

# E-Xchange

*"The news source for Florida's Community Coalitions"*



**June 27, 2007**

*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."*

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## **Toolkit Supports Efforts in Native Communities to Prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**

A toolkit to help Native communities protect their children from the harm caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy is now available from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Resource Kit is designed to help mothers-to-be and their friends, relatives, health professionals, and leaders understand and prevent fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

The kit, which was developed and reviewed by representatives from Native communities and FASD experts, includes the following:

- Current data and statistics on FASD
- Fact sheets and brochures for women, men, youth and communities on how to prevent FASD and how to find help
- Strategies for FASD education and prevention
- Posters that can be copied and shared
- FASD--The Basics, a slide presentation for people with no prior knowledge of or experience with FASD
- A CD with an electronic version of the entire resource kit

The American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Resource Kit is available on the Web at <http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalog/productDetails.aspx?ProductID=17702>. Copies may be obtained free of charge by calling SAMHSA's Health Information Network at 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727). Request inventory number SMA07-4264

## **NEWS**

### **Supreme Court Sides with School in 'Bong Hits' Case**

Schools have the right to limit student speech that could be interpreted as advocating use of illicit drugs, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled.

The Associated Press reported June 25 that a divided court ruled against a Juneau, Alaska student who raised a banner with the words "Bong Hits for Jesus" at a school-sponsored outing in 2002. Students at the school were let out to witness the passing Olympic torch relay; student Joseph Frederick raised his banner on a public sidewalk across the street from the school.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that schools have the power to limit speech regarding illicit drugs. "The message on Frederick's banner is cryptic," wrote Roberts. "But Principal [Deborah] Morse thought the banner would be interpreted by those viewing it as promoting illegal drug use, and that interpretation is plainly a reasonable one."

Frederick denied he was advocating drug use, saying he took the "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" phrase from a snowboard slogan and that it was intended as nonsense. Morse seized the banner and suspended Frederick.

### **New Report Suggests Early Marijuana Use Warning Sign for Gang Involvement**

The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign released a new report recently indicating that teens who use drugs are more likely to engage in violent and delinquent behavior and join gangs later on in life, pointing specifically to early marijuana use as a warning sign of gang involvement.

The report shows that teens who use drugs are twice as likely to commit violent acts than those who do not. It also shows that the more drugs a teenager uses, the more likely they are to engage in violent behavior. Other findings include:

- \* Teens who use drugs, particularly marijuana, are more likely to steal and experiment with other drugs and alcohol, compared to teens who don't;
- \* One in four teens (27%) who used illicit drugs in the past year report attacking others with the intent to harm;
- \* Nearly one in six teens (17%) who got into serious fights at school or work in the past year report using drugs;
- \* Teens who use marijuana regularly are nine times more likely than teens who don't to experiment with other illicit drugs or alcohol, and five times more likely to steal;
- \* Parents remain the most powerful influence on their kids when it comes to illicit drugs; and
- \* Teens who are supervised or involved in structured activities during after school hours are less likely to engage in risky behaviors, such as drug and alcohol use and other violent or delinquent behaviors, than those youth who are unsupervised.

## 2007 FADAA Annual Conference

The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association is pleased to announce the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference – *Putting a Face on Addiction and Recovery: New Knowledge, New Hope*. This premier training and networking event is scheduled for August 22-24 at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando.

The conference theme underscores the new knowledge we are gaining in how to effectively deliver addiction prevention and treatment services that both support recovery and provide new hope. Everyone interested in *Putting a Face on Addiction and Recovery* is invited to join us to learn the latest research, develop new skills, network with fellow professionals, and celebrate the miracle of recovery.

A copy of the conference brochure is attached. To register online, download the conference brochure, and check for conference updates, visit the FADAA website at [www.fadaa.org](http://www.fadaa.org). We encourage you and your staff to register early and make your hotel reservation at the hotel (hotel cut-off date is July 30<sup>th</sup>).

### HOT PLACE!

Just in case you are lacking reading material or resources to use in a discussion with any number of people who are concerned about methamphetamine, here is an extensive guide to the current literature as of January, 2007. Please be patient --it takes a long time to load.

[http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/harm\\_reduction/crystalmeth/docs/meth\\_literature\\_index.pdf](http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/harm_reduction/crystalmeth/docs/meth_literature_index.pdf)

### COOL SPOT!

#### **Building Coalitions: Tapping Private Sector Resources**

Today's private sector is more involved with nonprofit groups than ever before. They realize that there is a shortage of resources available from government sources at every level and are interested in helping communities to be healthy vibrant places in which to raise families.

A big key to using the private sector effectively is to make them an integral part of your program. For example, does your board of directors have members of industry, private citizens and representatives from small business? Are your programs using volunteers from the private sector? Does your group offer services that would be valuable to employees at the local factory?

There are many resources available in the private sector. To get them excited about what you do, involve individuals from their company in your programs. Start by looking at yourself.

The entire document can be downloaded at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FY/FY50500.pdf>

## Training Opportunity at the 2007 FADAA Annual Conference Syndemics

Dennis D. Embry, Ph.D  
PAXIS Institute  
Johns Hopkins Center on Prevention and Early Intervention

Syndemics, Evidence-Based Kernels and Community Dashboards:

Low-Cost, Powerful Strategies for Community Level Prevention and Treatment

- Learning to conceptualize mental health and substance abuse problems as syndemics (multiple related afflictions);
- Learning to select and apply evidence-based “kernels” at population level to prevent or treat many substance abuse and mental health problems; and
- Developing “community dashboards” to mobilize and “time-series” designs monitor community action and policies.
- Thinking about BIG change . . .  
Changing our immediate setting. . . home, school, work. Changing a whole political jurisdiction – cities, states. Breaking out of silos. Using small, powerful and sustainable strategies. Mobilizing all hands, minds and hearts with a community scoreboard.

Breakout:

August 21, 2007

9:00 am – 5:00 pm – Full day workshop for prevention and treatment providers and coalitions on the Syndemics model developed by Dr. Embry.

August 22, 2007

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm – Implementation of Syndemics for Prevention

3:45 pm to 5:15 pm – Implementation of Syndemics for Treatment

# Calendar of Events

## June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21		23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Addictive Disorders-Fort Myers

## July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FADAA's Annual Conference-August 22-24, Hyatt Grand Cypress, Orlando, FL

*For additional information call Cindy Grant at the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association at 850-878-2196 or email:cgrant@fadaa.org.*