

SARASOTA COALITION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE NEWSLETTER

# Month in REVIEW



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## SARASOTA COALITION REPRESENTED IN NATION'S CAPITOL

As part of the SMART (Sarasota Mobilizing on Alcohol Reduction in Teens) Grant, Executive Director Curt Lavarello and Coalition Chairperson Sherri Reynolds (Sarasota County School District) traveled to Washington, D.C. this month to attend the National Safe & Drug Free Schools Conference. The conference was mandatory for grant recipients and was a full three days of workshops, keynote speakers and grant meetings. Over 2200 attendees traveled to DC to attend the conference which was held at the Gaylord Resort in Maryland. While in DC, Executive Director Lavarello was able to meet with our nation's new Drug Czar, Gil Kerlikowski, a longtime friend and colleague of Lavarello's. Mr. Kerlikowski was recently appointed as the nation's new Drug Czar by President Obama and confirmed by Congress almost a month ago. Prior to becoming our Drug Czar, Kerlikowski served as Chief of Police in Seattle, WA and Buffalo, NY and rose through the ranks in law enforcement in Pinellas County. Kerlikowski addressed the large crowd and spoke about the importance of "Local Strategies" often times being more effective than "DC Strategies" when referring to substance abuse issues. The new Drug Czar began his speech with "Let me put one rumor to rest. I, or President Obama, are not in support of the legalization of marijuana." The crowd broke into a rousing round of applause. Also addressed in his speech was the need for

communities to understand that we must view addiction issues as health problems, not just a law enforcement issue.

Prior to taking the stage, Mr. Kerlikowski met with Director Lavarello and expressed his willingness to travel to Sarasota as part of the 2010 Sarasota SHINING STARS Luncheon, scheduled for next March. "I have always been so very impressed with Gil Kerlikowski's approach to substance abuse", stated Lavarello. "He has and obviously still does fully understand that the answer cannot be the building of more jails and that prevention not only is cost effective over incarceration, but is the right thing to do," continued Lavarello. Both Lavarello and Reynolds also had the opportunity to meet newly appointed Undersecretary of Education Kevin Jennings, as well as attend a speech by our nation's new Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan, former Superintendent of Schools in Chicago.

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Oktoberfest Golf Classic**

October 17, 2009

At Lake Venice Golf Club

#### **NOPE Candlelight Vigil**

October 29, 2009

Location To Be Announced

For more information go to

[www.SCoSA.org](http://www.SCoSA.org)

## SCoSA.org

### Website Stats

For the period of July 18th through August 17th the website stats are as follows:

- 306 Absolute Unique Visitors
- 404 Visits
- 1,012 Pageviews
- 59.90% Bounce Rate

**Bounce Rate:** Bounce rate is the percentage of single-page visits or visits in which the visitor left one website page to access another website. A high bounce rate is ideal for the SCoSA website as it demonstrates the effectiveness of the posted links to our community partners and local resources. Many visitors to the SCoSA website are in search of local resources and community services.

### Board of Directors

**Sherri T. Reynolds, Chair**  
Sarasota County School Board

**Lt. Tim Enos, Vice-Chair**  
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

**George Flack, Treasurer**  
Cabinet Solutions, Inc.

**Liz Bumpus, Secretary**  
Sarasota County Health Department

**Tom Randle, Past-Chair**  
Sarasota Coastal Credit Union

**Curtis S. Lavarello**  
SCoSA, Executive Director

**Rose Chapman**  
Jewish Family & Children's Services

**Honorable Charles Roberts**  
Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit

**Charles Brown**  
Gold Coast Eagle Distributing

**Lisa Maier**  
Hanley Center

**Scott Dennis**  
ABC 7

**Honorable Larry Eger**  
Public Defender, 12th Judicial Circuit

### Our Mission:

**To promote substance abuse free environments through increased community awareness and advocacy.**

# SARASOTA COALITION TO REVIEW 2006 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2006, the Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse held a Strategic Planning Session to chart out the next 3 years for the Coalition and during that session three goals were developed:

1. Residents, organizations, businesses and government recognize the Coalition as a source of information and expertise
2. Financial stability, not reliant on grant funding
3. Increased awareness of substance abuse challenges in Sarasota County

"While I'd like to say we continually work toward achieving those goals, a lot has changed since 2006" states Curt Lavarello. "We have made quite large strides toward goals 1 and 3, however with the economy taking a downturn for all non-profits we definitely have challenges ahead in terms of funding the programs we have been able to offer without cost in the past" continued Lavarello.

Beginning in September this year, the Coalition will work closely with the Nonprofit Resource Center, part of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. An in-kind grant will allow experts in non-profit management to assist Coalition staff and board members in revisiting their strategic planning progress and perhaps look at what would most appropriately serve Sarasota County in terms of its only substance abuse coalition. Judi Bell, Vice President of Nonprofit Resources and Les Fishman, Lead Consultant for The Nonprofit Resource Center have already begun the process of meeting with key Coalition board members and staff and will be scheduling a board retreat in the coming weeks.

**Project AIM Update:**  
**Big Sugar,**  
**The Sport's Page Bar & Grille**  
**and Horse Feathers**

Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse, Inc. [SCoSA] is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that advocates for substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment through collaborative efforts. Since its inception in 1999, SCoSA has played a vital role in reducing substance abuse and its destructive impact in Sarasota County.

Are you interested in taking a real step in making our community a Substance Abuse Free Environment?

Please complete this form and mail it with your membership dues and/or contribution to:

**Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse, 701 McIntosh Road, Sarasota, Florida 34232**

**Type of Membership:**  Individual [\$25]  Not for Profit Organization [\$100]  
 Family [\$50]  For Profit Organization [\$150]

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Staff / Support

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*Would you like to receive our monthly newsletter?*

*Email Carol at:*

**Carol@scosa.org**

*For a list of substance abuse treatment and intervention resources, visit our community resources page at:*

**www.scosa.org**



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