The Role of Schools in Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment

The Opiate Crisis: School Districts' and Communities' Call to Action

May 3, 2017

New Jersey School Boards Association
Who are we?

- ASAP-NJ was founded in 1983 to meet the needs of New Jersey youth in education, prevention, intervention, and referral services in areas of high-risk behaviors including the use of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and addictive behaviors. A not-for-profit organization, the group is made up of over 300 Student Assistance Professionals (SAPs), Student Assistance Coordinators (SACs) prevention specialists, educators, and health care professionals.

- [Statewide contacts](#)
What’s a SAC???

• Academic and attendance problems are often due to underlying issues.

• Student Assistance Counseling is a process where students meet with a specially trained professional counselor to discuss any problem they may be experiencing, such as:
  – Family problems
  – School problems
  – Drugs / alcohol (42 CFR)
  – Depression and other emotional problems
  – Relationship issues
  – Stress or anxiety
  – Bullying
  – Eating disorders
  – ANY other issues
What we’re seeing

Drugs and alcohol
- Use, abuse, dependence
- Family addiction
- Normalization

Mental health
- Stress and anxiety disorders
- Depression, suicide
- Self-injurious behaviors
- Eating disorders

Social-emotional
- Bullying, violence, gang involvement
- Relationship issues
- Family dysfunction
- LGBTQI issues
Gone are the days...

- **Jeff Spicoli** is ready for school!
New drug trends – how do we keep up?
• Pot Candy
‘Academic doping’ on the rise: Number of students abusing ADHD drugs increasing — NBC, October 10th, 2016

New heroin? ADHD drug abuse similar to opioids — APP, Sept. 2016

In Their Own Words: ‘Study Drugs’ — NY Times, June 2012
$58 for t-shirt?

$98 for sweatshirt?
“What Was the Main Reason Why You Last Used a Prescription Drug Without a Prescription?”
(N=3,884 U.S. High School Students Reporting Lifetime Use of a Prescription Drug Without a Prescription)

HEROIN
Killer of a generation
Obstacles in the schools

• Sitting in class struggling with mental health
• Confidentiality – 42 CFR still applies
• Misunderstanding/misperception by administrators/teachers
• Helicopter/Lawnmower parents
• “Right of Passage”
• Increased testing and academic pressures
Where is their information coming from?
Breaking Bad is the story of a struggling high school chemistry teacher who is diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer at the beginning of the series. He turns to a life of crime, producing and selling methamphetamine in order to secure his family's financial future before he dies, teaming with his former student.
• *Weeds* is an American dark comedy-drama. The central character is Nancy Botwin, a widowed mother of two boys who begins selling cannabis to support her family after her husband dies suddenly of a heart attack. Over the course of the show, she and her family become increasingly entangled in illegal activities.
The series follows the dysfunctional family of Frank Gallagher, a single father of six children. While he spends his days drunk, his kids learn to take care of themselves.
WHAT CAN BE DONE?

• Prevention and Intervention Efforts
  • Advocacy for our students
• Awareness and Education for Parents and Community Members
• Coordination with outside support services
ASAP- NJ Statewide Efforts

- Collaborating with GCADA and county alliances in prevention efforts
- Consultation with DOE on research-based programs to supplement the health/phys ed curriculum
- Educational workshops with Legal One/NJPSA
- Middlesex County’s “Social Work Before Police Work” movement
- Cumberland County’s Opiate Initiative
- Supporting Recovery High Schools
Legislation support

- “The SAC Bill” – 1/1000
  – Schools CANNOT CUT SACS!

- Senator Burzichelli and Senator Van Drew sponsoring Bills A3481 and S2031
Thank You!

• www.asapnj.org
• @ASAPNJ_SAC

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