

JTAC Newsletter



STICKER SHOCK

On January 29, 2020, Join Together Atlantic County along with members of their youth coalition, Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR) went to both Joe Canal's locations in Egg Harbor Township for their Sticker Shock campaign. The intent of this campaign is to spread awareness about the consequences of providing alcohol to persons under the age of 21 by placing bright orange stickers on packages of beer. The event is held several times a year and is usually done around days/holidays where the likelihood of underage drinking is at its highest. This particular one was done a couple days in advance of the Super Bowl. CBS 3 Philly interviewed Amanda Hartman from Atlantic Prevention Resources and Lynn Daneguy, a SUAR student from Egg Harbor Township High School, who participated in the campaign. The segment was aired on the 11 o'clock news that night and can be viewed on our Facebook page.



PSA CONTEST

Join Together Atlantic County is sponsoring its annual middle school underage drinking Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest for students in 6th through 8th grade throughout Atlantic County. The theme of the contest is a message to parents from youth about the dangers of underage drinking or providing alcohol to those under 21. The winning submission will be turned into a billboard. For more information and contest rules visit our website at www.itacnj.org.



STOCKTON SERVICE LEARNING CLASS

Each semester JTAC partners with Stockton University in a peer education drug and alcohol service learning class. The newest class consists of 26 students who were split into five groups to work on six different projects. The six projects include working on informational materials and doing a presentation for parents relating to underage drinking during prom/graduation, doing StoryCorps interviews and posting them online, running the Above the Influence media campaign, working on materials for outreach to realtors on securing medications at open houses, creating a peer pressure presentation for the annual youth summit and gathering stories for the Strangers Project.



YOUTH SUMMIT

Our annual "Living Above the Influence" youth summit, was scheduled to take place on April 7, 2020 but due to Governor Murphy's Stay At Home Order, we will now be doing a virtual youth summit. All presentations will be recorded and posted to our JTAC YouTube channel and a list of these recordings will be provided to Atlantic County high schools for students to view. Presentation topics will include vaping, opioids and prescription drugs, marijuana, stress, underage drinking and the Stockton service learning students presentation on peer pressure.

CADCA'S 30th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

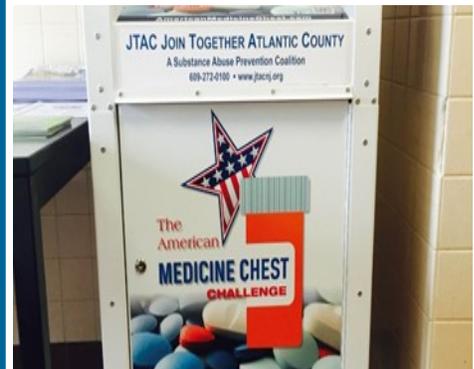
Six Stand Up And Rebel (SUAR) students from Egg Harbor Township High School attended CADCA's 30th Annual Leadership Forum February 3-6 in National Harbor, Maryland. The students along with SUAR advisors Amanda Hartman and Carlo Favretto attended many different workshops and got to meet and share ideas with our local Atlantic County leaders, including Congressman Jeff Van Drew and Senator Bob Menendez. This was an eye-opening experience for the youth and helped give them a chance to voice their opinions and show their governmental leaders how important the most recent law changes involving tobacco/vaping products are to our youth.



MEDICATION DISPOSAL DURING QUARANTINE

To help protect our families and community from COVID-19 many of us are following the directions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by maintaining social distancing and/or quarantining. With many families spending more time together in their homes, it's even more important to remember the dangers that lurk inside such as prescription medications. We would like to remind everyone to properly secure and dispose of any unwanted, unused or expired medication.

With drug take-back days being canceled, we suggest calling your local police department non-emergency number to find out if their prescription drop box is open and available for disposal. If they are unavailable, you may use a Deterra drug deactivation bag for your disposal needs. Medication may also be disposed of at home as a last resort. Mix the medicine with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and discard. Unless the directions on the packaging say otherwise, do not flush medicine down the drain or toilet.



THE STRANGER'S PROJECT



Words to Avoid

Addict, Junkie
Drug Habit
Abuse
Clean/Dirty
User

Word to Use

Person with substance use disorder
Substance use disorder
Misuse or harmful use
Actively/not actively using
Person in risky use or misuse

Other Terms that Work

Patient, addiction survivor, remission, addiction free, being in recovery

Join Together Atlantic County has worked with service learning classes at Stockton University on developing a project known as The Strangers Project. Each year a new group of students are given the task of collecting personal thoughts, opinions and stories from strangers at tabling events about substance misuse. The students then take these stories and display them on campus for others to read. Join Together Atlantic County has taken this display and moved it to libraries throughout Atlantic County. Kicking off Recovery Month in September, the Strangers Project was displayed at the Mays Landing Library. In November it was moved to the Galloway Library and in January it was at the Egg Harbor Township Library. It was most recently displayed at the Absecon Library in February and will be moved to a new location once the state reopens.

In addition to the display, a plethora of information and resources are provided pertaining to prevention and treatment of substance misuse. There is also a box available for people to share their stories as it relates to substance misuse. The purpose of this project is to capture society's perception on addiction and help expose the unwanted stigma associated with it. This project also shows the community that substance misuse affects everyone and we should educate ourselves on the language we use when discussing addiction and where someone should go to get help.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

The Health & Prevention Sharing Network has created a list of resources to address the emergent needs of New Jersey residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. This Resource Guide will be updated on a weekly basis and is available at https://www.njcares.gov/ohh/downloads/DMI_COVID-19_Resource-Guide.pdf.

If you would like to submit a resource to be included on this list, please email that information to dmi@gw.njsp.org.

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