Rebuilding lives.
Strengthening communities.
Restoring hope.

In This Issue:

U.S. Senate Holds Forums on Addiction
TASC President Speaks at White House Event on Addiction Recovery 1
President's Corner: The Time is Now for Criminal Justice Reform in Illinois \dots 2
Sangamon County Drug Court Celebrates Four Years
TASC Welcomes New Board Member 3
TASC Honors Senator Mattie Hunter, Author and Walgreens Executive Steve Pemberton
Thanks to All Our Leadership Luncheon Sponsors & Guests5
Making a Difference

TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) is an independent, statewide, nonprofit agency that advocates for people in need of health and other rehabilitative services. We work in partnership with Illinois courts, prisons, child welfare programs, and community-based service providers to help adults and youth get the help they need to rebuild their lives. Please visit us online at www.tasc.org.

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.



President's Corner

The Time is Now for Criminal Justice Reform in Illinois

by Pamela F. Rodriguez

Faced with an Illinois prison population that has grown over 700 percent since the mid-1970s, the Illinois General Assembly's Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee recognizes the need to reduce incarceration of individuals with non-violent offenses and those with mental illness and addiction.

The legislative panel, created in May and chaired by State Representative Michael J. Zalewski (D-23) and State Senator Michael Noland (D-22), has held five public hearings, with testifiers from communities and organizations echoing the same message: It is long past time to shrink Illinois' oversized criminal justice system.

Governor Bruce Rauner asserted the same message in signing an executive order on February 11 establishing the Illinois untapped potential to help reduce prison populations, reduce recidivism, save costs, and address the health and social issues that often underlie criminal behavior.

Illinois has unprecedented opportunities to do this.

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 criminal justice system.

changes that allow people to get treatment for behavioral health issues as soon as, or even before, they come in contact with the

"As a central strategy in reducing the number of people with nonviolent charges who are behind bars in Illinois, we need to close the front door of the system, especially when it comes to people who have untreated substance use and mental health conditions."

- TASC President Pam Rodriguez

State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform. The commission will examine the current criminal justice system, from arrest to reentry.

Both of these important efforts can be accelerated by leveraging proven solutions that are already working in Illinois.

As a central strategy in reducing the number of people with non-violent charges who are behind bars in Illinois, we need to close the front door of the system, especially when it comes to people who have untreated substance use and mental health conditions.

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

There are diversion programs in Illinois that do this; it's a matter of bringing them to scale. The Cook County State's Attorney's Drug School Program, for example, which provides education on the consequences of drug use, routinely graduates 90 percent of its participants. The State's Attorney's Office reports that these program graduates are about four times less likely to have a new drug arrest in the first year after the program than their peers who fail to complete it. The program reduces costs to Cook County by more than \$1.5 million a year.

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

prison, diverted more than 2,000 people in fiscal 2014, saving the state more than \$35 million in prevented incarceration costs.

However, these types of successful programs have never been implemented at a scale to which they can achieve the most impact. An informal survey conducted by TASC in 2014 among selected Illinois counties found limited implementation of many of these types of diversion programs.

Rates of substance use and mental health conditions among people who are arrested and incarcerated are far higher than rates among the broader public: Estimates indicate they are up to eight times greater.

No Entry diversion and alternative-toincarceration 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.

As criminal justice reforms are being crafted via both the Governor's office and the General Assembly, they must embed both the No Entry principle and the reentry principle-that effective, full-scale diversion programs are necessary, and that for those returning to their communities after leaving prison, a pathway exists to provide recovery and restored citizenship rather than a return trip to prison.

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.



Help TASC Go Green!

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.

Sangamon County Drug Court Celebrates Four Years

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



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.

TASC Welcomes New Board Member

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.

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.

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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 Senator Mattie Hunter, Author and Walgreens Executive Steve Pemberton

Illinois State Senator Mattie Hunter (D-3) and author and Walgreens executive Steve Pemberton accepted TASC's 2014 Leadership Awards on December 10, inspiring more than 300 guests in attendance at the organization's annual event at the Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

TASC President Pam Rodriguez recognized Senator Hunter for her dedication to community health and criminal justice reform. Since becoming a senator in 2003, Hunter has championed efforts to protect funding for addiction treatment. She also

focus on a fair and equitable society, where all citizens and communities have a chance to succeed," said Hunter.

"As a legislator, it is important to me to work with communities to develop solutions that work in communities," she said. "TASC is an organization that helps make community-based solutions happen."

In 2014, Senator Hunter secured successful passage of state legislation that would expand the use of criminal justice diversion programs connecting individuals to community-based services. This bill is an



"As a legislator, it is important to me to work with communities to develop solutions that work in communities. TASC is an organization that helps make community-based solutions happen."

— Illinois State Senator Mattie Hunter

chaired the Illinois Disproportionate Justice Impact Study Commission and led its investigation of drug policies that contributed to the disproportionate representation of people of color in Illinois' courts and prisons.

"Being the recipient of your Justice Award is meaningful to me because it signifies your important asset to *No Entry* policies that would decrease the vast numbers of people with non-violent offenses entering the justice system.

"There's no reason to have a revolving door of drugs and crime. We can stop that door," she

More than 300 guests attended TASC's annual event at the Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago.
Pictured: (from left) Thomas Matayas; TASC CFO Roy Fesmire; Fred Schuler, JLL; James Montana,
Jr., Vedder Price P.C.; Ludwig Adelman; Hon. Gino L. DiVito, retired judge and 2011 TASC Justice
Leadership Award recipient; AdamRondeau, Alkermes.

said. "As we look forward, I'm working with TASC to build up health services and social supports in the community, where people live and work."

TASC Executive Vice President Peter Palanca presented TASC's 2014 Public Voice Leadership Award to Steve Pemberton, chief diversity officer and divisional vice president for Walgreens. Pemberton spent much of his youth as a ward of the state of Massachusetts. His memoir, A Chance in the World: An Orphan Boy, a Mysterious Past, and How He Found a Place Called Home (2012) details his journey through abusive foster care situations and his search for family.

In accepting his award, Pemberton said that as he was growing up he was called a lot of things—"that I'm ugly, I'm broken, and beyond repair. But 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."

(continued on page 5)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: TASC's 2015 Leadership Awards Luncheon will take place Thursday, December 10 at The Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

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.



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



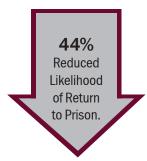
\$20,927 VS.

Avg. cost for one year of incarceration in an Illinois prison

§999 \$4,200

Avg. cost of TASC plus addiction treatment

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.