

**Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance
Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2009 @ Noon
Family Justice Center**

Opening (Helen Justice)

- Helen welcomed all attendees and announced this was her first meeting as Chair of the Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force
- Helen is the Executive Director of DUI Counterattack, Hillsborough www.DriveSafeTampa.org
- Contact information: 813.875.6201, extension 20 or hbjustice1@aol.com

Speaker: GS Steve Genevish, Tactical Diversion Squad/Tampa DO

- Steve Genevish is a Group Supervisor of the Tactical Diversion Squad in the Tampa Bay Area for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Steve deals with pill shopping and the diversion of pharmaceuticals in multi-counties from street level to international levels
- This squad is the investigation “side” of the DEA and its mission is the proper registration of pharmaceuticals; they issue DEA registration numbers to anyone that dispenses pharmaceuticals such as a pharmacy, manufacturer or reverse distributor
- The DEA created the Tactical Diversion Program to target and prevent the illegal diversion of pharmaceuticals; this involves the dismantling of criminal organizations and the financial infrastructure that runs them
- This program also focuses on educating and changing the psychology of law enforcement to the fact that pill addiction and illegal diversion are a problem; the emphasis in the past has been on hard drugs and statistics indicate that prescription drugs are causing a much bigger problem today, especially within the 16-31 year-old population most likely to abuse these drugs
- There is a rise in the number of individuals that are doctor shoppers and fill fake prescriptions that are then consumed or sold; the DEA leaves these investigations to the state and local authorities and focuses their efforts primarily on the source: the doctors, pharmacies, pain management clinics and the individuals that organize and dispense illegal pharmaceuticals and create fraudulent prescriptions (they use the federal statutes for conspiracy and wire tapping)
- Steve’s presentation prompted a discussion about potential solutions the task force could support to help prevent/combat this problem such as the implementation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the regulation of pain management clinics and continued efforts to empty medicine cabinets; Steve is to advise of safe and low cost ways (per federal statutes) to destroy the pharmaceuticals that are collected
- Steve Genevish 813.282.4462 or Steven.X.Genevish@usdoj.gov

Logic Model for Prescription Drugs/Community Action Plan (Sue Carrigan)

- At the October meeting, Sue Carrigan’s logic model was distributed to task force members to review and they were to discuss their thoughts and recommendations at a future meeting
- Helen supports Sue Carrigan’s model and her recommendation to dedicate a meeting to creating a strategic community action plan for the education and prevention of prescription drug abuse in the community so the task force is prepared when resources are made available to support this work
- A wealth of data exists at DUI Counterattack and the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office SAVE Program and this data could be collected, evaluated and utilized for this objective

DRE Training (Helen Justice)

- Helen advised that Sargeant Tom Bobrowski/USFPD has offered eight hours of Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training free of charge to task force members at a facility at USF
- An email is to be sent to members with specific dates and details regarding this training

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HB373/SB646 (Helen Justice)

- Task force member Lynn Locascio informed via email notice that House Bill 373 (Abruzzo) and Senate Bill 646 (Aronberg) have been filed
- Helen feels these bills could be a great platform for a lobbyist, especially with the PDMP passing and its related media coverage
- The 2010 session dates are fast approaching: 1/27/10 draft deadline, 2/26/10 final deadline, 3/2/10 sessions convene
- Helen is to follow-up with a plan regarding bill sponsors (Democrats), finding co-sponsors (consider Republicans?) and research potential opposition/partners for these bills; Drs. Miguel and Brown may be excellent resources and have interest in getting involved

Prescription Drug Law Enforcement Update

- John Lewis with Families Against Drug Abuse was present and informed he was a past police chief in Sarasota; he said Sheriff Tom Knight/Sarasota County has formed a three-man prescription drug unit there

Purdue Pharma PSA Update (Andrew McFarlane)

- Andrew/DACCO and HCADA have decided not to partner with Purdue Pharma (PP) on a PSA out of respect to the parents members of the task force that objected

NOPE Candlelight Vigil on 10/29/09 (Ellen Snelling)

- Ellen advised the NOPE Candlelight Vigil event that was held on October 29th at the Faith Outreach Church was well attended
- Helen provided informational brochures to attendees at the event on behalf of the task force and Teresa Miller, PDA task force member, spoke at the vigil
- The purpose of the vigil was to increase awareness and bring media attention to the cause of preventing prescription drug overdose
- The link to the NOPE website is <http://www.nopetaskforce.org/>

MADD Vigil (Helen Justice)

- Helen advised the MADD Vigil is to be held on Thursday, December 10th at the First Baptist Church in Temple Terrace at 7 pm
- The purpose of this vigil is to increase awareness of the negative consequences of drinking and driving and honor the memory of those we have lost from this preventable tragedy

2010 Calendar of Meetings (Helen Justice)

- The 2010 calendar of HCADA meetings was distributed
- Helen pointed out that the Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA) Task Force meetings are to be held bi-monthly (versus monthly) and will coincide with the HCADA General Membership meetings
- PDA Task Force members were encouraged to stay and attend the General Membership meetings

Visitors (Helen Justice)

- Prior to closing the meeting, Helen acknowledged several visitors to the meeting to include Sharon Kramer/Manatee Coalition, Ruth/Co-Founder of FADAA, Rita Chamberlain/SARG Grant Coordinator

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- Sharon is on the board for the Manatee Coalition and informed they formed a 501c3 and are working with Rita to create a new website and build the board, membership and a plan for sustainability
- Their goals are to work with the community, write grants and collaborate with other counties

Other News

- Ellen Snelling reported that 2009 statistics show that prescription drug abuse is down in numbers, except for OxyContin
- Helen reported that Automated Healthcare Solutions/Donny Reynolds is likely to be the agency to utilize their automated database to implement the PDMP. He was recently appointed by Governor Crist to serve as a member on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Implementation and Oversight Task Force

Next Meeting Date

- The next regular meeting of the task force is scheduled to be held at Noon on Wednesday, January 27th at the Family Justice Center