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U.S. Senate Holds Forums on Addiction

In a bipartisan conversation led by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), the U.S. Senate has held a series of briefings on addiction treatment and recovery. The Center for Health and Justice at TASC is serving as a partner in planning and facilitating the briefings.

These Senate briefings have contributed to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, introduced in 2014 by Senators Portman and Whitehouse.

Below is a summary of the briefings held to date. For further information, or to see video clips, please visit www.centerforhealthandjustice.org and enter “Senate Forums” in the search box.

Addiction and Criminal Justice
April 29, 2014

Senators Portman and Whitehouse hosted the lead-off forum, which focused on strategies for policy and practice at the intersection of criminal justice, addiction, and recovery. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin spoke about the opiate epidemic and responses in his state, and additional speakers included public health advocates, law enforcement leaders, researchers, and policy experts. TASC President Pam Rodriguez served as a panel moderator for the discussion on diversion and alternatives to incarceration.

Women and Addiction
July 22, 2014

Sponsored by Senators Whitehouse and Portman, along with Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), this forum discussed policy priorities for providing treatment and recovery support for women with drug addiction. The forum included nationally-recognized researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and individuals in recovery. Key topics included prescription painkiller overdoses, the impact of trauma, and the role of relationships in addiction and recovery.

Understanding the Science and Addressing Collateral Consequences

December 2, 2014

Hosted by Senators Whitehouse, Portman, Ayotte, and Klobuchar, this briefing focused on the science of addiction and its collateral consequences. TASC Executive Vice President Peter Palanca delivered opening remarks and moderated the opening panel featuring Michael Botticelli, then acting (since confirmed) director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and Dr. Thomas McLellan, founder of the Treatment Research Institute.



TASC President Speaks at White House Event on Addiction Recovery

TASC President **Pam Rodriguez** (center) was a featured panelist recently at a White House-hosted event on addiction recovery and health care access. Convened by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the January 21 discussion among national experts can be viewed online at youtube.com/ONDCP. From that page, please scroll down or search "Treatment, Recovery and the ACA."

by Pamela F. Rodriguez

Governor Bruce Rauner asserted the same message in signing an executive order on February 11 establishing the Illinois

The new availability of health insurance to many people who have been arrested or released from jail or prison allows for increased access to substance use treatment and mental health care among many who most need it. More than ever before, Illinois can begin to make significant changes that allow people to get treatment for behavioral health issues as soon as, or even before, they come in contact with the criminal justice system.

No Entry diversion and alternative-to-incarceration programs offer a practical means to focus limited public resources where they will have a lasting and valuable impact. They offer opportunities for people to become healthy and responsible, while still holding them accountable for their actions.

We know what works. What's required to implement reform is leadership. We look forward to working with Representative Zalewski, Senator Noland, the Governor's new criminal justice commission, and other leaders to make this happen.

- TASC President Pam Rodriguez

No Entry diversion policies and programs at the front end of the justice system—generally at arrest and prosecution phases—have

Likewise, the TASC alternative-to-incarceration program, which provides linkage to community-based drug treatment and case management as an alternative to



To receive paperless versions of TASC News & Views, send your email address to Sharon Sheridan at ssheridan@tasc.org. Please include your name, address, and organization to help us reduce duplication.

The Sangamon County drug court recently celebrated its fourth year with a graduation event at the Springfield courthouse. Three new graduates joined past graduates, families and friends, and drug court staff at the October 24 celebration, which featured congratulatory remarks by Circuit Judge Peter Cavanagh, who presides over the drug court, and guest speaker Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL13).

The drug court has held three graduations since 2010. According to a 2013 report of the county's drug court program outcomes, none of the first 12 graduates had been arrested again or tested positive for any illicit substances.

The Sangamon County drug court was created in October 2010 as a plan for more effective and coordinated programs and services for people with substance use disorders. Drug courts are typically built on



Pictured: the **Sangamon County drug court team**. As part of the drug court team, TASC conducts clinical assessments of eligible participants and provides input on treatment progress and successful community reentry.

collaboration among judges, prosecutors, and community-based drug treatment providers. Sangamon County's program

is distinct in that the team also includes a representative from the defense bar and a local mental health representative.

As part of the drug court team, TASC conducts clinical assessments of eligible participants and provides input on treatment progress and successful community reentry.

Sangamon County's drug court has been funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance and, most recently, Adult Redeploy Illinois.



Please join us in welcoming **Thomas Neustaetter**, partner with JK&B Capital. Mr. Neustaetter brings over 20 years of corporate leadership experience in the area of investment management, including more than 15 years of venture capital and private equity investment experience, to TASC's board of directors.

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For more information on TASC services, locations, and program administrators across the state, please visit: www.tasc.org.

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TASC receives funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA); the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC); the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

TASC is licensed by DASA and DCFS, and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

TASC Honors...

(continued from page 4)

Pemberton's story underscores the importance of programs that protect and support children, the value of intervening with parents struggling with substance use disorders or mental illness, and the necessity of connected and accountable systems of care.

Pemberton praised the organizations and individuals who provide these services.

"The work is not glamorous," he said. "We romanticize so many things in our world today. This work is difficult and it's eminently challenging."

Nonetheless, Pemberton showed that hope shines through.



with the partnership and support of old friends and new—from service providers to government leaders to corporate partners and individuals—and we succeed with the help of exceptional leaders."

"...as TASC proves, no child is ugly, no child is broken, and no child is beyond repair. They were born under circumstances and into situations that they did not ask for, that they did not create, and that none of us would really want for our own children."

– Steve Pemberton

"I'm never going to know family in the traditional way," he said. "Family doesn't always look like you. It's reflected in spirit... No one can bring my mother and father back to me, and no one can bring my childhood to me. But I can prove two things without a shadow of a doubt: that their lives were not in vain, and that new beginnings are possible."

"Steve Pemberton and Senator Hunter exemplify why we present our annual awards," said Rodriguez. "We do this work

Rodriguez also thanked TASC's donors, including lead sponsors Alkermes, Jones Lang LaSalle, John Kaul Greene, and Walgreens, for their generous contributions to TASC's work.

In addition to recognizing outstanding leadership, TASC's annual luncheon helps raise important funds for programs and services throughout Illinois. To make a contribution, please visit us at www.tasc.org.



Pictured: (from left) Administrator Women, Youth and Criminal Justice Services **Barbara J. "BJ" Brooks**, Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse; **Mary Cossey**; **Larry McKinley**; **Jorge Montes**, Montes & Associates; TASC VP of Operations **Janelle Prueter**; Commissioner **John Fritchey**, Cook County Board of Commissioners; **Bill Griffin**.

Thanks to All Our Leadership Luncheon Sponsors & Guests

TASC thanks the many donors at every level whose contributions helped raise over \$138,000 to support programs and services across Illinois.

Special thanks to those sponsors who contributed exceptional levels of support:

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Making a Difference Across Illinois

TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) saves Illinois more than \$40 million annually through programs that divert people from costly state systems to less expensive services and case management in the community.

TASC offers collaborative, cost-saving, science-based solutions for Illinois government and local communities. We work with people who come in contact with the Illinois departments of Corrections, Juvenile Justice, Human Services, and Children and Family Services. We identify individuals who have alcohol and drug problems, place people into appropriate levels of services and supervision, and hold them accountable for participating in treatment or other mandated services.



MILLIONS IN REAL-TIME SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS EACH YEAR

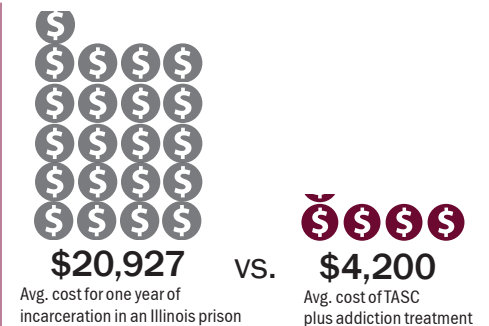
\$35M saved in fiscal 2014 by diverting more than 2,000 people from prison and into the TASC program with probation and community-based drug treatment.

\$5M saved annually by Sheridan and Southwestern prison drug treatment and reentry programs.

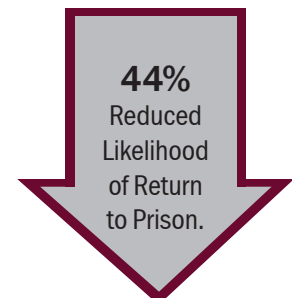
\$1.5M saved annually by prosecutorial diversion in Cook and St. Clair Counties.

\$500K saved annually by Recovery Coach program for parents of foster children.

A COST-SAVING SOLUTION



A PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTION



People who completed Sheridan drug treatment, aftercare services, and TASC case management were 44% less likely to return to prison within 7 years than comparable releasees who did not receive these services.