



the recovery center

Turning Points

the recovery center
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Our Mission

To ensure the effective and efficient delivery of alcohol, drug addiction and mental health prevention, intervention and treatment services to promote the health and safety of the residents of Fairfield County.

Our Vision

To create a learning organization for behavioral healthcare services which promotes understanding, supports growth and fosters healing for clients, staff and community.

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The Recovery Center is an independent contract agency of the Fairfield County ADAMH Board and is also funded by United Way of Fairfield County and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.



From the Director's Chair by Marc Grodner

Red Ribbon is a national alcohol and other drug awareness campaign which began in 1988 to honor Enrique "Kiki" Camerena, who died in the line of duty as an agent for the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. The goal of the Campaign is to promote intolerance for both the use of illegal drugs and the illegal use of legal drugs.

The Red Ribbon Celebration has been a part of the substance abuse prevention efforts in Ohio for well over a decade. This program has grown to reach hundreds of thousands of youth and adults in communities throughout the United States. People of all ages participate by wearing their Red Ribbons in October and showing their involvement in prevention throughout the year.

The Fairfield County Red Ribbon Committee, a collaboration between several community agencies and The Recovery Center, sponsored a Fam-

ily Night at the Skyview Drive-In Theatre on September 22nd for the Red Ribbon kick-off event in Fairfield County. The evening was hosted by the energetic DJ, Johnny Garber, and included music, games, prizes and exciting competitions, such as hula hoop and the limbo. The goal of the event was to bring families together for entertaining and safe drug-free activities.

The Recovery Center once again opened its doors for the annual Red Ribbon Open House on October 26. The Open House afforded the community the opportunity to network and build relationships with agency staff and each other while promoting awareness of alcohol and other drug prevention.

The Red Ribbon Celebration underlines other prevention programs and curricula that present a "no use" message, teach the dangers of alcohol and other drugs, positive role modeling, decision

making skills, assets, risk and protective factors and support individual responsibility. During the autumn months, the Red Ribbon Committee will present Red Ribbon prevention education to area eighth grade classrooms. These classes will include presentations on Team-building, Goal Setting and Decision Making as they pertain to alcohol, nicotine and other drugs. The Recovery Center and Fairfield Department of Health will each present one of the two classes. Many schools choose to have the program during their regularly scheduled Health or Science Classes.

Thanks to the support of the ADAMH Board and the United Way of Fairfield County, The Red Ribbon Committee has again been able to promote a positive message about the importance of being drug-free to the Fairfield County community through the 14th Annual Red Ribbon Celebration.

Lawmakers Support Treatment Coverage



Thu Sep 21, 2006
2:29pm ET

By Joanne Kenen

W A S H I N G T O N
(Reuters) - Patrick Kennedy and Jim Ramstad, lawmakers who are public about their struggle with addiction, placed their strange-bedfellow friendship in the cause of better health insurance for addicts on Thursday.

Ramstad, a Minnesota Republican recovering alcoholic who has been sober for more than 20 years, and Patrick Kennedy, a Rhode Island Democrat whose struggle with prescription drug abuse is more recent, joined several recovering drug addicts

and alcoholics at a news conference that sometimes sounded like a 12-step program meeting.

The lawmakers called on Congress to enact legislation requiring insurance companies to cover substance abuse treatment. They want to wrap addiction treatment into a larger piece of legislation requiring that health insurers give mental illness the same kind of coverage they give any other disease.

Both the Democrat -- a member of the famous Kennedy political family -- and the Republican said that improved coverage would pay for itself because of the high social cost of addiction from disease, unemployment, crime and prison.

The mental health parity legislation has built significant bipartisan support in both the House and Senate in the last few years but Republi-

can leaders have not brought it up for a vote. Kennedy urged a vote next year.

The nephew of President John F. Kennedy and the son of Sen. Edward Kennedy, Patrick Kennedy has struggled with bipolar disorder and substance abuse problems for years. His difficulties came to light again when he drove his car into a cement barrier near the Capitol in the middle of the night in May.

He later said he had been disoriented by taking the sleeping pill Ambien and the powerful anti-nausea medication Phenergan. He pleaded guilty of driving under the influence of prescription drugs and agreed to treatment and community service.

(Source: *Lawmakers Push for Better Treatment of Addiction*; ODADAS news; October 2006)

Improved coverage would pay for itself because of the high social cost of addiction from disease, unemployment, crime and prison.

Early Drinking Linked to Alcohol Dependence

Boston University School of Public Health reports that youth who begin drinking alcohol early in life are significantly more likely to become dependent on alcohol later -- many before they even reach the legal drinking age. The survey found that people who began drink-

ing in their early teens were more likely to become dependent on alcohol at some point in their lives; in fact, about half met the criteria for alcohol dependence by the time they hit age 21. Young drinkers were found to be at elevated risk of dependence within 10 years of

having their first drink, before age 25, and at any point in their lives. They also were more likely to experience multiple episodes of alcohol dependency.

(Source: www.jointogether.org; *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, July 2006.)

Beer-Size Liquor Drinks on their Way

Canned liquor-based beverages featuring products have passed test-marketing with flying colors and could soon be coming to a liquor outlet,

convenience store, or gas station near you.

Objections are likely from health advocates, who already complain that so-called "alcopop"

drinks appeal to underage drinkers. The ready-made drinks are already available in some states. (*S o u r c e* : www.jointogether.org)

Youth Survey Results Released

Lancaster, Ohio—A 2006 survey of more than 2,500 tenth and twelfth graders, encompassing all Fairfield County public schools was conducted by the Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Family Adult and Children's First Council and the Fairfield County Drug Free Coalition. These results were presented at the Fairfield County Youth Summit on August 16, 2006. Results of the study suggest that frequent drug use among Fairfield County twelfth graders is on the decline. The study shows that frequent alcohol use among twelfth graders declined from 37.9% to 34.9% since 2004. Frequent Marijuana use also declined from a high of 18.8% in 2004 to 14.4% in 2006. Frequent use of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco and prescription drug abuse remained at similar levels between the two study periods.

The study further disclosed that alcohol and Marijuana in particular are easily obtained by local high school students with 65% of twelfth grad-

ers reporting that alcohol was very easy to obtain and 48% reporting Marijuana was very easy to obtain.

Richard Hunter, Ph.D. presented the results of a statistical modeling study conducted using Fairfield County data. He noted that Fairfield County students can be categorized into "no risk", "moderate risk" and "high risk" groupings. The moderate risk group accounted for approximately 28% of all students. This group was characterized as "weekend party goers". The high risk group accounted for approximately 24% of all surveyed students. Sub-categories of high risk students had varying levels of mental health and substance abuse problems. Virtually all high risk students exhibited significant signs of social withdrawal. Many were also sexually active.

Statistical modeling of 2006 Fairfield County data also shows that parents who establish and enforce rules, have a trusting relationship with

their children, and provide opportunities for them to get involved in community and school activities can significantly influence whether or not their children engage in high risk behavior. Eighty-nine and nine-tenths (89.9%) of seniors indicated they had a trusted adult at home compared to 84% in 2004.

Dr. Michael Hogan, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and keynote speaker at the youth summit on August 16th, appreciated the degree of collaboration and concern about youth that is evident in Fairfield County. He further noted that "too many people just act on hunches rather than having solid data to support their efforts. These data reveal that in many ways Fairfield County is a healthy and safe place to raise children but a substantial minority of youth face serious challenges. These challenges need an improved response." (*Fairfield County ADAMH Board ; August 16, 2006*)

Results of the study suggest that frequent drug use among Fairfield County twelfth graders is on the decline.

Media Underreports Alcohol's Role

Research indicates that news media seriously underreport the role alcohol plays in violent crimes, injuries and traffic crashes, according to a new national study. While alcohol is believed to play a role in about one-third of homicides and fatal motor vehicle accidents, media reports

linked alcohol specific accidents or crimes significantly less frequently. Some of the largest discrepancies occurred in reporting alcohol use in violent crimes, particularly for television news. The result is that the public may underestimate the dangers of alcohol use. The research is reported

in the November 2006 issue of the Journal of Studies on Alcohol.

The media was most likely to report an alcohol use in motor vehicle accidents, but fell short of estimated numbers. (Source: *Monday Morning*, October 30, 2006. *Bil Davis, Editor*, wdavis@bright.net)