

Council Connections

April, 2010

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How to oppose NYS Medical Marijuana Legislation

Sponsors needed for CASAC Bowlathon

Spring Training Calendar

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Leandra's Law

The Lois Wilson Story on CBS 4/25 @ 9:00

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Alcohol is responsible for 100,000 deaths a year. It is the 3rd leading cause of preventable deaths in this country.

[Alcohol Screening.org](#)

How much is too much?

At [AlcoholScreening.org](#), you can take a confidential self-test to assess your drinking patterns and receive personalized feedback. You'll find out whether your alcohol consumption is likely to be within safe limits, or if it may be harmful to your health, either now or in the future.

Spring 2010

[Training Calendar](#) and

[Learning Thursdays Webinars](#)

Special Training opportunity:

Social Networking - An overview of social networking, the relevance to nonprofits, and how to make it work for you.

May 5th, 1:00 to 4:00

[Click here for registration information.](#)

"Helping Keep Kids off Drugs" 2010 Bowlathon

Sponsors are needed for the 2010 CASAC 2010 Bowlathon to be held June 4th. Funds raised will be used to provide alcohol and other drug prevention education and intervention services for youth and their families in our community.

Friends of CASAC are encouraged to participate in the Bowlathon by collecting sponsor pledges or by forming a bowling team. More information and a pledge sheet are available at <http://casacweb.org/events.shtml#cb> or by calling the CASAC office, 664-3608. Participants will bowl two games and the total score will be multiplied by the sponsor's monetary pledge. Flat donations are also welcome.



Bowlathon Sponsors needed!

OPPOSITION TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The NYS Legislature has introduced legislation to effectively legalize Medical Marijuana.

The Council on Addictions of New York State (CANYS) has released a Letter of Opposition regarding this, and suggests that such a bill could set back prevention and treatment efforts in New York by decades. This is a call for parents and

that such a bill could set back prevention and treatment efforts in New York by decades. This is a call for parents and community members to write to legislators in opposition to this bill.

Advocate now!

Contact my NYS Senator

[http://
www.nysenate.gov/](http://www.nysenate.gov/)

Contact my NYS
Assembly
Representative

[http://
assembly.state.ny.us/
mem/](http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/)

In regard to the proposed legislation on medical marijuana, how many ways can one say "This is a bad idea?" That is the statement from Larry Calkins, President of the Council on Addictions of New York State (CANYS), an advocacy body of alcohol, drug and gambling prevention and treatment services that addresses issues related to alcohol, tobacco, drug use and gambling problems communities statewide.

Consistent with the position of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the New York Society of Addiction Medicine (NYSAM), and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (NCADD), CANYS is strongly opposed to the proposed legislation that would permit the medicinal use of marijuana in smoked form (MSF) in New York State.

Instead, according to Calkins, further research should be conducted under the auspice of the Food and Drug Administration, into medicines such as current cannabinoid medications including dronabinol (Marinol), Sativex, and nabilone (Cesamet) – which have shown promise in relieving many of the symptoms of certain illnesses. Marijuana should be subject to the FDA approval process which includes clinical trials to determine its efficacy as a medication, a position similar to that of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Marijuana, simply, is not a safe drug as many may believe. In 2006, there were 290,563 marijuana-related emergency room admissions (an increase of 278% since 1998), including a 175% increase of teen admissions to emergency rooms for marijuana-related problems. Treatment agencies have seen a 188% increase in teen treatment admissions with a medical diagnosis of marijuana dependence.

Furthermore, such legalization in other states such as California, have caused numerous problems and troubles for communities, schools, businesses, homes and families. The actual number of licensed medical marijuana users in California is over 253,000 - far beyond the "few thousand" projected for true medical need; in California legislation limiting the amount of medical marijuana was recently ruled unconstitutional; the City of Los Angeles saw growth of over 1,000 medical marijuana dispensaries; doctors have started prescribing it for youth; it has started to exacerbate crime; and, now legislation has been introduced in California for full legalization. Parents are concerned that their children watch people smoking marijuana on the way home from school. Businesses can have employees smoke it on break. There have been a great number of dismissals and acquittals where there were legitimate arrests - leaving the law in a gray area for law enforcement, courts, and the criminal justice system.

According to Calkins, drug abuse prevention and treatment services in New York State have been highly effective. The legalization of medical marijuana - even under the proposed conditions - could reverse decades of sound prevention and treatment programming and return New York to the state of high drug use and chaos of the 1970s - and worse.

CANYS concurs with the American Medical Association that marijuana in smoked form (MSF) is unsuitable as a medicine. With opium, processing has yielded several therapeutic medications, yet no doctor would advise the smoking of raw opium to a patient. Similarly, marijuana may yield several beneficial medications under strict prescription, but certainly not in raw form. Additionally, no medication should be utilized without the formal approval of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, regardless of the action of state legislatures.

CANYS encourages parents to write to their legislators to stop the medical marijuana initiative in New York State.

2010 CASAC Board of Directors

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9th Annual CASAC Poster Contest
"My Future! My Dreams! It's up to me!"

[Click here](#) to see the names of the 12 finalists and more photos



2010 Grand Prize winner
Amelia Lindquist.,
Falconer Central School.



Angie Peck, Chautauqua Region Community
Foundation, and Arnold Zdrojewski, CASAC
Board President, with 2009 CASAC Grand
Prize poster.

[Click here](#) to see the names of the 12 finalists and more photos.
Special thanks to the [Chautauqua Region Community Foundation](#) for
their support of the 2010 CASAC Alcohol Awareness Month Poster
Contest.



2010 CASAC Poster Contest 12 finalists.

["When Love Is Not Enough"](#) [The Lois Wilson Story](#) *Helping families coping with alcoholism.*

CBS Network on Sunday evening, April 25th at 9 p.m. EST.

The dramatic and courageous love story of Lois and Bill Wilson and their battle with the disease of alcoholism which led to the founding of Al-Anon and AA, will air on the CBS Network on Sunday evening, April 25th at 9 p.m. EST. This drama, based on the biography by William G. Borchert, is about the trials and ultimate triumph of the co-founder of Al-Anon, whose alcoholic husband - Bill W. co-founded AA. The Lois Wilson Story spans more than 30 years, and is based on the true story of the enduring but troubled love between Lois Wilson, co-founder of Al-Anon, and her alcoholic husband Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. She co-founded Al-Anon in 1951. The Hallmark Hall of Fame World Premiere stars Winona Ryder and Barry Pepper.

If you or someone close to you has a problem related to alcohol, other drugs or compulsive gambling, call [CASAC at 664-3608](tel:664-3608), or email info@casacweb.org.

[New York State Toughens DWI/DUI Laws](#) [Leandra's Law: Child Passenger Protection Act](#)

In November 2009, Governor Patterson signed the Child Passenger Protection Act, known as Leandra's Law in honor of an 11-year-old who was killed in a drunk driving crash. It is now a felony in New York state to drive drunk or under the influence of drugs with a child in the vehicle.

New York joins 35 other states that have child endangerment laws imposing tougher DWI sanctions. New York is the thirteenth state to require mandatory interlock ignitions. Under the law, first-time DWI offenders with a blood alcohol content of .08 or more or under the influence of drugs, and with a child age 15 or under in the vehicle, will automatically have their driver's license suspended, will have to install an ignition interlock device in the vehicle, and may be charged with a Class E felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

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Intoxicated drivers who cause serious injury to a child may be charged with a Class C felony punishable up to 15 years in prison, and drunk drivers who cause the death of a child will be charged with a Class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison. Additionally, parents caught driving impaired with children in the car will be reported to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

To remove your name from our mailing list, email info@casacweb.org or call 716-664-3608.



www.casacweb.org

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Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council

