

# PREVENTION CONNECTION



SAC Joins  
Twittersphere



Welcome to Prevention Connection, a monthly update on training announcements, the newest resources and prevention news available, as well as an update on Prevention First and our programs.

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## General Training Opportunities

As a reminder, Prevention First reserves the right to make changes in the training personnel, date and/or location scheduled for any training event.

Check our website for the most up-to-date and available courses.

### March Trainings

- Ongoing Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse (Online Self-Study)  
25 State Partners in Prevention Webinar Series: IADDA (Webinar)

### April Trainings

- Ongoing FASD Studies of Hope (online Self-Study)  
2 Substance Abuse Prevention (IISAP) III (Springfield)  
3-4 Developing and Implementing Successful Communication Campaigns (Chicago)  
9-10 Conducting Focus Groups (Bloomington)  
23 Substance Abuse Prevention (IISAP) III (Chicago)  
24-25 Strategies for Coalition Development (Springfield) (Sub-grant B only)

### Other Training Opportunities

\*Trainings are for WIC Certified Health Professionals (CHP) only.

### March Trainings

- Ongoing FASD Studies of Hope (online Self-Study)\*  
13 Supporting Students: Adolescent Medication Management (Webinar)  
13 FASD - Practical Application of the Screening and Brief Intervention (Mt. Vernon)\*  
20 FASD - Practical Application of the Screening and Brief Intervention (Springfield)\*  
27 FASD 101 (Webinar)\*



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## Student Assistance Program Update

### Physical and Mental States Impact SAP Service Delivery

Every Student Assistance Program, just like every athlete, faces periodic challenges. Scott Jurek, in his book “Eat and Run” emphasizes the need to be in touch with your physical and mental state. Jurek, considered the top ultra marathon runner of the decade, understands that attention to physical and mental health states impacts success. (<http://scottjurek.com/eatandrun/>)

Being in touch with the SAP physical and mental states of the team impacts successful SAP services. Every SAP faces challenges ranging from intense issues students and families present, to finding available community resources, to offering SAP services in a time-limited format.

A “system check” of sorts can prove to be one of the SAPs most valuable tools in keeping team members fresh and focused. The Student Assistance Center (SAC) at Prevention First offers several tools to enhance your SAP services including a system check tool entitled “Levels of SAP Development.” The “Best Practices Formative Assessment Tool” offers a more detailed look at the 23 evidence-based standards of practice. Helpful tools can be located at [www.prevention.org/EducatorsAndSchools/SAC/Tools.asp](http://www.prevention.org/EducatorsAndSchools/SAC/Tools.asp).

The SAC helps SAPs meet challenges by offering technical assistance at no cost. Schools may contact the SAC Administrator,

Dale Gasparovic, at 217-299-8803 or at [dale.gasparovic@prevention.org](mailto:dale.gasparovic@prevention.org) for individualized assistance.

Increasing knowledge about high risk topics can also improve SAP service potential. The SAC now offers live and archived webinars on topics such as disordered eating, sexual pressures, and other topics of interest. Go to [www.prevention.org/EducatorsAndSchools/SAC/Courses.asp](http://www.prevention.org/EducatorsAndSchools/SAC/Courses.asp) and look under “Webinars.”

Podcasts will soon be added to the SAC menu of offerings. These brief (five to eight minute) commentaries will offer select Student Assistance strategies. Keep abreast of Podcast topics by checking our website regularly at [www.prevention.org](http://www.prevention.org).

Healthy SAPs go the distance in offering the best possible services to students and staff. Students lose most when the SAP fails to take steps necessary to create that health.

**The Student Assistance Center at Prevention First has joined the Twittersphere. We hope that you will follow us and we will be able to engage in stimulating discussions of topics of interest to all of us in the Student Assistance field. We will notify you of new training opportunities, interesting new research, resources that we identify, and so much more. I hope you will join us and tweet your thoughts, comments or questions. We look forward to being of service to you in this new way. Join us: Twitter handle @SACenterPF.**

## Prevention News

### Prevention First Welcomes Communications Manager

Hello, I'm Ruthie Gergeni, the new Communications Manager for Prevention First. I most recently spent nearly six years as a Marketing Specialist for Richland Community College in Decatur. While there I designed and edited new newsletters for the Foundation and Alumni Association, I created the College's first-ever graphics and usage style guide, served on the committee that designed the new website, and was in charge of the internal monthly newsletter.



Prior to that, I was the Communication Manager for the Illinois Primary Health Care Association in Springfield for five years. I was the editor of their monthly publication, IPHCA Health Source, assisted members, served

on committees, and assisted the legislative team during Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. I traveled all over the state meeting members and seeing their community health centers in action.

I plan to bring the same passion and enthusiasm to Prevention First, and will use my experience to further the mission of the organization. If I may be of assistance, please contact me at 217-793-7353, Ext. 122, or [ruthie.gergeni@prevention.org](mailto:ruthie.gergeni@prevention.org).

### Governor Quinn Announces Proposed FY14 Budget

Governor Quinn recently delivered his [FY14 Budget Address](#) to a joint session of the Illinois General Assembly.

Funding for Addiction Prevention remained stable with \$1 million in general revenue funds proposed for FY14. The proposed total funding for FY14 is \$33.2 million, with FY13 total funding at \$27.7 million. The \$5 million increase accommodates the federal Partnerships for Success grant.

The DHS Budget Briefing Book can be reviewed or downloaded [here](#).

### Kick Butts Day Raises Awareness

SADD is currently promoting a number of exciting contests and opportunities; one event of note is Kick Butts Day, scheduled for March 20. It's an opportunity for youth to raise awareness of the tobacco problem, encourage their peers to abstain, and to get involved with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

The Kick Butts Day [website](#) has great resources to inspire kids and get them started planning an event for March 20.



Illinois SADD is enthusiastic about getting the word out, and seeing what sort of creative undertakings different SADD chapters develop and implement.

Contact Zoe Schuler at [zoe.schuler@prevention.org](mailto:zoe.schuler@prevention.org) to find out if there is a chapter near you, and check out our [newsletter](#).

## Resource Spotlight

### Have You Taken the Pledge?

The Medicine Abuse Project, a five-year action campaign to prevent half a million teens from abusing medicine by 2017, invites everyone (citizens, parents, grandparents, health care providers, community leaders, and educators) to **take a pledge** to learn about teen medicine abuse, to safeguard medicines and to talk to teens you know about this issue.

Once you've taken the pledge, please download the **Parents360 Rx Action Kit**, which includes an 11 minute video, a discussion guide, handouts to help parents talk to their kids, and an audience evaluation. The Action Kit is designed to easily and effectively help law enforcement officials, prevention and treatment professionals or any concerned parent or adult share information about medicine abuse with friends, family, neighbors and organizations to which they belong.

## Funding News

### SAMHSA is Accepting Applications for Technology Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for **Technology-Assisted Care in Targeted Areas of Need (TCE-TAC) grants**. This grant program is expected to provide 13 individual grants in the amount of \$280,000 per year for up to three years. The actual award amounts may vary, depending on the availability of funds. By providing greater access to the use of technology such as web-based services, smart phones, and behavioral health electronic applications (e-apps), TCE-TAC grants will enhance and/or expand the ability of providers to reach out to people in treatment, as well as track and monitor their health so that providers can help ensure services are available where and when they are needed.

Applications are due April 10, 2013, 11:59 PM (Eastern Time).

Source: [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

## Contact Us

Prevention First is a nonprofit resource center committed to building community capacity to prevent substance abuse through training, technical assistance and public awareness.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email [communications@prevention.org](mailto:communications@prevention.org) with the words "Unsubscribe Prevention Connection" in the subject line.