

COALITION CHRONICLE

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www.pactprevention.org

A New Vision for PACT



Nickie Gorce, Ann Breidenstein and Robin Burchfield discuss the Coalition's new vision.

On August 11th, PACT's Board of Directors met and developed a new vision for the Coalition at its annual strategic planning meeting hosted by board member Nancy Birchall. Board members rolled up their sleeves and got to work revising the Coalition by-laws and composing new vision and mission statements. For the first time, the Board also produced a list of seven value statements (see below) intended to outline the commitment that

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Vision:

St. Johns County youth and adults living healthy, substance-free lives.

Mission:

Preventing substance abuse in St. Johns County through actions to change our community together.

Values:

- **Accountability:** *Reporting progress through the use of community measures.*
- **Advocacy:** *Championing initiatives which support alternatives to alcohol and drugs.*
- **Cooperation:** *Working together to develop and support community initiatives.*
- **Cultural Competence:** *Recognizing that each person has unique and diverse qualities and strengths.*
- **Mutual Respect:** *Treating all individuals and organizations with respect in accomplishing common goals.*
- **Professionalism:** *Maintaining a high level of professionalism whenever representing the Coalition.*
- **Sustainability:** *Developing capacity to ensure long-term growth.*

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all members embrace to make a difference in this community through behaviors that demonstrate dedication to these values.

The key to developing a new vision was clarification of the Coalition's direction for the next three years. Together the Board determined the need to build upon PACT's reputation for raising awareness and disseminating information and become agents for change in the community. Using the 2008 Community Assessment—generated by Coalition staff and the General Membership—the Board produced a logic model which ultimately led to the Coalition's 2008-2011 Strategic Plan.

The new Strategic Plan provides a broad overview of the Coalition's goals and objectives. A separate Action Plan is being developed by the General Membership. The Action Plan is a



Robin Burchfield, prospective board member Bert Watson, Beverly Slough and Diana Haynie consider various vision statement possibilities.

companion document to the Strategic Plan and serves as a road map for reaching the Coalition's strategic goals. Together these two documents offer a clear direction for the Coalition to work in and will be easier for all to understand and embrace.



Dr. Joyner shares a laugh with fellow board members.

Ancient City Kids Day Planning is Underway

Plans are underway for this year's Ancient City Kids Day being held on Make a Difference Day, Saturday, October 25 from 11-4 pm at Francis Field. Lots of food and entertainment are in the works to encourage families to enjoy a safe and fun day together—without alcohol or

drugs.

Merchants and non-profit organizations who would like to have a booth are encouraged to call Julia Kelly at the PACT office at 829-6261 to reserve a space.

Last year an estimated 3,000 parents and children participated in Ancient City Kids Day.

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Youth Advisory Board Wraps Up

The PACT Youth Advisory Board (YAB) continued to work hard during their last week of summer break, despite the challenges of Tropical Storm Fay.

Summer Wrap-Up Report

Larry Travis reported on the work YAB has done this summer to the General Membership at their August meeting. During that report, he



Larry Travis gives the General Membership a report on YAB's work at the August meeting.

explained that YAB would like to see more information put out into the community to both youth and adults on the dangers of alcohol poisoning. The two recent cases in St. Johns County of a teenager's death and another teen being hospitalized caught the groups' attention. The YAB became concerned that not

enough information about alcohol poisoning is reaching their peers.

YAB is Finished, DDT21 Begins

As a way to assist in disseminating information, YAB has formed a group of youth called DDT21 (Don't Drink 'Til 21). DDT21 will work to get a message out to their peers that informs teens of the dangers of alcohol poisoning. DDT21

plans to throw a large alcohol-free event later this fall. The purpose of the event is to show teens that they can have fun without drinking alcohol. During the event, parents will have an opportunity to attend a workshop on strategies to minimize underage drinking and recognizing the signs of alcohol poisoning.



Larry Travis and Jay McWilliams answer questions about alcohol poisoning at WFOY.

DDT21 on the Radio

During the early stages of Tropical Storm Fay, three of our youth, Kat Loveday, Larry Travis and Jay McWilliams rose bright and early to appear on the WFOY-AM St. Augustine Morning News to talk about alcohol poisoning. Although their interview "competed" for air time with the Tropical Storm Fay-related announcements, we're confident that a higher number of people than normal were tuned in and heard the concerns our youth leadership has in regards to underage drinking.

Keep up the great work, everyone!

The good thing about being young is that you are not experienced enough to know you cannot possibly do the things you are doing.

-Author Unknown



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Teens Cite School Pressure As Main Reason for Drug Use

The most recent study put out by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America indicates that teens view stress from school as their number one reason for drug use. That is very different from an earlier study put out by the same group that indicated teens said "feeling cool" was their main reason for drug use.

Even more interesting is the feedback gathered in a study the Partnership did with parents at the same time. Only 7% of parents thought teens would use drugs as a way of coping with stress from school.

"A wide disconnect exists between what teens are thinking and feeling and what parents believe about their teens when it comes to attitudes about drug use," said Steve Pasierb, president and CEO of the Partnership. "This is a pivotal opportunity for parents to understand what motivates today's teens to engage in this type of risky behavior, and to communicate the very real dangers and risks, while offering their kids support and guidance on dealing with pressure in a healthy way."

The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study which gathers the information, is showing that over the past 10 years, the "to have fun" rationale is declining and

the "coping with stress" rationale is increasing. This comes as no surprise as colleges and universities become more and more difficult to get into.

The study also shows that the type of drugs teens use is shifting as well. It's the typical "good news/bad news" scenario. The use of illicit drugs such as marijuana, Ecstasy and

methamphetamines is showing a steady decrease; however, the use of prescription drugs is on the rise, mainly due to a misconception among teens that prescription drugs are somehow less dangerous than illicit ones.

"Teens continue to take their lives into their own hands when they intentionally abuse prescribed medications," said Pasierb. "Whether it's to get high or deal with stress, or if they mistakenly believe it will help them perform better in school or sports, teens don't realize that when used without a prescription, these medicines can be every bit as harmful as illegal street drugs."

For more information, go to www.cadca.org/coalitiononline to read more about the Partnership Attitude Tracking Study.

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—Steve Pasierb, president and CEO of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

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PACT Election Quickly Approaches

The next General Membership meeting on September 16 will be one that all active members will want to be sure to attend. During that meeting, the membership will elect the General Membership Chair and Vice Chair for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Nominations

Nominations for the offices are being accepted now through the September 16th meeting. They will be accepted from the floor just prior to the election.

Voting

Ballots will only be distributed to Active Members. Once members are finished voting, the ballots will be counted and the winners announced at the end of the meeting. Since the by-laws don't allow for proxy voting, eligible members must be present at the September 16th meeting to cast their vote. If you are an active member, but have not received a nomination form, please call our office right away. **Questions? Call the office at 829-6261.**

Election Guidelines

1. Nominations will be accepted until the votes are cast.
2. Must be Active Members in good standing to vote.
3. Votes must be cast in person at the September 16th General Membership meeting.
4. Newly elected officers will take office at the end of the meeting.

Calendar of Events



September 7: 2-3:30pm	First DDT21 meeting
September 12: 11:30-1:00pm	PACT Board of Directors Meeting
September 16: 3:30-5:00pm	General Membership Meeting <i>(St. Augustine Record)</i>
September 22-26:	CADCA Training--Week 3 <i>(Fort Indiantown Gap, PA)</i>
October 21: 3:30-5:00pm	General Membership Meeting <i>(St. Augustine Record)</i>
October 23-31:	Red Ribbon Week
October 25: 10:00-4:00pm	Ancient City Kids Day (Make a Difference Day) <i>(Special Events Field)</i>