

*Behavioral Health is
Teamwork*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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16



In This Issue

	2
	3
	5
	6
	8
	9
	10

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DRUG TREATMENT COURTS OF HOPE FOR YOUTH

Like Esperanza para los Jóvenes, SAMHSA's other Juvenile Treatment Drug Court grantees are expanding alcohol and drug

The young Californians served by the Monterey County Health Department's Hope for Youth/Esperanza para los Jóvenes face incredible challenges. Primarily Latino, they live in neighborhoods plagued by gangs, violence, criminal behavior, and easy access to alcohol, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and other drugs.

After receiving a 3-year Juvenile Treatment Drug Court grant from SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) in 2010, the county has been trying to achieve better outcomes for these youth by getting young offenders out of the justice system and away from incarceration, the project includes alcohol and drug treatment, regular meetings with the judge, and drug testing.

The approach seems to be working. Recent trends are moving in the right direction," said project director Teresa Inniss-Scimone, M.F.T., of the county's Behavioral Health Bureau. "Fewer young people are relapsing, re-offending, or moving out of the program to a higher level of care," she said. "Plus, more are staying in school and in their communities."

If a young person with mental, substance use, or co-occurring disorders does get involved with the justice system, we in the behavioral health system have let that young person down. — Larke Huang, Ph.D.

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Community Coalitions Prevent Underage Drinking

In 2003, a high school principal in rural Hunterdon County, NJ, learned that his junior high school-aged son was given alcohol at a party. His and other reports of social hosting, the practice of parents supplying children with alcohol or making it accessible at home, led the principal and other community leaders to join together and create Hunterdon Safe Homes, a group dedicated to reducing the social availability of alcohol to youth.

The group involved schools, parents, law enforcement, and others in their efforts to address the access by minors to alcohol as well as the perceived lack of harm of underage drinking and parental approval. This collaboration led to the development of the Safe Homes directory, where parents could identify themselves as parents committed to hosting alcohol-free gatherings for youth.

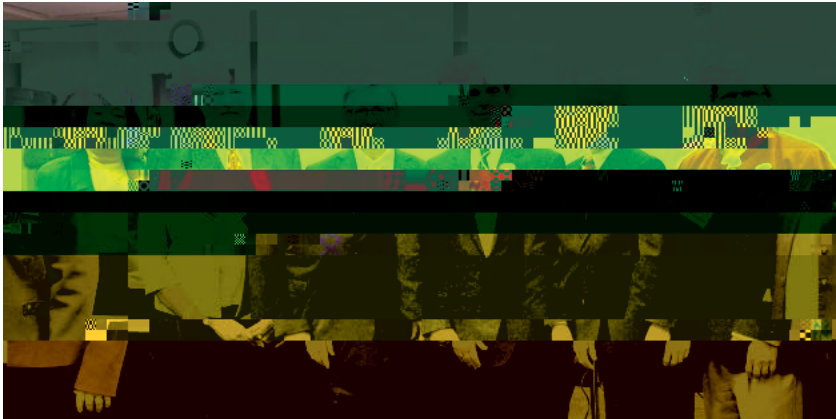
Drug Free Communities Support Program

While Hunterdon Safe Homes made significant progress with limited resources, there was still more work to do. In 2009, with help of a Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFC) grant, they changed their name to the Safe Communities Coalition (www.safe).



Addressing Substance Use in Tribal Communities

Alcoholism and addiction are among the



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