

## **Who belongs to CASA?**

CASA is a local community coalition made up of community partners from Sagadahoc County, Brunswick and Harpswell. Members include parents, schools, police departments, legislators, youth and other community organizations.

## **How is CASA funded?**

Mid Coast Hospital receives funding from the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and the Office of National Drug Control Policy to coordinate substance abuse prevention activities in our area. Special projects are also funded by local agencies such as United Way.

## **What are CASA's goals?**

CASA's overall goal is to prevent substance abuse in our community. To do that, we focus on preventing underage drinking, high risk drinking, marijuana and prescription drug misuse and abuse.

## **What is CASA doing to prevent substance abuse?**

Research has shown that to successfully prevent substance abuse, communities must create an environment that supports drug-free choices. We do that by:

- Talking with parents about the dangers of underage drinking and strategies to prevent it. Our parent resource place within CASA is [www.midcoastparentsconnect.org](http://www.midcoastparentsconnect.org).
- Creating media campaigns to increase awareness of the dangers of underage drinking and what we can do to keep our kids safe.
- Partnering with schools to develop substance abuse policies and procedures based on best practices and community values.
- Educating stores and restaurants on liquor laws and strategies to prevent underage sales through retail trainings and consultations.
- Funding underage drinking enforcement activities of local police and sheriff offices.
- Offering consultations to businesses on the impact of substance abuse to a worksite, strategies to prevent employee abuse, and assistance on becoming a drug free workplace.
- Educating youth and young adults on the dangers of high risk drinking (drinking too much, mixing alcohol with other substances).
- Responding to community requests and recommendations.

## **How are coalition members involved?**

Coalition members are instrumental in helping guide what projects will work in our community. Members help design newspaper ads and other materials, identify outreach opportunities, prioritize goals, volunteer at events, and share with others the importance of addressing substance abuse in our community.

## **When does CASA meet?**

CASA meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month for 1.5 hour meetings (3:30 – 5 pm) beginning in October and through June, at 66 Baribeau Dr. in Room 3A on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the MCH Behavioral Health Building in Brunswick. Meetings are open to the public. If you are attending a CASA meeting for the first time, please call or send us an email so we know to expect you and can give you a brief orientation before the meeting starts. To receive meeting notices and other volunteer opportunities, please contact:

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