

SAFE DRUG-FREE CLAY COUNTY

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Patti Tiberi, NCSAPC, Smoky Mountain Center Regional Prevention Coordinator, will be providing training to teachers (elementary, middle and high school) September 23 on the implementation of the administration of the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) - Short Screener.

Last year when the teachers of the Clay County Schools completed the PRIDE Survey, they indicated they needed and wanted a better understanding of how to identify a child that may be having problems with substance abuse. This response from the teachers resulted in the Coalition selecting GAIN.

The 5-minute GAIN-Short Screener (GAIN-SS) is designed primarily for three things:

1. It serves as a screener in general populations to quickly and accurately identify respondents whom have one or more behavioral disorders such as substance use or crime and violence problems which suggest the need for referral to some part of the behavioral health treatment system.

GAIN

2. It serves as an easy-to-use quality assurance tool across diverse field-assessment systems for staff with minimal training.
3. It serves as a periodic measure of change over time in behavioral health.

The GAIN originated in 1993 as a collaboration between clinicians, researchers, and policy makers from over a dozen behavioral healthcare agencies to create a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment tool. It is a progressive and integrated series of measures and computer applications designed to support a number of treatment practices, including initial screenings, brief interventions, referrals, standardized clinical assessments for diagnosis, placement, and treatment planning, monitoring of changes in clinical status, service utilization, and costs to society.

The GAIN is an evidence-based assessment used with both adolescents and adults and has been adopted by hundreds of agencies and systems of care in communities from large urban areas and rural areas.

The GAIN has eight core sections (Background, Substance Use, Physical Health, Risk Behaviors and Disease Prevention, Mental and Emotional Health, Environment and Living Situation, Legal, and Vocational). Each section contains question on the relevancy of problems, breadth of symptoms, and recent prevalence as well as lifetime service utilization, recency of utilization, and frequency of recent utilization.

Studies with adults and adolescents have found good reliability in test/retest situations on days of use as well as diagnosis. Self-reports were consistent with parent reports, on-site urine and saliva testing, and laboratory based urine testing.

For more information visit:

www.chestnut.org/li/gain/GAIN_SS/index.html



CONTACT YOUR COALITION

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- Family Day (September 28, 2009) - Several area restaurants have offered meal discounts to families that come in to eat dinner together.
- National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (September 2009)
- 100 Strong Induction at Hayesville High School (October 2009)
- Red Ribbon Week (October 17-25, 2009)
- Pray for the Children Weekend (October 23-25)

The Mendez TGFD Program has been effectively implemented in Clay County Schools for the past several years. The Coalition is grateful to School Superintendent Scotty Penland for his unwavering support of this initiative and all of the work of the Coalition as they collaborate for a healthier student population and community.

Mendez TGFD is designated as a Model Program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It is also an award-winning program, recognized for its excellence by the American Medical Association, Department of Children and Families, and the Southeastern

Association of Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

Too Good for Drugs is a science based, field-tested curriculum that generates short and long-term positive results decreasing intentions to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, and smoke marijuana.

Too Good for Drugs has been proven to reduce student risk factors and increase protective factors including attitudes toward ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) use, peer norms related to ATOD use, peer acceptance of ATOD use, emotional competence and sense of self-efficacy, social and peer resistance skills, and the perception of harmful effects of ATOD use. These areas are

known as the Core Measures established by SAMHSA.

This year, a 2-question Pre-Test and Survey will be administered to the students prior to the teaching of Mendez TGFD. This is of course anonymous which uses secret identification by the student. The Post-Test and Survey will then be administered following the conclusion of the program to determine the effectiveness of the program with a comparison of responses made to establish the effectiveness of the instruction.



PRIDE SURVEY

The PRIDE Survey has proven to be an effective tool used by the Coalition and the schools for several years to allow accurate identification of needs in the school for implementation of tailored strategies designed to meet the needs of our particular students. Administered in more than 32,000 schools since 1982 when it was founded in Atlanta, Georgia, the Pride Surveys have been administered to over 10 million students.

We adopted the PRIDE Survey long ago because we care deeply about the health

and safety of our young people. We know that alcohol, drugs, gangs, and violence are impediments to learning. PRIDE Surveys allow us to establish baseline data that further allows us to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of our program. The PRIDE Surveys are administered to students, their parents and their teachers.

As in the past, these surveys will be mailed home to parents of students in grades 9 and 11 with the incentive of completion and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope for the drawing for a \$50 gas

card for a parent from each of those two grade levels. These surveys will be sent home with students in grades 5 and 7. Expect to see the PRIDE Survey at the end of October. This data is critical for the Coalition's Grant Renewal, so please take the time to respond. Thank you.



WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

EQUITY FUNDING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROPOSED BEER TAX REVENUE

Underage drinkers account for nearly one-third of all alcohol sales. According to 2005 data, underage drinking alone costs North Carolina \$1.2 billion annually in healthcare and other costs. Over 70% of north Carolinians support an increase in the beer/malt beverage tax. The tax has not been increased since Richard Nixon was president in 1969. A tax increase is supported as a proven means of reducing underage drinking by the 2003 National Academy of Sciences, Congressional Report, Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility, and the 2009 NC Institute of Medicine Substance Abuse

Task Force Report to the General Assembly.



Therefore, we ask that you support:

Increase the tax on malt beverages from \$0.53 per gallon (about a nickel a can/

bottle) to \$1.59 per gallon (about 15 cents per can/bottle.)

This will generate an additional \$289 million for North Carolina .

This tax should support an Underage Drinking Prevention Fund which should receive 8% of all malt beverage taxes to support community based initiatives and programs designed to prevent underage drinking. Part of the funding should be set aside to support a statewide media campaign aimed at preventing underage drinking.

FUNDS FROM ABC STORES

Did you know that the law requires a tax on alcoholic beverages that is to be used "for the treatment of alcoholism or substance abuse, or for research or education on alcohol or substance abuse? Over the past four years, \$33,713,859 has been allocated for just that purpose. None of that funding seemed to find its way, at least not directly, into Clay County. Sadly, the North Carolina Report Card for the same time period gave failing grades in the area of substance use in grades 9 -12 statewide. D for cigarettes, D for Marijuana, F for Alcohol and F for Cocaine.

The North Carolina Institute of Medicine Task Force on Substance Abuse Services

submitted its interim report to the General Assembly along with a recommendation on increasing Tax on Beer and recommendations on how the estimated additional revenue of over \$200,000,000 should be allocated. Currently 84% of that revenue is allocated to just THREE of the 100 N. C. counties, none of which are in Western North Carolina.

The Coalition is in favor of this additional tax (which is only about 15 cents per can or bottle) to be spent in part on the development of a rural project to create the Western North Carolina Regions and Alliance and that the Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Clay County be selected as that pilot project.

HELP SUPPORT

- Equity funding and distribution of proposed beer tax revenue
- Proper oversight of current ABC funds

...**Visit** our website

www.drugfreeclaycounty.com

...**Click** on page "Preventing Underage Drinking"

...**Type** your name at end of both letters.

...**Click** to submit.

The letters will be automatically emailed to your Senators, Congressmen, Governor and State Legislators. Thank you.