

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ONGOING: Join a committee! The Volunteer Committee, Ally of the Year/Banquet Committee, and 50/50 Raffle Committee all need additional volunteers. Contact Jennifer at jennifer@asapofanderson.org if you are interested.

MARCH 5TH: Opioid Alternatives Workshop, Methodist Medical Center, 5PM to 8:30PM, Contact Jennifer at jennifer@asapofanderson.org if you are interested in volunteering.



SUBSTANCE DATA BYTES

In November, a new study commissioned by the Centennial Institute was released on the impact of marijuana legalization in Colorado.¹ In the opening statement, the report states

“The report is fair in presenting the economic benefits of commercial marijuana to Colorado including reporting tax revenue, jobs, and overall sales. It is contrasted with the economic and social costs of commercial marijuana, which took a very cautious approach in determining costs.”

According to the study, Colorado spends \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of marijuana for every \$1 in tax revenue from marijuana. Other findings from the report include:

- Healthcare system costs and costs associated with youth who drop out of high school are the biggest contributors to economic burden.
- 69% of marijuana users say they have driven under the influence of marijuana at least once, and 27% say they drive under the influence on a daily basis
- Research suggests that long-term marijuana use may lead to reduced cognitive ability, particularly in people who begin using before they turn 18
- Research suggests marijuana can negatively impact productivity, both individually and economically. People who use marijuana more often are usually less active. Sedentary or inactive lifestyles are associated with increased medical costs.
- Yearly cost estimates for marijuana users in Colorado are between \$650 and \$2,200 depending on the frequency of use.
- The estimated costs of DUIs for people who tested positive for marijuana only in 2016 approaches \$25 million (Note: Researchers did not try to attach monetary value for loss of life).

Marijuana legalization continues to be a topic of national conversation. No matter what side of the debate you are on, there's no denying that more information about the costs of commercialization and the impacts to public health and safety are important and will help us all make fully informed decisions about our future.

¹ <http://cdn-centennial.pressidium.com/centennial/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Economic-and-Social-Costs-of-Legalized-Marijuana-CO.pdf>



101 S. Main Street, Suite 465
Clinton, TN 37716-3619
Return Service Requested

Quarterly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018

Our mission is to prevent and reduce substance misuse among youth and adults in Anderson County.

(865) 457-3007 | ASAPofAnderson.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The New China-U.S. Fentanyl Agreement

Tracking along with the opioid crisis, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid originally developed for cancer treatment, has been continually on the rise in recent years. In-depth analysis of 2015-2016 U.S. drug overdose data shows a sharp increase in drug overdose deaths, with fentanyl and fentanyl analogue related deaths at the root.¹ Overdose deaths are expected to continue to rise and exceed 2016 numbers. Synthetic opioids are considered a primary driver of the increase.

Fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine, and many of the fentanyl analogs are even more potent. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, it is common for fentanyl to be mixed with heroin or other drugs like cocaine or used in fake pharmaceuticals. This makes these substances even more dangerous because those consuming the substance may not be aware of its existence or what they are actually consuming.

An issue brief from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission states China remains the largest source of fentanyl and fentanyl-like substances in the United States.² In December 2018, the U.S. and China reached an informal agreement to curb the fentanyl flow into the country. In 2016, the Obama administration also struck an agreement with China for a similar reason, however, drug policy experts indicate this new agreement may actually make some headway.¹

The White House states China “agreed to designate Fentanyl as a Controlled Substance, meaning people selling Fentanyl to the United State will be subject to China’s maximum penalty under the law.”³ The U.S. version of the law, implemented via an Emergency Schedule in February 2018, was a pro-active approach to curbing additional fentanyl analogues from being developed in country for distribution, and anyone who possesses, imports, distributes, or manufactures ANY illicit fentanyl analogue will be subject to criminal prosecution.⁴ According to the DEA, this makes it feasible for federal prosecutors and agents to prosecute fentanyl traffickers. If this is implemented in China, it will be very similar to the United States law and anything created in the fentanyl or fentanyl-analogue class will be automatically added to the control list in China, and therefore legal repercussions, which don’t currently exist.

These types of laws are great examples of using CADCA’s Seven Strategies for Community change by modifying/changing policies to prevent access to dangerous substances.

¹ https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-09/DEA%20Testimony%20-%20China%20and%20Fentanyl%20HFAQ_0.pdf
² <https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/Research/Fentanyl%20Flows%20from%20China.pdf>
³ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-press-secretary-regarding-presidents-working-dinner-china/>
⁴ <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2018/02/07/us-drug-enforcement-administration-emergency-schedules-all-illicit>

RECENT HAPPENINGS

Youth Edition!

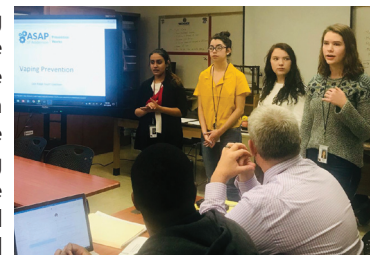
ASAP’s Youth Ambassadors Coalition (or YAC) has been very busy this last quarter. Anderson County High School, Clinton High School, and Oak Ridge High School celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 23rd through October 31st. Youth Ambassadors at each high school, with the help of other clubs and teachers, raised over \$500 for drug awareness. Clinton High School won the Red Ribbon Rivalry and took home the trophy! Thank you also to our Red Ribbon Week Committee for all their planning efforts.



Clinton ASAP Ambassadors also helped coordinate ASAP’s participation with BrandyWood Stables Haunted Trail. BrandyWood generously donated all of their proceeds from the trail to ASAP.



The YAC has also been busy working on vaping prevention. Oak Ridge High School Ambassadors gave presentations to faculty at Jefferson Middle School and Robertsville Middle School about vaping prevention. They identified the detrimental effects of nicotine and other vaping chemicals and shared ways in which students use vaping devices during school, emphasizing the importance of preventing this unhealthy behavior at a young age.



The YAC meets on a monthly basis to strategically plan prevention across Anderson County.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



KIM POUNCEY

Kim is a Board Member and active coalition member with ASAP. After joining ASAP in 2012, Kim began working on alcohol sales policies, reduction of underage sales, and training strategies to make it all happen. Kim says “Part of our strategy was to work on alcohol awareness training as a city/county requirement. We were able to form the Underage Drinking Task Force based on volunteer participation. . . . We accomplished some really great

things.” She joined the ASAP Board in January of 2017 and currently serves as a Board Member for the coalition. She has also been a part of committee membership since joining the coalition. She started out on the Fundraising Committee in 2012, which later grew to the Sustainability Committee, and is currently Chair of the Ally of the Year/Banquet Committee. When asked about ASAP, Kim said “I am really proud to be a part of ASAP and ASAP’s accomplishments in the 8 years I have been involved.” Her dedication and support has been integral to coalition successes. Thank you Kim!

Follow ASAPofAnderson on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to see Spotlight Videos!



Thank you TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Amazon Smile

Kroger Rewards

Jim Dodson

City of Rocky Top

Lauren Biloski

Katie Dossett Butler

Church Street UMC – UMW

Erin Gable – Facebook Birthday

Network for Good – Matching Donation

If you would like to support ASAP,
visit ASAPofAnderson.org for more information.