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Our Funding Partners

Anti Drug Program Bill Proposed

Over 275 individuals who are referred to Adult Drug Court in Hillsborough County are being sentenced for their first or second charge for felony drug involvement. To provide additional options to address these numbers, Senator Ring has sponsored SB104 to amend an existing bill allowing substance abuse education and treatment programs to be offered to a larger number of these individuals. These programs would be made available to persons who have been charged with a misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia even if they have previously been admitted to a similar treatment program. This would allow these individuals another chance at treatment instead of costly incarceration.

The proven treatment program known as Anti Drug Initiative or ADI. This program has been in existence in Volusia County since 1999 and has effectively diverted over 15,000 offenders from being tried in criminal court. Outcomes show that over 95% of participants remain arrest free on a felony drug arrest charge one year after successfully completing the program.

> "We need to focus our rehabilitation for those people who are not necessarily suffering from a life of crime but from a life of addiction,"
>
> Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale

DACCO currently offers the ADI program for individuals who are referred through the State Attorney's office. The six week program includes counseling and urine drug screens. For less than $700 per person, this program will not only provide a second chance but also save more than $2,300 in court costs and an estimated $11,000 in re-arrest charges.

Working for a Drug - Free Community
Since 1973

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Tampa, FL 33605
1-855-322-2600
813.984.1818 x0

1463 Oakfield Drive Ste 113
Brandon, FL 33511
1-855-322-2600
813.413.1065

www.dacco.org

Troubled Teen?

We have outpatient treatment programs that range from three to twelve months that are designed specifically for adolescents age 12 – 17. With flexible evening and Saturday hours available at both our Tampa and Brandon locations, we can help get your loved one Back on Track.

Our programming is unique. In addition to offering traditional individual and group counseling, a specialized curriculum called "CART" - Creating a Responsible Thinker – is also used. In our program, your teen will learn the importance of making responsible decisions and you as their parent or guardian will gain the skills to help them do so.

Private Insurance Accepted
DACCO is now an in-network provider for these private insurance plans

The DACCO Dispatch

The newsletter that provides information on proven and effective prevention and treatment programs for alcohol and drug addiction.

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As both Medical Director of DACCO and Clinical Assistant Professor with the University of Florida Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Ashit Vijapura heads DACCO's team of medical professionals. "Our team includes board certified/ eligible physicians as well as nursing professionals fully trained to address the medical needs of our clients. Our expertise is not only in psychiatry and addiction medicine, but also in the family practice, urology and pediatrics specialty fields. Our affiliation with the University of Florida provides us access to the most current medical based practices and clinical protocols to treat addiction as well as other mental health issues which may be present."

In addition to the DACCO team of medical professionals, a collaboration with Tampa Family Health Centers, provides our clients in treatment, as well as those in the general community, access to primary care services at onsite clinics located at our main and satellite locations.

Treating Prescription Drug Addiction

With 7 deaths each day in our state linked to prescription drugs, DACCO is providing a treatment program proven both safe and cost effective.

The most common prescription pain medications are opiate based. Opiates or opioids are drugs that slow down the actions of the body, such as breathing and heartbeat. Opioids also affect the brain to increase pleasant feelings. Some of the most commonly prescribed and/or abused include oxycodone (Oxycontin, Roxicodone and Percocet).

Experts agree that addiction to prescription medications is one of the most difficult for an individual to overcome yet residential treatment is not required to address this addiction. DACCO's opiate treatment program provides the medical expertise necessary to address both the dependence and tolerance associated with addiction to these drugs.

Licensed by the Department of Children and Families and adhering to strict DEA standards, DACCO's opiate treatment program uses both methadone or suboxone based on physician assessment to stablize the patient. Both medications allow an individual to feel normal, not high, and withdrawal does not occur. As part of the program, a customized treatment plan is developed for each individual after a thorough assessment by the physician. The program includes counseling, drug screens and other supportive services allowing individuals the opportunity to discuss with professionals and their peers the disease of addiction.

Numerous studies show that over 95% of individuals who do not enroll in a treatment program after completing detoxification will relapse. This is because individuals who have used an opiate for more than a year have permanent changes to their brain chemistry and are at increased risk of relapsing. Recognizing the importance of coordinating enrollment after detoxification into a maintenance program, the Department of Children and Families has funded a pilot program here locally between two community treatment agencies - DACCO and ACTS -providing an important "bridge" between detox and treatment.

To learn more about the program and how opiate maintenance treatment not only reduces illegal opiate use, but also crime, death and disease often associated with this addiction, please call our hotline at 1-855-322-2600.

Upcoming Events

Lost & Found Mural

Starting March 23rd DACCO staff and clients will collaborate on creating a lasting memory art display. The display will feature what is "lost" and "found" during the profound journey from addiction to recovery. This commemorative has been made possible through the kind donation of DACCO supporters. The art will be displayed for all to enjoy on the 2nd floor of the DACCO Center for Behavioral Health.

Golf Tournament

Join us at Avila Golf & Country Club on November 14th, 2011, to play a round of exceptional golf while you support DACCO in providing prevention and treatment as we work towards a drug free community! Information on how to register to play or sponsor this annual event will be sent via email in April.

Providing Opportunities to Build Strong and Healthy Families through Education

Mom of three successfully overcomes her addiction to methaphetamines and earns her GED at 28.

As a 9th grade dropout, Sunshine accomplished her goal of earning her GED while in treatment. She seized the opportunity to attend onsite, daily adult-ed classes, made possible through a partnership with the Hillsborough County School Board.

Both Sunshine and her husband came to residential treatment at DACCO via the federally funded Children's Reunification Service Collaborative (CRSC), a multi-agency initiative which is lead by Hillsborough County Children's Services Division. The Collaborative also provided Sunshine and her family additional services including marital/family counseling and intensive case management.

Sunshine's story is one of triumph and courage. "I started using drugs at age 14 in order to deal with sexual abuse I endured. By age 21, I started using meth." The couple's three children were moved from their care and placed with relatives prior to them entering treatment to deal with their addictions, personal and family issues. "While at first I didn't want to be at DACCO, I started realizing that I could continue to focus on the negative or start seeing the positive. When I started focusing on the positive, I was able to make the drastic changes I needed to make."

Sunshine and her husband are excited about starting their new life after completing their treatment.

"While I will continue to focus on my recovery and staying connected to the wonderful people I have met here at DACCO, both me and my husband have plans to go to school and work on putting structure back into our family so we can continue to reach our full potential."

"My husband and I found the help we needed at DACCO and saved our family"

"Losing both my dad and first husband to drug overdoses, I knew I had to deal with my lack of self esteem that led me to abuse drugs. Now that I have successfully completed my treatment and achieved my GED, I can now be the example I want to be for my children."

Over 21 families have been reunified through Hillsborough County Children's Reunification Services Collaborative, a federal grant targeted to assist families impacted by addiction in the child welfare system. Reunifying families and helping them build the skills and support they need to financially provide for themselves avoids an estimated $21,000 per year in foster care costs per child.

Meet Our Medical Team of Experts

DACCO recognizes addiction as a disease and our medical team of four physicians and eleven nurses provide an onsite integrated medical component to our residential, day treatment and opiate addiction treatment programming.

Dr. Vijapura, DACCO's Medical Director, brings to the agency an extensive background including board certification in both psychiatry and addiction medicine. In addition to running his private Practice, he also oversees the Adult Behavioral Health Units at both Memorial Hospital and Town and Country Hospital in Tampa.

Dr. Anthony Granell, in addition to his medical degree in family practice, also has a PhD in rehabilitative counseling. Now in his second year here at DACCO, he is currently completing his fellowship in Addiction Medicine through the University of Florida Department of Psychiatry program.

Dr. Lawrence Wilson joined the DACCO team in July 2010. Having practiced in the specialty field of Urology prior to coming to DACCO, he is also in the UF Addiction Medicine fellowship program.

Dr. Jason Fields is the newest member to the team. His expertise in Pediatric Medicine, combined with his pursuit of a fellowship in Addiction Medicine, provides our adolescent treatment programs access to his medical insight for children.

Our nursing staff provides oversight of medication continuity, pregnancy, any allergy or drug reactions and lab testing for our clients in treatment.

Dr. Lawrence Wilson, Dr. Anthony Granell, Dr. Vijapura and Dr. Fields

Opening Doors to a Drug Free Community

DACCO is very thankful for its many supporters and sponsors of our fundraising and other social activities for clients and their families. We would like to spotlight **The Junior League of Tampa** and the quarterly "Mommy & Me" events they hold onsite at DACCO which provide moms in treatment at DACCO and their children the opportunity to experience crafts and other activities like facepainting, games, dancing, and puppet shows. DACCO's Junior League Chairperson Megan Berrigan says, "The Junior League is pleased to play a part in helping to rebuild relationships and impact the lives of families affected by drugs and alcohol."

What can I or my organization do to help?

We are always in need of clothes, shoes, toiletries, office furnishings and household items for clients and their children. Donations are tax deductible. For more information on how you can help, please call 813-384-4216.

DACCO's Registration is #CH410. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. DACCO is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

Partnering to Create a Drug Free Community

As the lead agency for a number of collaborations which provide services in Hillsborough County, DACCO is proud to partner with local service providers to meet the needs of individuals & families in Hillsborough County.

Since 2010, DACCO has led with three other treatment providers, the Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS), Phoenix House, and Tampa Crossroads, to provide services to individuals referred through the 13th Judicial Circuit Court on drug related charges.

Prior to federal funding being made available, each offender would have been sent to prison costing tax payors more than $26,000 annually. Treatment services provided under this funding cost on average only $3,500 while reducing crime and increasing public safety.

DACCO also serves as the lead agency for the Children's Board of Hillsborough County's Family Centered Substance Abuse Services Collaborative. Working in cooperation with the Child Abuse Council and The Centre this initiative provides child development screenings and treatment services designed to reduce the negative impact of addiction.

This program provides an onsite developmental daycare center for children who have parents in treatment, providing families the stability to grow healthier and stronger as they address their substance use disorder.