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- The 4th National Conference on Women, Addiction and Recovery: Thriving in Changing Times
- State Associations of Addiction Services National Conference and NIATx Summit
- University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health Leadership, Legacy, and Community: A Retreat to Advance Maternal Child Health Scholarship and Practice
- Association of Recovery Schools' 9th Annual Conference, "On the Trail to Freedom"
- Communities Collaborative Committee, White Earth Child Care Program–10th Annual Brain Development Conference
- North American Council on Adoptable Children 36th Annual Conference
- Healing Our Spirit Worldwide–The 6th Gathering
- National Conference on Addiction Disorders
- First European Conferences on FASD: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Growing Awareness in Europe
- 34th Annual Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA) National Conference



FASD CENTER NEWS

FASD Prevention Takes Flight

The Center's National Association of FASD State Coordinators (NAFSC) Airlines Subcommittee recently scored a high-flying victory for FASD prevention. This subcommittee was tasked with encouraging airlines to include a prominent statement about alcohol use and pregnancy in places where in-flight alcoholic beverages are discussed. The subcommittee, headed by Margo Singer, MPA, the NAFSC representative from New York, drafted a letter, incorporated input from NAFSC colleagues, and in late April, mailed copies to 14 prominent US-based airlines. In mid-June, Ms. Singer received a letter from Southwest Airlines Vice President of Communication and Strategic Outreach, Linda Rutherford, indicating that "Effective July 1, 2010, Southwest Airlines will add the...U.S. Surgeon General's guidance to its onboard Inflight menu, its web site mentions of our onboard beverage service and to the service pages of our Inflight magazine, Spirit." After reading the letter Ms. Singer quickly e-mailed colleagues with the good news declaring "Yippee!! We can make a difference!" The subcommittee will now regroup their efforts and are considering following up with the other airlines and asking for endorsement/support from national prevention and public health organizations. So, if you're flying Southwest Airlines this summer, be sure to look for the new text in their in-flight materials. We thank them for their support and hope other airlines will follow their lead.



Center Update: Expert Panels' Role and Work Advance the Center's Goals

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's FASD Center for Excellence (Center) has created two expert panels composed of members from diverse professional and community backgrounds who provide their insight and expertise to advance the Center's goals.

Creation of an Expert Panel is part of the Center for Excellence charter. The Center's panels formally meet twice a year. Recently, the two panels met together for the first time to report on their work and how it converges to help drive the Center's primary goal—development and advancement of science-to-service and service-to-science, evidence-based practices. The working dinner was held in May 2010 prior to the start of the Center's annual Building FASD State Systems (BFSS) Conference held this year in Nashville, Tennessee.

Due to the value of the information exchanged during their dinner, and the prospect of increased collaboration, Expert Panel members have formally requested to meet as a joint panel beginning Fall 2010.

Expert Panel and Native Expert Panel: Who They Represent

A primary charge of the Expert Panel is to foster communication and collaboration among the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), three divisions of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Each SAMHSA Center has representation on the panel, along with other key federal agencies and private sector organizations.

To ensure that the Center's work includes the viewpoints of populations and families who may be disproportionately affected by FASD, the Center in May 2009 created the American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Expert Panel (CNEP). Along with families and an individual living with an FASD, the CNEP includes representatives from Tribal, State, and federal agencies, Native organizations, substance abuse and mental health treatment providers, and representatives from related fields.

American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Expert Panel

Newly formed, the CNEP continues to develop its charges, some of which include:

- Act as liaisons with Native communities.
- Review materials that the Center produces for Native communities.
- Develop strategies to reach Tribal and community leaders, Elders and individuals with an FASD and their families, and men and women of childbearing age.
- Represent the Center at selected conferences and meetings.
- Contribute to an Indigenous inventory of models that integrate both Traditional Knowledge and promising practices.
- Participate in the governance of the Expert Panel.

Meeting for the third time, the panel primarily focused on developing its subcommittees and tasks. However, CNEP members reported on significant diagnosis and treatment activities among the Tribes they work with and represent, which responds to the Center's mandate to collect information on service-to-science activities.

Expert Panel

The Expert Panel (EP) shares several charges similar to those of the CNEP; however, its broader scope impels additional key charges, including:

- Advance SAMHSA's science-to-service goals by providing expertise in evaluating best practices and expanding evidence-based prevention and services.
- Identify key needs, provide insight and feedback on current and emerging issues, and foster communication, and collaboration in the field.
- Synthesize information and work with the Center's in-house experts to ensure that measurable progress is achieved in areas including, but not limited to, training, technical assistance (TA), service-to-science efforts, data collection, and evaluation.

During its pre-BFSS meeting, the Expert Panel's Federal agency and national organization representatives provided updates and reports, including:

- **Self-Advocacy Planning Committee**—this group is working to create a forum to explore issues related to self-advocacy and to connect individuals with an FASD with one another. The group under formation will be called FASD Self Advocates in Action (FSAA).
- **Federal Agencies**—panel members from the Indian Health Service (IHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) discussed their work related to FASD. The IHS and CDC are working together to adapt Project CHOICES, an FASD prevention program designed to reduce or prevent drinking by pregnant women or pregnancy among women who are drinking, for use in Native communities. The IHS also reported that it is developing an electronic

system that will be used to standardize health screening and data collection which they hope will standardize care, screening and patient education for women. NIAAA noted that nearly 10 percent of its funding is devoted to FASD.

- **DSM Issues Workgroup**—noted that as part of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) update, FAS is listed under “Conditions Proposed by Outside Sources.” Public comments were solicited on FASD; the public comment period is now closed and the issue of whether a diagnosis code or information on ARND/FASD will be included in the DSM-V is still under deliberation.
- **ARND Diagnostic Issues Workgroup**—this group is tasked with (1) determining what is known, (2) compiling a summary of evidence, and (3) working toward consensus development with regard to definitions and recommendations. In their first meeting, they determined that there were similar ways to diagnose ARND using different diagnostic schemes. Some of the issues that need to be addressed next include what should be considered the norm and which deficits cannot be explained by familial background or environment alone.

Canadian Connection

Expert Panel member Dr. Sterling K. Clarren, Chief Executive Officer and Scientific Director, Canadian NW FASD Research Network offered information on activities and developments in Canada. He noted that a Canadian group is working to develop a toolkit that covers how to screen for FASD, and takes on the ethical questions implicit in screening. The modalities being considered for use in the screening toolkit include a parole officer screening test, a neurobehavioral checklist, the maternal drinking screener, discussion of the use of a meconium assay, and the Medicine Wheel as used in Aboriginal Communities.



FASD SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Interventions

Evaluation of a successful fetal alcohol spectrum disorder coalition in Ontario, Canada

Clarke-McMullen DM

- FASD coalitions
- Impact on community
- FASD Action Network
- Internal Coalition Outcome Hierarchy model

Leading a successful coalition that benefits both the members and the community is a difficult task. Coalitions are complex and require a great deal of skill to initiate, lead, and evaluate. This article examines a successful coalition, developed to build community capacity to address fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). FASD is a complex, multidimensional health issue common in many communities. Coalitions can be effective in tackling these types of issues and fit with community capacity-building approaches to health promotion. The Internal Coalition Outcome Hierarchy (ICOH) model (Cramer, Atwood, & Stoner, 2006a, 2006b) is used to retrospectively examine the internal constructs of the FASD Action Network and provide useful lessons learned for other coalition leaders and public health nurses. This hierarchical model demonstrates that sound internal processes lead to more successful outcomes and ultimately an increased impact on community issues. The usefulness of ICOH as a tool in evaluating the FASD Action Network and its application to other health-promotion situations with community capacity goals is described in this article.

Public Health Nursing
May-June 2010; 27(3):240-7

Interventions

Results of a nurse-led workshop designed to prevent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

Caley LM, Riemer S, Weinstein HS.

- FASD prevention intervention
- Eight counties in New York
- Workshop

Preventing the negative consequences of prenatal exposure to alcohol remains an unmet challenge. This paper presents the results of a workshop, designed to increase the implementation of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) prevention interventions in 8 counties of New York. The workshop was based on constructivist learning theory and used the Population-Based Public Health Nursing Intervention Model as the structure for discussing potential interventions. The number and type of FASD interventions implemented were determined by surveys sent out post-workshop to 167 participants. At 4 months post-workshop, 37 participants reported implementing 226 primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions in 74 different worksites. The results indicate that incorporation of constructivist learning theory shows promise for future public health and continuing education programs aimed at changing or enhancing practice.

Public Health Nursing
May-June 2010; 27(3):232-9

Prevention

Fetal alcohol syndrome: cardiac birth defects in mice and prevention with folate

Serrano M, Han M, Brinez P, Linask KK.

- Congenital heart defects
- Animal study

Alcohol (ethanol) consumption during pregnancy is linked to congenital heart defects that are associated with fetal alcohol syndrome. Recent reports have associated ethanol exposure with the Wnt/beta-catenin pathway. Therefore, we defined whether ethanol affects Wnt/beta-catenin signaling during cardiac cell specification. In conclusion, folic acid supplementation alone or with myoinositol prevented alcohol potentiation of Wnt/beta-catenin signaling that allowed normal gene activation and cardiogenesis.

American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology
2010 May 7 [E-pub ahead of print]

Prevention

The relation between different dimensions of alcohol consumption and burden of disease: an overview.

Rehm J, Baliunas D, Borges GL, Graham K, Irving H, Kehoe T, Parry CD, Patra J, Popova S, Poznyak V, Roerecke M, Room R, Samokhvalov AV, Taylor B.

- Systematic review
- Alcohol consumption
- Alcohol-related diseases

As part of a larger study to estimate the global burden of disease and injury attributable to alcohol, this study was designed: to evaluate the evidence for a causal impact of average volume of alcohol consumption and pattern of drinking on diseases and injuries; to quantify relationships identified as causal based on published meta-analyses; to separate the impact on mortality versus morbidity where possible; and to assess the impact of the quality of alcohol on burden of disease. Overall, the findings from this study indicate that alcohol impacts many disease outcomes causally, both chronic and acute, and injuries. In addition, a pattern of heavy episodic drinking increases risk for some disease and all injury outcomes. Future studies need to address a number of methodological issues, especially the differential role of average volume versus drinking pattern, in order to obtain more accurate risk estimates and to understand more clearly the nature of alcohol-disease relationships.

Addiction
May 2010; 105(5):817-43 [E-pub 2010 Mar 15]

Verbal and nonverbal memory in adults prenatally exposed to alcohol

Coles CD, Lynch ME, Kable JA, Johnson KC, Goldstein FC.

- Memory function in young adults
- Dysmorphic individuals compared to nondysmorphic individuals

Neurocognitive effects of prenatal alcohol exposure in adulthood are not well documented. Questions persist regarding the extent to which there are specific, measurable effects beyond those associated with global ability deficits, whether individuals without the full fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) demonstrate alcohol-related cognitive impairments, and whether observed memory effects are specific to a particular modality, i.e., verbal vs. visual/spatial domains. The findings from this study indicate that prenatal alcohol exposure is associated with persistent and specific effects on memory performance, and these problems result from less efficient encoding of information across both verbal and nonverbal modalities. Education and training efforts with this clinical group should take these characteristics into account.

Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research

May 2010; 34(5):897-906 [E-pub 2010 Mar 3]

Population differences in dysmorphic features among children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders

May PA, Gossage JP, Smith M, Tabachnick BG, Robinson LK, Manning M, Cecanti M, Jones KL, Khaole N, Buckley D, Kalberg WO, Trujillo PM, Hoyme HE.

- Dysmorphic features
- Northern Plains Indians
- South Africans
- Italians

To examine the variation in significant dysmorphic features in children from 3 different populations with the most dysmorphic forms of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), and partial fetal alcohol syndrome (PFAS). We concluded that the dysmorphology associated with FAS and PFAS vary across populations, yet a particular array of common features occurs in each population, which permits a consistent diagnosis across populations.

Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics

May 2010; 31(4):304-16

Prenatal alcohol exposure: fetal programming and later life vulnerability to stress, depression and anxiety disorders

Hellemans KG, Sliwowska JH, Verma P, Weinberg J.

- Depression/anxiety
- Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis

Children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) exhibit cognitive, neuropsychological and behavioral problems, and numerous secondary disabilities including depression and anxiety disorders. Dysregulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis is common in depression/anxiety, reflected primarily in increased HPA tone or activity. Prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE) increases HPA tone and results in HPA dysregulation throughout life, paralleling many of the HPA changes in depression/anxiety. We review data demonstrating altered HPA function and increased depression/anxiety in FASD. In the context of the stress-diathesis model, we discuss the hypothesis that fetal programming of the HPA axis by PAE alters neuroadaptive mechanisms that mediate the stress response, thus sensitizing the organism to stressors encountered later in life, and mediating, at least partly, the increased vulnerability to depression/anxiety disorders. Furthermore, we present evidence demonstrating sex-specific alterations in both hormonal and behavioral responsiveness to tasks measuring depressive- and anxiety-like behaviors in PAE offspring. Overall, the research suggests that the stress-diathesis model provides a powerful approach for elucidating mechanisms underlying the increased vulnerability to mental illness among individuals with FASD, and developing appropriate treatments for these individuals. Dr. Seymour Levine's seminal work on the long-term consequences of early life experiences formed a framework for the development of the research described in this review.

Prenatal alcohol exposure and neurodevelopmental disorders in children adopted from eastern Europe

Landgren M, Svensson L, Strömland K, Andersson Grönlund M.

- Neurodevelopmental disorders
- Eastern Europe
- Orphanages

The purposes of this investigation were to determine the frequencies of and associations between different neurodevelopmental disorders and to study the potential lasting effects of alcohol on children adopted from Eastern Europe. We conclude that fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and neurodevelopmental disorders were common in this long-term follow-up study of children adopted from orphanages in Eastern Europe. Maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy has long-lasting adverse effects, causing structural, behavioral, and cognitive damage despite a radically improved environment.

Pediatrics

May 2010; 125(5):e1178-85 [E-pub 2010 Apr 12]

FASD-RELATED LITERATURE

Risk-taking Rises When Youth Reach Legal Drinking Age, Study Finds, *Join Together*, June 3, 2010

College students are more likely to drink and drive after they reach the legal drinking age of 21, according to researchers from the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported May 31 that researchers followed 1,253 students over their four-year college career and found that while just 20 percent of 20-year-olds reported driving while intoxicated, 25 percent of 21-year-olds said they had done so. Driving with an intoxicated driver was reported by 43 percent of 20-year-olds but 49 percent of 21-year-olds.

Researchers said that while reports have shown that freshmen drink more than upperclassmen, older college students may be more likely to take alcohol-related risks due to easier access to alcohol or cars.

"Our findings call into question the assertions of some advocates who claim that lowering the drinking age to 18 would be a useful strategy for reducing harm associated with alcohol consumption," said study author Amelia Arria. "The present findings are consistent with numerous prior studies showing that increased availability of alcohol is associated with a greater level of problems, especially underage drinking-and-driving fatal crashes."

The study is scheduled to be published in the August 2010 issue of the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2010/risk-taking-rises-when-youth.html>

Youth ER Visits for Alcohol-Related Problems Spike During Holiday Weekend, *Join Together*, May 28, 2010

Everyone loves a Memorial Day weekend party, but a new study suggests that some kids are having more holiday 'fun' than they should.

Underage-drinking related visits to hospital emergency rooms are 11 percent higher on the typical Memorial Day weekend than on normal days, according to a new study (PDF) from the *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration* (SAMHSA). Also, ER visits for problems associated with combined alcohol and other drug use by those under age 21 are 27 percent higher over the holiday weekend.

Youth alcohol-related admissions over the three-day weekend average 577 daily, compared to 519 on a typical day. Admissions for combined use of alcohol and other drugs average 199 visits, compared to 156 normally. The data are from SAMHSA's Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN).

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/youth-er-visits-for-alcohol.html>

All Asian-Americans Not Equal When it Comes to Alcohol and Other Drug Use, *Join Together*, May 26, 2010

In general, alcohol and other drug use is lower among Asians than most other ethnic groups in the U.S. But there are some strong differences in drinking and drug use among various Asian-American communities, a new report finds.

Binge drinking is far more common among Korean-Americans than Chinese-Americans, while Americans of Japanese origin are three times more likely to use illicit drugs than those whose families came from India, according to the report from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA). Asians born in the U.S. also are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs than those born outside the country, regardless of their age.

Overall, however, the rates of past-month alcohol use, binge drinking, illicit drug use, and need for addiction treatment is far lower for Asians than the national average. The [Substance Use Among Asian Adults](#) report is available on the SAMHSA website.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2010/all-asian-americans-not.html>

Genes Help Determine Brain Response to Alcohol, Medication, NIAAA Says *Join Together, May 20, 2010*

Alcohol consumption prompts the brain to release the pleasure chemical dopamine, but genes may influence the degree to which the brain responds to drinking and—by extension—how effective medications like naltrexone are in treating alcoholism.

Researchers at the [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#) (NIAAA) found that genetic variations in the mu-opioid receptor sites in the brain's reward system seem to influence the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine and the degree of pleasure that individuals get from drinking. Researchers also found that naltrexone -- a drug that works to block the release of dopamine resulting from drinking -- was more effective for patients with some genetic profiles than others.

"Our data strongly support a causal role of the 118G variant of the mu-opioid receptor to confer a more vigorous dopamine response to alcohol in the ventral striatum," said NIAAA researcher Vijay A. Ramchandani, Ph.D. "The findings add further support to the notion that individuals who possess this receptor variant may experience enhanced pleasurable effects from alcohol that could increase their risk for developing alcohol abuse and dependence. It may also explain why these individuals, once addicted, benefit more from treatment with blockers of endogenous opioids."

Markus Heilig, NIAAA's clinical director, noted that naltrexone also worked better in the early stages of alcoholism, when the body still believes it is being rewarded for drinking ('reward craving'). At a certain point, however, the brain switches to a pattern called 'relief craving'—what Heilig called a "pathological pattern of anxiety" —where naltrexone isn't nearly as helpful.

The latest findings were published online in the journal [Molecular Psychiatry](#).

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2010/genes-help-determine-brain.html>

Regulations Lag as Alcohol Firms Tap New Media to Reach Young Drinkers, *Join Together, May 21, 2010*

Adolescents are being bombarded with alcohol marketing online as firms exploit new-media tools and lax regulation to put their brand images and information in front of young drinkers, according to a new report.

[HealthDay News](#) reported May 19 that American University professor Kathryn Montgomery -- author of the report, [Alcohol Marketing in the Digital Age \(PDF\)](#) -- said that alcohol is being sold through "a multiplicity of platforms throughout the day and night that includes online, offline, mobile, digital, music, video -- a whole range of different ways that consumers interact with new digital marketing."

Researchers said that the Federal Trade Commission needs to investigate an advertising space where loose regulations -- such as weak age-21 verification on Web sites -- are contributing to youth exposure to alcohol marketing. "We're not calling for any kind of censorship, but we do think these are very serious issues that do require attention by regulators and public-health professionals," Montgomery said.

Alcohol companies also are reaching out to consumers via social-networking platforms like Facebook, both directly and indirectly through consumers who are encouraged to tout their brands to others in the network. "There's a whole stealth world of marketing that occurs in social-media spaces," said study co-author Jeff Chester of the [Center for Digital Democracy](#). "It's a completely Wild West environment."

Heineken has even created a virtual online city where visitors can create digital apartments, get free storage and e-mail, and earn points based on how long they stay on the site. Viral videos, like a Smirnoff clip promoting an alcoholic iced tea, are another marketing channel, as are messages delivered to mobile devices.

The Distilled Spirits Council responded to the report by saying that online and digital communications are primarily used by adults, "which makes these platforms responsible and appropriate channels for spirits marketers."

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2010/regulations-lag-as-alcohol.html>

FASD NEWS ARTICLES – GENERAL PRESS

Court Rules Women Can't be Charged for Taking Drugs during Pregnancy, *Lexington-Herald Leader*, June 18, 2010

The Kentucky Supreme Court ruled that women cannot be criminally charged for abusing alcohol or drugs during pregnancy. In a 5-2 decision, the court ruled that the state's Maternal Health Act of 1992 expressly precludes women from being charged with crimes if they ingest drugs or alcohol during pregnancy. The issue at hand was whether police and prosecutors were correct when they charged Ina Cochran with first-degree wanton endangerment after she gave birth to a child who tested positive for cocaine in 2005. The full story can be downloaded at <http://www.kentucky.com/2010/06/18/1312498/court-rules-women-cant-be-charged.html#ixzz0rDKx9xAk>. A legal summary of the case can be viewed at this link: <http://www.leagle.com/unsecure/page.htm?shortname=inkyco20100617233>

Canadian Parliament Proposes Alcohol Bottle Warning Labels, *tbnewswatch.com*, June 10, 2010

In Thunder Bay, Canada, MP John Rafferty is pushing for new regulation to help combat Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. In response to constituents' concerns, Rafferty has introduced a private member's bill calling for an amendment to the Food and Drug Act. Rafferty said warning labels should be placed on all liquor bottles warning of the dangers alcohol poses to unborn children. Download the article at <http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/95889/Rafferty-looks-to-pass-another-private-member%E2%80%99s-bill->

One in Three Mums Drinks Alcohol While Pregnant or Breastfeeding—Study, *heraldsun.com* (Australia), June 8, 2010

An Australian study reports that one in three women consume alcohol during pregnancy and breastfeeding. These women are aware of the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. They are choosing to ignore the warnings. Approximately 90 percent of Australians think that women should not drink alcohol during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Download the full story at <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/one-in-three-mums-drinks-alcohol-while-pregnant-or-breastfeeding-study/story-e6frf7jo-1225876678031>.

Bush: Path to White House Began with Decision to Stop Drinking, *Join Together*, June 3, 2010

Former President George W. Bush writes in his forthcoming book that his decision to quit drinking alcohol at age 40 turned his life around and set him on a course that would ultimately lead to the Presidency, the *Associated Press* reported May 25.

Bush's book, *Decision Points*, opens with an account of the moment when wife Laura pressed him to decide whether he loved drinking more than his children. Bush said he also needed to determine whether partying or Laura was more important.

Bush said that he realized that he had an addictive personality and decided to quit drinking.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/bush-path-to-white-house.html>

TJ Maxx Pulls Drinking Games, *Join Together*, June 2, 2010

An inquiry from a *Boston Globe* reporter led retailer TJ Maxx to remove a series of drinking games from store shelves, the *Globe* reported May 30.

Reporter Beverly Beckham spotted the games—which require players to drink shots of liquor when they lose—in TJ Maxx stores in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The games were on display near Father's Day and graduation gifts.

Some of the games were based on classics like Bingo, tic-tac-toe, and checkers; others had names like Drink Like a Fish, Gargle, Drink Til You Drop, Ship Wrecked, and Battle Drinks.

The games had warnings stating, "Alcohol consumption is extremely dangerous and can lead to sickness and even death. The publishers of this game do not advocate or endorse the consumption of alcohol, and accept no liability for the consequences of your behavior if you consume alcohol while playing this game. This game may be played with non-alcoholic beverages."

But TJX Companies, which owns TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Home Goods, and A.J. Wright, followed up on the media inquiry by stating that the games would be out of its stores within 24 hours. "We believe our decision reflects our values of integrity and respect for our customers," said Sherry Lang, senior vice president of global communications for TJX.

A [2007 letter-writing campaign](#) organized by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and Join Together and others persuaded Kohl's, Target, and Linens 'n Things to remove similar games. "All drinking games do is encourage underage drinking. There is no reason for them. Responsible companies shouldn't have them on their shelves," said David Rosenbloom, founder and director of Join Together.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/tj-maxx-pulls-drinking-games.html>

Officials Not Crazy About Potent 'Four Loko' Energy Drink, *Join Together*, June 1, 2010

A new energy drink called [Four Loko](#) has 12 percent alcohol content and is loaded with caffeine and sugar, [WABC-TV](#) reported May 28.

Twice the size of a regular can of soda, the 24-ounce energy drink sells for under \$3—cheaper than a beer—which officials in New York say makes it appealing to kids.

Four White Plains [New York] teenagers recently were hospitalized after drinking Four Loko, prompting warnings from White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong. "The kids have a nickname for it, they're basically calling it coke in a can," he said.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/officials-not-crazy-about.html>

Saudi Program Looks to U.S. for Addiction Treatment Guidance, *Join Together*, June 2, 2010

Mohammed Al-Turaiki, CEO of a Saudi treatment program, is visiting Brighton Hospital in Detroit to find a model for Muslim addiction treatment. Brighton provides culturally sensitive care and connections to the local Arab-American community, including social-services groups offering addiction counseling and an Arabic-English 12-Step program. Al-Turaiki is planning a 250-bed treatment hospital in Saudi Arabia. The law in Saudi Arabia forbids alcohol and drug use, so treating substance abusers is a challenge.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/saudi-program-looks-to-us.html>

R.I. Group Outlines 12 Steps to Close Treatment Gap, *Join Together*, May 27, 2010

Early intervention, increased treatment options, and integrating addiction treatment with mainstream medicine are among the focal points in a new Rhode Island report aimed at closing the gap between need for and availability of addiction services, the [Providence Journal](#) reported May 26.

Rhode Island's [Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap Coalition](#) issued a dozen recommendations to state policymakers, including requiring Medicaid to pay for screening and brief intervention, developing quality standards for treatment providers, empowering the health-insurance commissioner to ensure that the state's parity law is enforced, and including behavioral-health specialists in primary-care facilities.

Only 12 percent of Rhode Island residents who need addiction treatment receive services, experts said. "There would be outrage in the streets if one in eight diabetics received ... treatment," said Nick Zaller, coordinator of the Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap Coalition.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/ri-group-outlines-12-steps-to.html>

World Health Organization to Tackle Alcohol Misuse, Binge Drinking, *Reuters*, May 20, 2010

The World Health Organization (WHO) has adopted a global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. In a resolution adopted by consensus, Health ministers agreed on 10 main policy recommendations to try to curb binge drinking and other growing forms of excessive alcohol use through higher taxes on alcoholic drinks and tighter marketing regulations. Drawn up after 2 years of negotiations, the policy recommendations are not binding but serve as guidance to the WHO's 193 member States. Download the full article at <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64J21O20100520>.

Blind Drunk? Vodka 'Eyeballing' Latest Fad with Teens, *AOL Health*, May 26, 2010

Teenagers are engaging in a new drinking game that has become a shocking trend. The drinking game is called "eyeballing". "Eyeballing" is a drinking game where participants pour vodka directly into someone's eye. They are not doing this to get drunk. It occurs after they are drunk. Download the full story at <http://www.aolhealth.com/2010/05/26/blind-drunk-vodka-eyeballing-latest-fad-with-teens/?icid=main|htmlws-main-n|dl3|link5|http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aolhealth.com%2F2010%2F05%2F26%2Fblind-drunk-vodka-eyeballing-latest-fad-with-teens%2F>.

Italy Launches Fetus in Cocktail Glass Poster to Stop Women Drinking, *Telegraph.co.uk*, May 26, 2010

Italy has a new health warning campaign about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. The new ad shows the fetus in a curled up position in the bottom of the glass, beneath ice cubes and a slice of orange. The ad carries a message that moms should not drink during pregnancy. The health warning features a drink unique to the area, the "spritz", a mixture of white wine, Campari and a shot of sparkling water. The ad will appear buses on billboards and in the women's bathrooms in bars, restaurants and nightclubs. The full story can be downloaded at this link:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/7764241/Italy-launches-foetus-in-cocktail-glass-poster-to-stop-women-drinking.html>



Justice System Struggles with Cases Involving FASD, *Join Together*, May 17, 2010

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) sometimes manifests itself as an inability to understand the consequences of one's actions, a fact that has U.S. courts struggling to reconcile the medical science with justice in a number of criminal cases, the *Chicago Tribune* reported May 9.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University recently reported that 60 percent of Americans with FASD have had involvement with the criminal-justice system, and that the diagnosis is common among prison inmates.

However, judges, prosecutors and corrections officials know little about the disease. Few states screen offenders for FASD, and those who break the law or rules are typically seen as intransigent, not victims of their disease. People with FASD can have normal intelligence but are immature and highly open to suggestion, experts say -- a mix that may make them seem more responsible for their actions than they really are.

"Unless we do a better job of educating court professionals ... and modify our strategies, this population is always going to fail," said Kathryn Kelly of the ASD Legal Issues Resource Center.

Minnesota is the only state in the U.S. with a group home for those with FASD, and an effort is underway in the state to tailor sentences more appropriately to offenders with FASD. "We can do better," said Susan Carlson, a retired Hennepin County juvenile-justice officer. "It's not only more humane ... it's a lot more cost-effective. I have yet to see a prison that can take someone with this disability and turn them into a productive citizen."

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/justice-system-struggles-with.html>



AWARENESS SPOTLIGHT

What's New in the FASD Viewing Library

Drugs, alcohol, pregnancy, and parenting, I. Chasnoff, ed. Kluwer Academic Publishers: Boston, 1988

A manual for health professionals, this book is focused on caring for pregnant women who use substances. It looks at the effects of maternal substance abuse on the long-term outcome of infants. It also discusses intervention and prevention programs. This book can be purchased at <http://www.amazon.com>.

Alcohol and drug abuse: A psychosocial and spiritual approach to prevention, A-M. Ghadirian, MD. George Ronald Oxford: La Vergne, TN, 2007

The author explores the spiritual dimension of prevention and recovery, focuses on prevention, and examines where responsibility lies for alcohol and drug abuse. One chapter covers the impact of parental alcoholism on children and youth. First

published in 1985 and revised in 1987, this company publishes books of interest to the Bahá'í faith. It can be purchased at <http://www.amazon.com>.

The Farmer's Daughter by J. Harrison. Grove's Press: New York, 2010

This book is a collection of three short stories. One of the stories is a coming of age story about a 15 year old who is homeschooled. Another story is about a retired werewolf in contemporary times. The third story is about a man who flees to Canada with his adopted daughter who has FAS, to prevent her from being institutionalized. To purchase this book, go to <http://www.amazon.com>.

Braided cord: Tough times in and out by L. Kulp. Better Endings. New Beginnings: New Brooklyn, 2010.

Author Liz Kulp recalls her life experiences living with FASD. She writes about the challenges of living with her disorder and discusses her strengths, which helped her to graduate from high school and transition into adulthood. Ms. Kulp talks about being unprepared for a world with "predators." This book can be purchased at <http://www.amazon.com>.

Fetal alcohol syndrome medical guide: Quality guide to understanding and learning about a serious medical disease, Contro Medical Guides, Filiquarian Publishing: Lexington, KY, 2008.

The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Medical Guide is a publication designed to help readers understand Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). It looks at the history of FAS, its physical effects, and related medical and behavioral interventions. This book can be purchased at <http://www.amazon.com>.



FASD-RELATED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Grants

Nonprofits working to meet the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children may apply for grants from the [American Legion Child Welfare Foundation](#). The foundation supports dissemination of information about innovative programs and groups that benefit youth as well as information on groups and programs with an established track record of helping children. Programs should have the potential to help American children across a multistate region.

Applications are due July 15. For more details, see the complete RFP online ([PDF](#)).

Join Together, 7 May 2010. <http://www.jointogether.org/news/funding/opportunities/2010/american-legion-child-welfare.html>.

2010 Fellowship Program on Tribal Youth Justice

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is seeking applications for funding under its Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Fellowship Program on Tribal Youth Justice. This program furthers DOJ's mission by supporting and enhancing tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and strengthen the juvenile justice system for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth. The deadline for application submission is July 19. The full solicitation can be downloaded at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2010/FellowTYJustice.pdf>.

Aetna Foundation Grants Focus on Racial and Ethnic Health Care Equity

The [Aetna Foundation](#) makes grants for obesity prevention, racial and ethnic healthcare quality, and integration of healthcare services. The foundation's Racial and Ethnic Health Care Equity focus area emphasizes "promoting equity in health and health care for common chronic conditions and infant mortality," while the Integrated Health Care program supports "advancing high-quality health care by improving care coordination and communications among health care professionals; creating informed and involved patients; and promoting cost-effective, affordable care." Research, project, and policy grants may be awarded.

Application deadlines are Aug. 15, and Nov. 15. For more details, see the [grant announcement online](#).

Join Together, 30 Mar 2010. <http://www.jointogether.org/news/funding/opportunities/2010/aetna-foundation-grants.html>

Alcohol Use Disorders: Treatment, Services, Research, and Recovery

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) will award an array of research grants to study alcoholism treatment and recovery from multiple angles. The Alcohol Use Disorders: Treatment, Services Research, and Recovery grants will "support research on behavioral and pharmacological treatment for alcohol use disorders; organizational, financial, and management factors that facilitate or inhibit the delivery of services for alcohol use disorders; and phenomenon of recovery from alcohol use disorders," according to NIAAA. Grants will be made under the [NIH Research Project Grant \(R01\)](#) mechanism, the [Small Research Grant \(R03\)](#) mechanism, and the [NIH Exploratory/Developmental \(R21\)](#) grant mechanism.

Join Together, 30 Mar 2010. <http://www.jointogether.org/news/funding/opportunities/2010/alcohol-use-disorders.html>



FASD AND RELATED CONFERENCES & EVENTS

July 2010

The 4th National Conference on Women, Addiction and Recovery: Thriving in Changing Times

Date: July 26-28, 2010

Location: Chicago, IL

Description: This conference offers an opportunity for sharing the practices, programs, policies or significant research that have been effective in addressing the needs of women and families. The conference is grounded in the principles of recovery and gender-responsive, trauma-informed care. Topics include family-centered treatment, health policy regarding women's treatment, integrated care for co-occurring mental and health conditions, comprehensive recovery support for women, using technology in innovative ways, culturally responsive approaches for specific populations, workforce development strategies, demonstrating program effectiveness.

Registration/Deadlines: Information unavailable. For information, visit:

<http://www.samhsawomensconference.org/callforproposals.php>

State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS) National Conference and NIATx Summit

Date: July 11-14, 2010

Location: Cincinnati, OH

Description: This conference is the premier national event for leaders who are invested in the future of addiction treatment services, who are committed to developing emerging organizational leadership, and who are interested in engaging in a dialogue about current management issues in the addiction treatment field.

Registration: Conference rates increase after April 15.

Deadlines: June 18, 2010 is the last date to request conference refunds.

<http://www.saasniatx.net/Content/Home.aspx>

University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health's Leadership, Legacy, and Community: A Retreat to Advance Maternal Child Health (MCH) Scholarship and Practice 2010

Date: July 19-21, 2010

Location: Oakbrook, IL

Description: This national professional development program is designed for intergenerational, interdisciplinary, academic/practice MCH professionals who are committed to social justice, equity-based interventions, the life-course model, and out-of-the-box thinking to improve the health of our women, children, and families.

Registration/Deadlines: June 28, 2010, Early Bird rate. For information visit:

Association of Recovery Schools' 9th Annual Conference, "On the Trail to Freedom"

Date: July 21-21, 2010

Location: Boston, MA

Description: This conference will provide a wide array of opportunities for those who work with adolescents in the area of substance abuse. It allows participants to share best practices, learn from experts in the field, and connect with colleagues from all over the country.

Registration/Deadlines: For information visit:

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=39415b23-713a-4a6f-89ad-8b11a0d155fc>

http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=788900	
August 2010	
<p>Communities Collaborative Committee, White Earth Child Care Program— 10th Annual Brain Development Conference: “Ten Years of Making a Difference”</p> <p>Date: August 10-12, 2010</p> <p>Location: White Earth, MN</p> <p>Description: This is a national conference for parents and service providers to share new information and strategies for working with children and families. This year’s conference goals are to bring together individuals, programs, and schools that work with children ages birth through school age.</p> <p>Registration/Deadlines: June 23, 2010</p> <p>http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com/pdf%20links/2010_Conference_Flyer.pdf</p>	<p>North American Council on Adoptable Children 36th Annual Conference</p> <p>Date: August 4-7, 2010</p> <p>Location: Hartford, CT</p> <p>Description: This is the annual meeting of the North American Council on Adoptable Children. This organization is committed to meeting the needs of waiting children and families who adopt them.</p> <p>Registration/Deadlines: June 1, 2010–Exhibitor; July 10, 2010–Early Bird</p> <p>http://www.nacac.org/conference/NACAC_exhibit_adform.pdf</p>
September 2010	
<p>“Healing Our Spirit Worldwide—The 6th Gathering”</p> <p>Hosted by Papa Ola Lokahi</p> <p>Date: September 9-10, 2010</p> <p>Location: Honolulu, HI</p> <p>Description: Healing Our Spirit Worldwide is an Indigenous cultural celebration that will focus on wise practices, successes, and common issues in health, healing and addictions within Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Registration/Deadlines: April 30, 2010</p> <p>http://www.papaolalokahi.org/coconut/events/pdf/HOSW_1pgr.pdf</p>	<p>National Conference on Addiction Disorders (NCAD)</p> <p>Date: September 8-11, 2010</p> <p>Location: Washington, DC</p> <p>Description: The conference combines the expertise of National Association for Addiction Professional (NAADAC) and National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) and the Southeast Conference on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (SECAD) It conference will offer programs and tracks that deal with treatment, administration, finance, design, technical, and medical professional issues.</p> <p>Registration/Deadlines: July 16, 2010</p> <p>http://www.ncad10.com/ME2/Sites/Default.asp?SiteID=A53C336637E4447680C388F25D16C053</p>
November 2010	
<p>First European Conferences on FASD: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Growing Awareness in Europe</p> <p>Date: November 3-5, 2010</p> <p>Location: The Netherlands</p> <p>Description: The aim of this conference is to bring together European researchers, public health workers, and FAS-related NGOs for the first time, in order to share knowledge and promote collaborations.</p> <p>Deadlines: Deadline for abstracts: April 30, 2010. Send to info@eufasd.org</p> <p>Registration:</p> <p>€185 by Aug. 3, 2010</p> <p>€215 by Oct 3, 2010</p> <p>€245 past Oct 4,2010</p>	<p>34th Annual AMERSA National Conference</p> <p>Date: November 4-6, 2010</p> <p>Location: Bethesda, MD</p> <p>Description: The meeting of the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA) will reflect on AMERSA's interdisciplinary strengths and the commitment to disseminate the latest developments in substance abuse education, prevention, treatment and research that challenge all health care professionals.</p> <p>Deadline: Deadline for abstracts and workshops is May 28, 2010. Submit on-line at www.amersa.org.</p> <p>Registration: For more information, visit www.amersa.org or contact Doreen@amersa.org.</p>

For more information, visit:

http://eufasd.org/EN/conf_en.php

