

# Coalition Edition

U.S. Rep. Sandy Levin, 12th Congressional District

## Study Shows Impact of Coalitions

The Office of National Drug Control Policy released a study of the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program showing that coalitions have a dramatic impact on substance use rates in their communities when compared to the national average.

Using data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), the study has found that there is a significant difference between national use rates and those in DFC communities for all substances

studied: alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. In 2007, the average use rate for alcohol in DFC communities was less than half the national rate: 21.4% versus 44.7%. Similar results were found for tobacco (10.6% versus 20%) and marijuana (9.8% versus 19.7%).

The data further showed that the differences had become greater since 2004, indicating a growing impact of coalition activity over time. Use rates were also found to be lower

where coalitions were more “mature,” hinting that experience increases coalitions’ effectiveness.

The report, prepared by independent research firm Battelle, presents interim findings as part of a broader study. A full evaluation of the DFC program will be completed in 2009.

## Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities

The Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities (ACHC) collaborates with 14 community coalitions and other ACHC members across Oakland County through information sharing, peer mentoring, training and coordinated environmental prevention strategies. ACHC’s next training focuses on sustainability at a Coalition Board Breakfast at Century Bowl in Waterford, November 15. Coalition board members can register through [info@achconline.org](mailto:info@achconline.org), Coalition leaders are now updating their assessment

of underage drinking and will update their initiative to reduce underage drinking during 2009. Anyone who wants to collaborate in this process is also asked to contact ACHC at [info@achconline.org](mailto:info@achconline.org).

ACHC is also seeking local community information about the consequences of marijuana and prescription drug abuse in Oakland County. This data will inform future prevention initiatives.

Through the resources of the Strategic Prevention

Framework – State Incentive Grant, ACHC will be implementing Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA). Currently training venues are being sought for three two-day training events.

*For more information about CMCA or other ACHC collaborative efforts, please call **Donnis Reese, 248-802-6789, or [donnis@achconline.org](mailto:donnis@achconline.org)***

Fall Edition

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## Macomb County Prevention Coalition

The Macomb County Prevention Coalition (MCPC) serves as an umbrella organization for the ten local community coalitions, which represent every municipality in Macomb County. MCPC provides resource materials and guidance for coalitions to help them successfully reach their goals such as information from law enforcement, health organizations, and downloadable publications.

MCPC kicked off the school year by holding its 3rd Annual Fundraising Breakfast at the Macomb

Intermediate School District on September 15th. At the breakfast, Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel was presented with the "Congressman Sandy Levin Community Coalition Award" for his efforts fighting drug usage in the county. The event was a success with over 125 people attending from local coalitions, including a wide range of students; representatives from law enforcement, education, health professionals; the faith community, and elected community leaders.

This year MCPC is continuing their "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" campaign, a campaign designed to alert parents of the dangers of providing alcohol to children under 21 years of age. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-to-20-year-olds in America. In fact, drivers between 15 and 20 account for less than seven percent of America's licensed drivers, yet represent just over 20 percent of the nation's annual traffic crash fatalities.

Another initiative MCPC is undertaking is the con-

tinuation of their "Talking Tobacco" program. This program encompasses a series of discussions and informational designed to inform parents and youth on the dangers and health risks associated with smoking.

The next meeting will be held at the Macomb Intermediate School District on November 20th at 12:00pm.

*For more information please contact Ken Lampar at (586) 405-2260, [K\\_lampar@yahoo.com](mailto:K_lampar@yahoo.com) or visit [www.mcpcweb.org](http://www.mcpcweb.org)*

## Troy Community Coalition

The Troy Community Coalition had another successful Rochester Villas Summer Camp for youth between the ages of 8-13. This day camp has been a collaboration between the Troy School District, Troy Police Department and Troy Community Coalition for the past fourteen years. Youth are provided health, nutrition and prevention instruction, refreshments, and are taken on weekly field trips under the supervision of camp staff. Many of these youngsters would be at home alone or without any

structured activities if they didn't attend the camp.

The Troy Community Coalition was one of only 80 community coalitions awarded a "SAMHSA STOP" grant for 2008. The grant will be used to increase activities surrounding underage drinking. A new part time staff person will be added to implement the grant and to help increase awareness and strategies around teen drinking.

The Troy Coalition is currently mentoring the North Oakland Community Coa-

lition in building their organization capacity and reducing substance abuse rates in Lake Orion and Orion Village. Coalition Mentoring Director, Cheryl Davenport, has worked with the leadership of NOCC over the past year and is currently helping with strategic planning after their first successful Youth Dialogue Day event in the spring. This is the third DFC Mentoring grant awarded to the Troy Community Coalition which provides for technical assistance and one-on-one help from more mature

coalitions to those just starting out.

*For more information please contact Ann Comiskey at (248) 823-5088 or [aco-miskey2@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:aco-miskey2@troy.k12.mi.us)*

## Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families

The Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families is launching several new initiatives this school year. These initiatives include the Parenting Gazette, an email newsletter for parents, Project Alert, a drug prevention education program being piloted at Wyandot and Algonquin Middle Schools, a Drivers' Training Initiative, partnering the Coalition with local driver's education schools, and the creation of Teen-Councils to increase in-put of youth to the Coalition.

Focus on Youth, a forum involving high school youth in structured dialogue with community leaders, is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Boys & Girls Club.

Other Coalition-sponsored initiatives include the following: Parents Who Host Lose...Lose the Most Campaign; Project Learn (tutoring/mentoring program for 4<sup>th</sup> graders at the Boys & Girls Club); Smart Moves (drug prevention program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade); a Red Ribbon Campaign

during October; and Critical Issues Workshop planned for March 27, 2009. A meeting of the Interfaith/Chippewa Valley Schools Partnership, which links the Coalition to local churches will occur on November 5, 2008.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 3:30pm at the Chippewa Valley Schools Administration Building. The schedule for the remainder of the year is October 14<sup>th</sup>, November 11<sup>th</sup>, and December 9<sup>th</sup>.

*For more information please contact Dr. Charlene McGunn at (586)723-2360 or*

[cmcgunn@cvs.k12.mi.us](mailto:cmcgunn@cvs.k12.mi.us)

## Clintondale - Mt. Clemens Zero Tolerance Coalition

The Clintondale/Mt. Clemens Zero Tolerance Coalition kicked off the school year with their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "We Can Make a Difference Day" on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Several hundred attended the event, which brought the community together for a day of fun-filled activities and provided the opportunity

for parents and kids to learn about the dangers of substance abuse through informational displays.

The primary charge of the coalition is to address the alcohol, drug and tobacco use by children and teenagers. This year they are planning to hold an innovative Dialogue Day type

event that they will be broadcast throughout the district on classroom televisions. The coalition also continues to participate in the "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" campaign, and has a traveling display that goes to events that parents attend.

Meetings are held the third

Wednesday of every month (September through May) at 8:30am at Clintondale High School in the library.

*For more information please contact Dorothy Wilkins at (586) 791-6300 or* [dw2mcln@ccs.misd.net](mailto:dw2mcln@ccs.misd.net)

## L'Anse Creuse Community Action Coalition

The L'Anse Creuse Community Action Coalition (CAC) is dedicated to building assets, preventing substance abuse, and empowering our youth. CAC takes pride in the community by creating solutions through unification of rich community resources to plan events and create solutions to fulfill its goal of

producing healthy, caring and responsible youths. This school year, CAC will be holding their annual Dialogue Day, Asset Building/Annual Search Conference and Community Roundtable Group. Student members of CAC will also be making presentations to local service clubs and organizations, and the

coalition is seeking to expand community partnerships with the YMCA, United Way, Girl Scouts, and area religious congregations.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 8:30am at the L'Anse Creuse Administration building.

*For more information please contact 586-783-6300 ext. 1110, or visit* [www.lc-ps.org/](http://www.lc-ps.org/) [Community/CAC/](#)

## Madison Heights Family Coalition

The Madison Heights Community Family Coalition had an excellent year bringing people together throughout the community to educate and assist each other in their quest to prevent, eliminate and reduce the use of alcohol and drugs among youth.

Some of the nationally recognized programs MHFC have undertaken include Pennies for Prevention, National Turn off the TV week, Sticker Shock, SYNAR Checks, and Red Ribbon Week. Each of these programs involve adults and teens in the

community raising the awareness of Madison Heights residents regarding the battle our young people face daily to make healthy life decisions.

After hosting two very successful Town Hall Meetings featuring, professionals from the fields of medicine and government as well as community members, several ideas were offered to educate the community and provide alternative activities for local youth. Some of the events which were implemented include Bowling at Astro Lanes, skating at Skate

World, a Musician Seminar for teens with guest Speaker Ed Wolfrum, and a "Battle of the Bands" concert at the Madison Heights Civic Park with 5 local High School bands. All these events offered information about underage drinking, drug use and the coalition.

Two Madison Heights high schools participated in a student survey provided by MCCFC about 30-day use and the age of first use of alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs. The results of these surveys will be given to the community at

their next Town Hall Meeting. In addition, they sent many educational letters to the parents through the local high schools and developed a student coalition.

The student coalition meets bi-weekly to plan and execute the many community awareness and educational events MHCC host.

The next MHFC meeting will be held on November 6, 2008 at 11:30am.

*For more information, contact Judy Lewis, 248-837-2861 or visit [www.mhfc.com](http://www.mhfc.com)*

## Royal Oak Coalition

Royal Oak Coalition's (ROC) mission has always been to promote through collaboration, a healthy community free of substance abuse for youth and those who live in, work in and/or visit Royal Oak.

Last school year, ROC participated in the "Sticker

Shock Campaign". This campaign was highly successful and several local stores were visited and their alcoholic beverages were marked with stickers regarding underage drinking. In addition, the coalition visited several hotels urging that they not rent rooms to minors during

prom season in an attempt to prevent irresponsible behavior and environments in which alcohol and drugs abuse could occur.

Currently, ROC is looking to hire a part time Youth Outreach Director. The Royal Oak Coalition meets in the Kiva at the Churchill

Community Education Center located at 707 Girard on the third Thursday of every month at 6pm.

*For more information, contact Diane Dovic at (248) 588-5050 or visit <http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/ropc/index.html>*

## Southeast Oakland Coalition

The Southeast Oakland Coalition (SEOC) recently held a "Youth Dialogue Day" in collaboration with Ferndale Schools. The event gave sixty 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, along with six High School facilitators, an opportunity to interact with city and state officials and express their

concerns and offering suggestions to make their schools and neighborhoods safe.

In the spring, the coalition hosted a town hall meeting focused on underage drinking prevention where underage drinking statistics were presented, followed

by a roundtable discussion facilitated by nine students from Ferndale and Hazel Park High Schools. SEOC has also participated in national initiatives including "SYNAR Tobacco Education Visits" and "Sticker Shock," where students stickered alcoholic beverages and reminded

store owners to I.D. customers.

The next SEOC meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge in Ferndale located at 22856 Woodward Ave. on November 5 at 7pm.

*For more information on how to get involved, please contact Chris Dewan at*

## St. Clair Shores Zero Tolerance Coalition

Last year, SCS Zero Tolerance Coalition along with the SCS Police Department participated in the "Parents who Host Lose the Most" campaign. Students from South Lake, Lakeview and Lake Shore Schools teamed up to design a billboard that was displayed in the community during graduation season reminding parents of the legal consequences of underage drinking parents in the home. Additionally, the coalition and police department par-

ticipated in the Law Enforcement against Drugs Program, which allows parents to obtain drug test kits at any St. Clair Shores Middle or High School and at the police station.

This year, the SCS Zero Tolerance Coalition is experiencing revitalization in its membership. The coalition is happy to have representatives from all 3 school districts, the court, police department, Kiwanis and Optimist Clubs, as well as

churches. Currently, the coalition is conducting a community-needs assessment in St. Clair Shores to identify the top youth substance abuse issues in the city and then strategize and work together as a community to address those issues.

The SCS Zero Tolerance Coalition meets on the third Monday of every month at 3:30 p.m. at Lake Shore Presbyterian Church, located at 27801 Jefferson. Please use the covered

ramp entrance in the rear of the building on Elba St.

*For more information please contact Christina Burns at 586-498-7122 or [Christina.Burns@mail.house.gov](mailto:Christina.Burns@mail.house.gov)*

## Tri-Community Coalition

Tri-Community Coalition (TCC) held its annual Leadership Breakfast, "September to Remember" on September 19, 2008. This event was focused on informing community leaders of the coalition's mission and substance abuse issues arising in their communities. The First Gentleman of Michigan, Dan Mulhern, was the keynote speaker and gave an invaluable presentation on

the importance of utilizing your leadership position to enhance your communities. The TCC Young, Optimistic and United (Y.O.U.) Youth Council also shared their successes in making a substantial breakthrough in the High Schools by gaining new members and spreading drug free based awareness to their peer base. TCC has several upcoming events focused on educat-

ing parents and children on the issues of substance abuse. These programs range from town hall meetings, youth activities to encourage positive drug-free behaviors, and several other initiatives to reduce substance abuse in their local neighborhoods.

TCC meets at the Michigan State Police Post, located at 14350 W. 10 Mile Rd. on the first Wednesday of

every month at 7pm.

*For more information, contact Judy Rubin, Executive Director, 248-837-8008.*

*[www.tricomunitycoalition.org](http://www.tricomunitycoalition.org)*

## Utica Community Action Team (UCAT)

The Utica Community Action Team (UCAT) is currently undertaking a project to distribute new information cards about the coalition that include important telephone numbers for parents as well as a Tips for Parents sheet throughout the Utica Community

Schools District. UCAT has also started to meet and plan their Spring Break Michigan Style 2009, an alternative spring break program that promotes fun and safe spring break options for high school students. UCAT is also in the planning stages of creating

an informational prescription drug abuse program.

The next UCAT meeting will be held at the Royale Café on Auburn Road in downtown Utica on Wednesday, November 12th at 4:00 PM.

*For more information please contact Judge Kim Wiegand at (586) 446-2520 or visit [www.ucat4kids.org](http://www.ucat4kids.org)*

## Warren Center Line Prevention Coalition

The Warren Center Line Prevention Coalition (WCPC) spent the 2008 year rebuilding and established a strong base of core coalition members. They are continuing to recruit members of the community in the twelve sectors required by the federal drug free communities grant.

The coalition recently distributed 10,000 flyers to parents in the five school

districts throughout Warren and Center Line. The flyers introduced the coalition to parents and invited them to participate in activities. The flyers also continued the "Parents Who Host Lose the Most Campaign" and provided information about the law and underage drinking backed up with statistical data from the MiPHY survey. On October 25<sup>th</sup> the coalition will be participating in the

Trick or Treat Halloween event at Warren City Hall and distributing information to parents and children. WCPC is also planning to hold its first Dialogue Day in 2009 at Warren Woods High School.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 12:00pm at Warren City Hall in the Conference Room next to the library. The meeting sched-

ule for the remainder of the year is October 13<sup>th</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

*For more information please contact Keith Nelson at (586) 498-7122 or [keith.nelson@mail.house.gov](mailto:keith.nelson@mail.house.gov)*