



DSAC

Dorchester
Substance
Abuse
Coalition

Join us at DSAC's monthly meeting
Third Tuesday of every month
6-7 at Carney Hospital
Get involved and share your ideas.
For more information contact DSAC's Coordinator/Community Organizer
at 617-282-3200 x210 or dsac2@hhsi.us



Harbor Health Services, Inc.

Dorchester Substance Abuse Coalition
Neponset Health Center
398 Neponset Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02122

Mobilizing the community
to stop youth substance use
and abuse

Who We Are

The Dorchester Substance Abuse Coalition (DSAC) is a grassroots organization dedicated to reducing, preventing, and eliminating substance use and abuse among youth in our community. We bring members of the community together to address the risk factors leading to substance use and abuse, and educate parents and loved ones about prevention and treatment.

Our members include youth, parents, organizations and individuals from all sectors of the community, including the Mayor's office, the police department, the Boston Public Health Commission, local schools, and of course, local parents and other concerned citizens.

Mission

DSAC's vision is to prevent substance abuse among youth through community mobilization and participation in policy, prevention and educational efforts. The mission of DSAC is to implement community level strategies in order to reduce substance abuse while fostering an environment of open communication and collaboration between member agencies and Dorchester residents in order to educate the community about substance abuse among youth and community members.

History

DSAC was formed in August, 2006, in response to the growing problem of substance abuse among youth in Dorchester. In the wake of the drug-related deaths of two local teenagers, concerned parents and community members decided to take action to prevent such tragedies in the future. At their urging, the Neponset Health Center partnered with Caritas Carney Hospital, the Medical Foundation, the Irish Immigration Center, the Dorchester Probation Court, and Boston Police District C-11 to form DSAC.



What We Do

DSAC mobilizes the community to eliminate substance use and abuse among youth. We focus on helping parents, family members, and other care-givers understand the harmful effects of substance use and abuse on youth, and what they can do to prevent it.

DSAC holds community and youth forums, sponsors youth sports activities, facilitates support groups, engages in policy advocacy, offers community resource development, and provides access to diversion to treatment programs. Our strategies for substance abuse prevention rely on community-wide participation, and emphasize parental involvement, advocacy, and collaboration with schools and youth-serving agencies.

The Challenge

We face several challenges in achieving our mission:

- The number of drug and alcohol-related deaths in Boston each year has nearly doubled in the last decade.
- Drugs like heroin and crystal meth are increasingly accessible, and in-home access to alcohol and prescription drugs is an ongoing problem.
- There is a lack of community awareness about the substance use and abuse crisis.
- There is a lack of community resources available to youth.

How You Can Help

The members of DSAC drive our events and programming, and we are always in need of good ideas and volunteers to carry them out. If you are interested in sharing your suggestions of how to reduce substance abuse among our youth, or learning about how you can get more involved, come to DSAC's monthly meeting, held on the third Tuesday of every month from 6-7pm at Carney Hospital. All are welcome, and no experience or minimum time commitment is required.

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