

Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Inc. • BRIEF HISTORY • MISSION



Our **MISSION STATEMENT** : *To provide leadership, education, and support in the community for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, alcoholism, drug dependence, and related problems.*

The Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Inc. (ASAP) is a tax-exempt non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation formed in 1995 from the merger of the school's Substance Abuse Advisory Council and the community's Nantucket Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, incorporated in 1974. Clearly, both councils have had a long history of addressing substance abuse issues and prevention needs on Nantucket. This new alliance, ASAP, *evolved specifically in response to a shared desire to reduce duplication and to coordinate the efforts of a broad cross-section of community organizations, committees and the public-at-large, and thus, developed a mission to serve as a community-wide council with representation from key groups. In 2000, the Board of Selectman designated ASAP as the town prevention committee for substance abuse.*

In 2002 ASAP led a grassroots community effort to build a residential sober house on Nantucket. In the summer of 2005 a new 501(c)(3), *Nantucket Tryworks, Inc., NTL, was incorporated*, with several ASAP Board of Directors serving as founding directors/officers. In addition, the Executive Director of Nantucket Behavioral Health Services (NBHS) was recruited and serves as a member of the ASAP Board of Directors. The sober house is due to open in 2006, under the direction of NBHS.

Similarly, ASAP has served as a 'think tank' and coordinating body for other substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment programs for the island, by identifying community needs and helping to create programs to address those needs. In order to ensure that services were well staffed and sustainable, ASAP advocated for and 'rallied around' each of the fledgling programs, identified appropriate 'homes', then provided funding to help support their start-up. Examples include identifying the need for adult mentors for at-risk adolescents; an alternative program for first time juvenile offenders; and community-based drug awareness prevention programs for youth. Respectively, ASAP helped initiate, lead and fund the MYAN, *Mentoring Young Adults on Nantucket* in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters; the *Juvenile Diversion Program* in partnership with the Cape & Islands District Attorney's office, NBHS and others; and, with the help of key community leaders, organized and continues to sponsor *Red Ribbon Prevention Awareness* events throughout the year.

In 2004, to support community members experiencing substance use disorders, ASAP created and assumed operation for the *Treatment Scholarship Program (TSP)*, with the goal of raising the funds needed to provide rehabilitation beds for those Nantucket residents, including young adults, who are in crisis from early-stage alcohol and drug abuse withdrawal and have no means to pay for their treatment. Unfortunately, acute-care detoxification treatment is not available on Nantucket, and off-island rehabilitation beds are both expensive and very difficult to secure. Oftentimes, funding becomes the pivotal, critical barrier to treatment and recovery for Nantucketers. While the TSP program focuses on candidates aged 21 and older, several of the scholarship recipients have been 21 years of age, and as such, in FY 2007 the TSP Committee will focus their fundraising efforts on establishing treatment scholarship funds earmarked for youth under the age of 21.

ASAP was one of six (6) communities in Southeastern MA awarded a Technical Assistance Grant in FY 2006 by the *Southeast Center for Healthy Communities (SCHC)*, funded through the *Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services*. The SCHC led ASAP through a strategic planning process that engaged many community partners in developing a *substance abuse prevention plan* for Nantucket youth. Throughout FY 2006 ASAP focused on creating new collaborations and partnerships; built our capacity in evidence-based prevention; collected quantitative and qualitative data to understand the causes, consumption patterns and consequences of youth substance abuse on Nantucket; and created a mission and vision statement for the community. In our first strategic planning year, the coalition advocated for, helped develop, and funded a modified *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* to collect data specifically about our Nantucket High School students. As part of Alcohol Awareness Month, ASAP sponsored two events, *SADD's Grim Reaper Day* and a *Community Dinner* and organized a *Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking*. Out of these activities, as well as additional focus groups, surveys and forums, the ASAP coalition collected data related to the consumption, consequences and causes of youth substance abuse on Nantucket. These findings revealed risk factors for underage alcohol use (*community laws & norms favorable towards drug use, and the availability of drugs*) and the need to strengthen corresponding protective factors (*healthy beliefs and clear standards*). Our needs assessment identified *Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA)* as an appropriate science-based, SAMHSA Model program strategy to address these specific risk and protective factors. ASAP applied for and was awarded a competitive grant from the *Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services* for funding in FY '07 and FY '08. **All grantees must reapply for block grant procurement for FY'09.** Annualized at \$100,000, the contract awards up to \$500,000 over the life of the grant in targeted prevention funding (pending satisfactory contract performance and legislative funding appropriations) to support the ASAP coalition's efforts to reduce underage drinking on Nantucket, by reducing underage access to alcohol.