

ASAC ACTION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017



In this edition:

Message from Barb Gay,
Executive Director p 1

New Clinical Director..... p 1

Art of ACES event p 2

Recovery success with
medication assisted
treatment..... p 2

2017 Annual Dinner p 2

ASAC Board President honored
with award p 3

ACES training
opportunities..... p 3

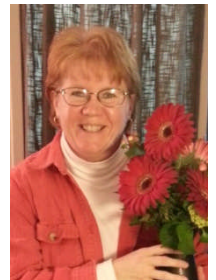
Youth mental health campaign
launch p 3

Message from Barb Gay, Executive Director

Community partnerships are a means to make great things happen for people who live in our communities! ASAC has agreements with a number of human service agencies and local businesses which support our patients and staff. At the end of April, I had the opportunity to present at a national conference, the American Association of Suicidology, with the Executive Director of Foundation 2, Emily Blomme. Foundation 2 has been a long time partner with ASAC; this past fall we embarked on a new collaboration. ASAC screens all of our patients for suicide risk, and now when we have a patient that needs a comprehensive suicide assessment, we can link our patient (while they are in an ASAC office) to a Foundation 2 Crisis Counselor. With the patient's consent, Foundation 2 shares back to the ASAC Counselor the safety plan that was developed so it can be incorporated into the patient's substance use disorder treatment plan. This allows our patients to be served by both agencies, in a coordinated effort that doesn't add any additional barriers to the patient. This is just one example of how much we can all benefit from these creative partnerships, focusing on the expertise of both agencies.

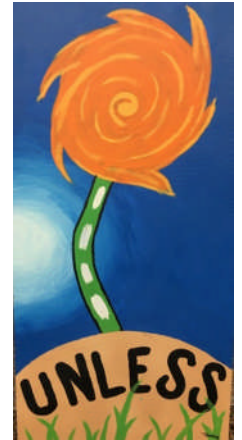
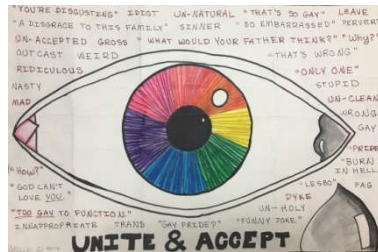
Clinical Director Announced

ASAC is excited to announce that Gayle Kelly has accepted the position of Clinical Director with ASAC. Gayle's clinical knowledge and experience will be a benefit to our agency in this new role. Prior to this role, Gayle served as the Component Director for ASAC's South Outpatient program, including corrections, multicultural outpatient services, and has been overseeing ASAC's Feedback Informed Treatment program.



Art of ACES

ASAC, in partnership with 22 community organizations, held an Art of ACES event on Saturday, April 22nd. This event highlighted artwork from local youth that depict their experiences of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). Below are some submittals of art from area students. For more information on ACES work in Iowa, please visit www.aces360.org. Please also read more on page three about upcoming ACES trainings in our region.



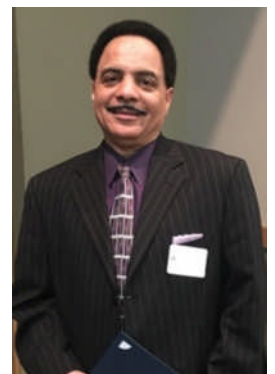
Long term recovery success with Medication Assisted Treatment



ASAC is seeing great success with medication assisted treatment. We are currently treating a woman who has been getting the Vivitrol injection with us since Nov. 2016 in addition to ongoing therapy with a Certified Counselor. Since that time, this patient has been able to successfully complete the halfway house program in our women and children's program (Heart of Iowa) and move into the Way Home transitional housing. This mother has gained employment, is working toward a management position, and is training to become a parent partner with the Department of Human Services. She is getting close to having her DHS case closed with her daughter and reports overall improvement with her family relationships. She reports all of this is because of her sobriety which was made possible with the assistance of ASAC and the MAT grant, and of course her determination to turn her life around!

ASAC Annual Dinner & Staff Recognitions

On April 21, ASAC held its annual dinner. Each year, we recognize five year increment anniversaries. This year, we recognized six staff with five years of service to ASAC, nine staff with ten years, six with 15 years, two with 20, one with 25, and one, Dedric Doolin (pictured to the right), with 40 years of service! We sincerely appreciate the dedication and commitment to our mission that each of these individuals have provided.



ASAC Board President honored

The University of Iowa Alumni Association will be awarding Nancy Humbles, ASAC Board President, with the Distinguished Alumni Award on June 10, 2017. In her award notice, the University writes that “A dedicated community volunteer, Humbles is a school board member in Cedar Rapids, the vice president for the Area Substance Abuse Council, and a coordinator for local NAACP celebrations.” Please help us congratulate Nancy for this prestigious award and for her many years of service in our community!



Upcoming ACES Training



ASAC will be providing training on Adverse Childhood Experiences June 7th. The Ace Interface course provides an in-depth look at adverse childhood experiences and is designed for educators, human service providers, law enforcement, and others concerned about the resiliency and wellbeing of individuals who have experienced trauma. For more information or to register for these events, please visit www.asac.us/training.

Youth Mental Health Campaign Launch

ASAC's Prevention program is excited to launch a new campaign focused on youth that may consider using substances as a way to cope with stress or mental health concerns. The goal of this campaign is to help youth see that they are “Greater Than” their struggles, encourage healthy coping skills and motivate youth to reach out for the support they need to overcome challenges. This campaign will include a new Instagram page for ASAC that will launch in June, so please follow us! We will also have a dedicated page on the ASAC website for teens seeking help and answers. This campaign was developed in partnership with the Linn County Coalition for Safe and Healthy Communities, local youth focus groups, Mindfire Communications, and Benson & Hepker Design. To request campaign materials for your organization, please email prevention@asac.us.

