION CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 2008



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SAHS Dance Tickets include PBT Agreement

It is an unfortunate fact that students use alcohol during school hours and at school-sponsored events. For this reason, St. Johns County School District outlines its policy regarding the use of portable breath tests (PBT) to determine whether or not a student is intoxicated.

A PBT is a device used to measure blood alcohol content. While all of the county's school resource deputies are supplied with PBT's, the 2007-2008 Student Code of Conduct provides for only limited use. It states:

Section 2.4: Portable Breath Test

A Youth Resource Deputy can utilize an approved PBT at the request of the School District in cases involving suspected use or possession of alcohol by a student. The request must be made by a school administrator and testing by law enforcement is with the voluntary consent of the student in the school administrators' presence. The YRD and/or school administrator must attempt to notify the parent/guardian if a PBT is to be administered. If a student refuses to comply with the school request for the PBT testing, the testing will not take place.

St. Augustine High School Principal Tyrone Ramsey along with School Resource Deputy Shawn Tice work closely to keep St. Augustine students striving toward success. From their experiences in the school system, one as an experienced educator, the other a committed law enforcement officer, each had seen underage drinking firsthand, and knew it was time to try something new.

As a result, SAHS developed an innovative,



school policy for school-sponsored dances which received School Board endorsement. This new policy meant that with the purchase of a dance ticket the purchaser automatically consented

to a PBT if requested at the event by a school administrator. The policy is printed on every ticket to ensure all students are aware of the policy.

In January, the school held a disco-themed dance where the policy was given a test run. Students were told about the policy and as a result, there were no known incidents at the event. St. Augustine High is planning on using the policy on prom tickets as well.

Following the innovative lead of St. Augustine High administrators, other high schools throughout the county are considering similar policies.

Kudos to Mr. Ramsey and Deputy Tice for creating another tool to keep kids safe by helping to keep them alcohol free!



St. Johns County Sheriff's School Resource Deputy Supervisor SGT Rob Gober, III contributed to this report.

Pacetti Bay Youth Advocacy Council Up and Running!

With this being an inaugural year at Pacetti that underage drinking and tobacco use isn't a Bay Middle School, faculty and students both are excited about being part of many "firsts" for the school. One "first" is the inaugural Youth Advocacy Council (YAC) co-sponsored by PACT Prevention Coalition and the St. Johns County Health Department.

During January, students have had the opportunity to learn what advocacy means and what leadership skills are developed when they participate in the activities of advocacy. In this first year, the Council will work on discouraging underage drinking and tobacco use among their peers.

So far, the Council has elected two officers who show much promise in leadership talent. Sandlin Stavinoha is Pacetti Bay's first ever YAC chairperson and Kayla Ferland will be the recorder for this first Council. Mr. Ballard and Mr. Ryan are the co-sponsors for the Youth Advocacy Council. Nancy Birchall from the St. Johns County Health Department is the liaison and support between the school and the Coalition.

YAC members would like their peers to know



are NOT cool. The Council meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month after school at 3:45 PM in Mr. Ballard's room. The other Youth Advocacy Council, being held at Fruit Cove Middle School, began meeting at the beginning of February. Ms. Fillippo is the Council Sponsor and Lisa Loehnert, Coalition Assistant, provides sponsor support and is the liaison between Fruit Cove Middle School and the Coalition. The Fruit Cove Council will be electing officers on Thursday, February 21st.

As the school year continues, YAC is striving to become stronger in number so that our young advocates can send a strong message to their peers that underage drinking and tobacco use

are NOT cool.



Pacetti Bay
Middle School





Flagler College Students to Participate in Focus Groups

The Substance Abuse Response Guide team is in the final stages of its assessment of the community. On Wednesday, February 20th, Pat Gay and Julia Kelly will be conducting a focus group with Flagler College students to gather qualitative data on their attitudes and behaviors regarding alcohol use. Dean of Students Dan Stewart has been instrumental in recruiting students for this project. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office has produced a detailed report of DUI arrests for 2007 that includes age of the individual, date and type of charge. This report has helped the committee better determine the target population for the SARG plans. The final task in the Problem Assessment Committee's responsibilities is to use all collected data to create a logic model to be used in the development of SARG project's strategic plan. The Resource Assessment Committee will begin meeting in March.

NATIONAL COALITION ACADEMY



Fort Indiantown Gap, PA: June & September Sessions Still Available!

Last month the Chronicle brought information to readers about the National Coalition Academy being offered by the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute (CADCA) and there are still openings. **There is no charge for tuition, or for lodging or meals** during the three week-long, on-site classroom sessions at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA.

Academy Participants Will Learn How to:

- Create and maintain partnerships
- Assess community needs and resources
- Increase participation and membership
- Build leadership
- Improve organization management and development
- Develop strategic action plans
- Develop interventions
- Advocate for change
- Influence policy development
- Write grant applications for funding
- Evaluate initiatives
- Sustain projects and initiatives
- By the end of the training, the coalition will have developed a community assessment, logic model, action plan, intervention, evaluation plan, and a sustainability plan

PACT will pay for all travel related expenses including airfare and mileage. Although the first session is closed, there is still room in Sessions 2 and 3.

Cohort 9 Dates for Classroom Sessions

Session 1: March 24-28, 2008 (Travel March 23 & 29)—CLOSED

Session 2: June 23-27, 2008 (Travel June 22 & 28)—1 opening

Session 3: September 22-26, 2008 (Travel September 21 & 27)—2 openings

Space is limited and priority will be given according to seniority. You are only required to attend one of the classroom sessions. Call or email Julia for more information or to apply.

What is the standard drink size?

One reason adult binge drinking is so prevalent today is the misconception of what is meant by a standard drink size. An example of this is someone believing they only had two glasses of wine, when they may have actually had the equivalent of four standard size glasses of wine. This is why it is important to understand what is meant by standard drink size. It helps an individual determine what their level of responsible drinking is and ensure that they consume alcohol safely.

Please note: There is NO standard drink size for adolescents as consumption of alcohol by adolescents is illegal, irresponsible and unsafe.

One 5-ounce glass of wine. The average wine glass holds between 8-10 ounces of liquid.



1.5 ounces (jigger) of 80-proof distilled spirits. The standard drink size for liquor above 80-proof is even smaller.



One 12-ounce bottle of beer or wine cooler. In restaurants and bars, draft beer is often served in pints (16-ounces).

Dangerous Celebrations

Students using alcohol during celebrations happens far too often in this community as was evidenced in the comments made by the teen participating in the teen focus groups held in the spring of 2007. Besides their homes, teens cited athletic events and dances as the most popular places for teens to drink alcohol. While most students choose to enjoy safe and sober celebrations, far too many teens share the belief that alcohol is an essential element of fun.

For these teens, engagement in one of three possible alcohol related behaviors may take place:

1. Becoming intoxicated at home prior to the event,
2. Bringing alcohol and leave it in their vehicle to drink during the event or
3. Attending to an after-event party.

The consequences of these decisions are limitless and are often ignored by adolescents. The most common include driving under the influence, alcohol poisoning or engaging in dangerous and regrettable behavior.

Meetings & Events

- * February 27th: Students Working Against Tobacco Performance @ Pacetti Bay & Fruit Cove Middle Schools
- * March 3rd: Teen Speak @ Pacetti Bay Middle School
- * March 20th: Teen Speak @ Fruit Cove Middle School
- * April is Alcohol Awareness Month
- * April 2nd: Safe Prom @ Pedro Menendez High School
- * April 7th: Town Hall Meeting @ St. Johns County Extension Auditorium
- * May 6th: From Elementary to Middle School @ Osceola Elementary School

If you have a meeting or event you would like included in the Chronicle, please send it to julia@pactprevention.org seven days before the General Membership meeting.