

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:



ASAP now offers Off-Premise/Retail Sales Alcohol classes. Classes will be held on the first Monday (1 pm to 5 pm) and second Saturday (8 am to 12 noon) of each month in the Jolley Building (5th floor conference room). The program teaches carding, discretionary decision making, and other strategies to help prevent illegal alcohol sales. This class satisfies the training requirement (Resolution No. 12-433) recently passed by Anderson County Commission and the resolution recently passed by Oliver Springs City Council.

Today, more than ever, it's important to equip vendors of alcoholic beverages with the knowledge they need to make informed and discerning decisions. Civil penalties from underage sales can be expensive and can cost retailers money or suspension or revocation of their license. More importantly, however, the program provides specialized education. Educated vendors have an improved understanding of the laws that govern their occupation, an in-depth understanding of their legal liability, more confidence in their ability to make wise decisions, and offer better customer service.

The following schedule has been set:

July 14th 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

August 6th 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

September 3rd 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

August 11th 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

September 8th 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

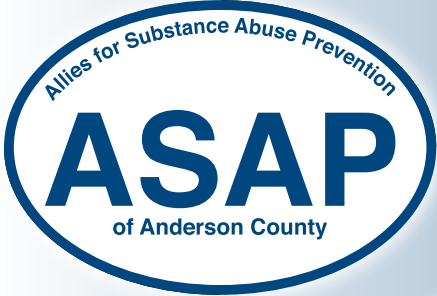
The cost of the class is \$50, which covers licensing fees; pre-registration is required. For more information, or to pre-register, call ASAP at 457-3007.

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ASAP QUARTERLY: Prevention Matters

Newsletter



FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Stephanie A. Strutner, MPH, Executive Director

Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2012 signed into law in Clinton

On May 12, Governor Bill Haslam signed into law a bill aimed at tightening restrictions on doctor shopping and other forms of prescription drug abuse. This bill, signed on the steps of the Anderson County Courthouse, requires all prescribers and dispensers in the state to register with Tennessee's Controlled Substance Monitoring Database.

Introduced by Senator Ken Yager (Harriman), the Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2012 shortens the length of time in which dispensers (pharmacies) must report information into the database, requires prescribers (physicians, nurse practitioners, etc.) to check the database prior to writing a prescription for an opioid or benzodiazepine, and makes doctor shopping a felony.

Prescribers are not required to check the controlled substance database before prescribing or dispensing if the controlled substance is prescribed or dispensed for a patient who is currently receiving hospice care; the committee has determined that there is a low potential for abuse by patients receiving treatment in that medical specialty; the controlled substance is prescribed or dispensed to a patient as a non-refillable prescription as part of treatment for a surgical procedure that occurred in a licensed healthcare facility; or if the quantity of the controlled substance which is prescribed or dispensed does not exceed an amount which is adequate for a single, seven day treatment period and does not allow a refill.

Dispensers will be required to enter information into the database at least once every seven days, a more frequent requirement than before. Prescribers and dispensers are also now allowed to designate an agent to enter information, a compromise to ease

(Pictured right, Gov. Bill Haslam signs the Prescription Safety Act of 2012 into law. Senator Randy McNally and District Attorney General Dave Clark observe the occasion.)



(Left, Governor Haslam discusses the prescription drug epidemic in Anderson County with Stephanie Strutner. Doug and Jayne Jackson, founding members of the Roane County coalition, participate also, discussing the overdose death of their son, Josh.)

fears of physicians that this requirement would be a burden. Penalties will be imposed by the Department of Health when these standards are not met. Prescribers and dispensers who fail to abide by the regulations will be fined up to \$100 per day and violations for doctor shopping will be a Class D felony.

The Commissioner of Health is authorized to work with other states to share and disseminate information in the database to decrease the number of people who doctor shop across state lines.

"In prescriptions per capita in Tennessee, we're the second leading state in the nation," said Governor Haslam. "Obviously some of those are for valid reasons, but too many of them aren't. With this legislation, we intend to change that. This is one step, but to think it will solve the problem would be naive."

Ripple effects will certainly be felt as this new legislation is enforced. Patients who have been able to satiate their habit by obtaining prescriptions from their physicians may no longer be able to get their drugs, creating a group of individuals who will need treatment for their addiction: some may turn to other drugs. Either way, as Governor Haslam said, "this is one step" to reduce the prescription drug problem that plagues Tennessee.



ASAP UPDATES:



- Operation Medicine Cabinet, held on April 28, 2012, netted 202 pounds of medicine
- The Operation Rx permanent medicine disposal bin installed at CPD collected 45 pounds during March, 20 pounds during April, and 70 pounds in May
- On March 19, the Anderson County Commission unanimously approved an ordinance to require training for all clerks who sell beer in stores; the ordinance went into effect immediately
- On June 21, the Oliver Springs City Council approved an ordinance to require training for all clerks who sell beer in stores; the ordinance went into effect immediately
- ASAP Coalition Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month at First Baptist in Clinton at noon in room 104

ALLY ACCOUNT:



ASAP STAFF TAKES SIX LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TO T.T.I.



On Sunday, June 10th, Michael Foster and I took six area youth to the Tennessee Teen Institute held at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville. The TTI has been in existence for 25 years, starting with west Tennessee area coalitions. It opened up to east Tennessee in the past few years. Michael had been working with the ACHS athletes this year and was able to recruit Alex Guinn, Brandon Hale and Gabe Templin. I took three CHS students, recommended by the teachers: Christopher Causey, Lauren Nickelson, and Alexis Seiber. It was an amazing week for all.

TTI begins with energizers and icebreakers to help form the teens into their working groups or “families.” This year they all had rock band names like Kiss, Journey, and The Eagles. When they are in their groups, they attend various break out sessions on topics such as bullying, teen suicide, AIDS prevention, SADD

club, and various games designed to disseminate current information on drugs, alcohol and tobacco. They also work with their own schools, clubs or coalitions to begin the process of creating a Community Action Plan to bring back to their various organizations. The most powerful part of the week are the powerful and inspirational guest speakers. Julie Carrier, a former MTV employee and former Miss Virginia, spoke of getting ruthlessly teased in her childhood. Her talk was geared at raising self-esteem and self-confidence. She left with the message of ABC: Always Be Confident. The afternoon speaker was Mia Vickers who goes around the country telling her story. Her twin sister was killed the day after they turned 18 by her boyfriend, who was driving in excess of 100 MPH in a residential area. The next day Mr. Blake McMeans told his story of being a local boy from Knoxville, heavily recruited around the country (and chose UT) for being in the top 5 nationally in tennis as a youth and making a horrible decision to drive drunk one night. The brain damage has left him permanently disabled. Several teens had to leave the room in tears. Derek Yates and his band performed and shared a story of a drunk driver killing his brother at a young age. Scott Backovich from California shared his story of being permanently injured due to a bad driver.

The teens also had fun! Between all the crazy chants and energizers, scavenger hunt, dance, dance lessons and educational games, our group somehow managed to take first place in the Talent Show Wednesday night! I wrote a parody of the week’s events to the tune of “Hotel California” and our group came up with a silly choreography (song lyrics available at www.ASAPofAnderson.org). It was a game changer—they now know they could come out of their comfort zone and make a difference—what we need them to do to make their Community Action Plan work back at their respective schools.

Our teens chose to work with tobacco, citing that it is a daily problem seen in hallways and bathrooms and bragged about in some circles. ACHS will host a “Kick the Can” campaign (smokeless tobacco) and CHS will host “Kick Butts Day” during the national Kick Butts week. Both groups worked well together and are excited to implement their plans. They will continue to work together to get the specifics on how to implement the campaign.

At first, the teens were reluctant to join in and participate fully. By the end of the week, they not only became close to students from around the state, but fully participated and even signed up to be team leaders next year if the opportunity presents itself!

Michael and I were worn out to be sure: 400 crazy teens all week! But a young lady from west TN brought it all home to me as I was asked to counsel her. The day after the powerful Blake McMeans story was presented, she got a call saying her young cousin was killed by a drunk driver.

Thank you Stephanie and ASAP for allowing our teens from the two high schools to attend TTI. What an amazing and influential experience it was for us all! I think TTI was successful in transforming six reluctant teens into future leaders who are now serious about making a change in their schools and in Anderson County.

NOTES:

ASAP Offers Drug Free Workplace Training

ASAP offers training sessions for employees and supervisors to companies who seek to maintain their certification with the Tennessee Drug Free Workplace Program. All training sessions are consistent with the requirements outlined in the Tennessee Rules of Department of Labor, Division of Workers’ Compensation, Chapter 800-2-12.13(a and b) for Drug Free Workplace Programs.

ASAP offers on-site training sessions for any shift and for both employees and supervisors. To schedule a training series appropriate for your company, contact ASAP today!

Thanks to our donors!

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MARY TUSKAN, ASAP Chair
CHS School Counselor
SADD Club coordinator

RECENT HAPPENINGS:



ASAP Board-Sponsored Motorcycle Ride a Success

Wheel Through the Hills was the inaugural motorcycle ride, organized to benefit drug prevention in Anderson County. ASAP Board Vice President, Bill Hall, organized the event to help cover costs associated with implementing a new grant. ASAP Board Treasurer, Don Green, and Secretary, Kim Guinn, also assisted with the event. According to Don Green, “the community service that ASAP provides more than compensates for our time assisting in its fundraising and activities.”

Fifteen riders showed up on June 9, 2012 to ride to save lives. The event kicked off at Tommy’s Motorsports in Clinton. Riders rode through Raccoon Valley and by Melton Hill Lake to end at Lincoln’s Sports Grille in Oak Ridge. The Anderson County Sheriff’s Office and the Oak Ridge Police Department escorted the riders.

“Riders showed up not just to ride, but to support ASAP by casting a conscious vote to participate. There were many other rides in the area that could have drawn their attention, but they chose ASAP,” according to Bill Hall.

The ride raised \$830 in cash and \$1,142 in in-kind donations. Organizers are eager to increase participation next year. “For a first time event, there was excellent support from local riders. We look forward to opportunities to continue involving the community in ASAP activities and in educating our residents to the services available,” said Don Green.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE BYTES:



Alcohol Bill Passage

Representative John D. Ragan (District 33, Anderson County)

According to the Tennessee Department of Safety, over a thousand people a year have died on our state’s highways for decades. It is a sad and shocking statistic. Unfortunately, that aspect, alone, is, neither, the most tragic, nor, the most appalling part of the story.

Ten percent, or more, of these Tennessee road fatalities every year are teenagers. Was one of these young people a potential governor or, even, a president? How many might have been Broadway or movie stars, doctors, lawyers or best-selling authors? While this lost potential to society is terrible, it is not the loss that is felt the most keenly.

Ask any parent who has lost a teenaged son or daughter. These parents will tell you that the pain is very nearly unbearable. Furthermore, it is a pain that seems interminable. Ask a favorite aunt or uncle. Ask a grandparent. There is an abyss of emptiness in the heart where there was once a bubbling fountain overflowing with love and pride.

The most infuriating part of these losses is that so many are completely avoidable. In particular, the traffic accidents that involve alcohol are the most imminently preventable.

Did you know that a 2009 report found 33.5 percent of Tennessee high school age students reported consuming alcohol in the last month? Regrettably, a percentage of these teenaged drinkers were fated for entry onto the rolls of Tennessee highway fatalities.

How did over a third of Tennessee’s teenagers get access to alcohol? Ostensibly, some sneak it out of their parents’ liquor cabinet. Still others get older friends and acquaintances to buy it legally and smuggle it to them. However, it strains credulity to expect these two sources to account for all of the illegal access to alcohol by thousands of teenagers.

Therefore, there must be other sources. Obviously, one of these potential sources has to be otherwise, legal, retail sales points. On the scale of the problem’s totality, the contribution of this source is probably low. Nonetheless, even the prevention of one teenage death makes pursuing this source worthwhile.

House Bill 2402 attempted to attack the problem by forcing all retail liquor and beer sales establishments to participate in the “Responsible Vendor Program.” This program requires vendors to formally train all of their employees on techniques to avoid selling alcohol to potentially under-aged customers.

Industry representatives resisted on the grounds that the current voluntary participation, on the basis of in-place incentives, had already achieved noteworthy drops in under-aged alcohol sales. Additionally, they reasoned that laws were in place that currently required a hundred percent identification check for all sales. Furthermore, they saw the added expense of additional training as unnecessary and financially threatening to the point of possibly forcing small, marginally profitable operators out of business.

These arguments have merit. Nonetheless, the problem remains... but to what degree? To answer this question, House Bill 2402 was converted to a “study” bill requiring counties to report the results of “sting” operations on alcohol retail sales stores to a single office at the state for data collection, collation and correlation. This data will reveal the necessity of proceeding further down the original path of the bill.