

**From:** Tania Chandler [tchandler@nycasc.org]  
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**To:** Claire Bellerjeau  
**Subject:** June News from EAC's TASC



# FOCUS

The Newsletter of NYC TASC

June, 2011

Dear Claire,

Welcome to the June edition of **FOCUS, The Newsletter of NYC TASC.**

This month we focus on **Alcohol Education**. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in 2007, 7.8 percent of people age 12 or older - an estimated 19.3 million people - needed treatment for an alcohol problem in the past year, of whom 87.4 percent did not perceive a need for treatment and did not receive it! In Department of Justice reports, the prevalence of alcohol use among offenders is as high as 40 percent. The crisis point of criminal justice involvement by clients thus offers a unique opportunity to address the gaps in awareness, motivation and treatment of alcohol use. Building on its court-based case management services, NYC TASC created the **Brooklyn TASC Alcohol Education Program** to improve client chances of achieving both increased recovery and decreased recidivism.

We hope you enjoy this month's focus. We invite your comments and hope you'll share your thoughts for future newsletters. Feel free to contact me for additional information about this or any other TASC Program.

**Tania Chandler, Esq.**  
Regional Director

## *FOCUS: Alcohol Education*

***"It made me realize how dangerous and dumb I was before I got caught drinking and driving. It is a great program because it makes you open your eyes."***

- J.T., a client of the Brooklyn TASC Alcohol Education Program



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In October 2009, EAC began the **Brooklyn TASC Alcohol Education Program (AEP)** in response to a need voiced by the Court to provide services to low level offenders arrested in Brooklyn for alcohol related offenses. The mission of the program is to promote public safety by educating clients on the disease concepts of alcohol abuse and dependency in an effort to reduce the number of people being re-arrested for alcohol related offences. Participants attend a 5 week, 12 ½ hour series of groups held on Wednesdays at 6PM at the Brooklyn TASC office located at 175 Remsen Street 5th Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201. The program is based on an offender pay model to promote accountability. The cost of the program is \$300. Participants are expected to attend 4 of 5 sessions and must receive a score of at least 64% on the course post test to receive a successful completion certificate. **Since October 2009, the program has served 447 participants.**

*A preliminary study of the 29 participants to complete the first 3 cycles of the program (18 months ago) showed that **only 1 was rearrested.***

Participants use interactive journaling developed by The Change Companies© and complete a structured and experiential writing process that motivates and guides them toward a positive life change. The Journals encourage responsible decision-making and the reduction of recidivism by providing accurate information and assisting participants in making changes to their high-risk behavior. Group facilitators engage the participants in self growth and enhancement activities to learn about the use and abuse of alcohol and develop a plan of action to begin to change their behavior.

Group facilitators help participants understand the patterns of substance use and define defense mechanisms. Participants are encouraged to evaluate their own relationships with alcohol or other drugs and discuss the impact of substance abuse and dependence on their family.

Each participant is given a set of journals which encourage self-assessment and explores consequences of abuse including the legal, financial and personal effects. The stages of change are introduced as a road map for participants to develop their behavior change plan. Participants evaluate their current drinking patterns; map out where they have been, where they are and where they wish to go. At the end of the program participants assess their motivation to change their behavior, explore their options for change and commit to action steps to avoid further incidents.

***"The program taught me that alcohol has a bigger effect on you than you think."***

***"I learned that if I drink and drive I put my life and others in danger."***



***"I am in control and it starts and ends with me."***

*-clients of EAC's  
Brooklyn TASC Alcohol Education Program*

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Erin Mahoney  
Program Director

A promotional banner for EAC's Aloha Golf Classic. It features a yellow hibiscus flower on the left, the EAC logo (a stylized figure holding a staff) and 'EAC EDUCATION &amp; ASSISTANCE CORP' in the center, and a golf ball on the right. Below the logo, it says 'EAC'S ALOHA GOLF CLASSIC - 2011' and 'Monday, June 20, 2011 North Hills Country Club in Manhasset'. At the bottom, there is a blue button that says 'CLICK TO REGISTER'.

**DONATE NOW**   
MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The Education & Assistance Corporation's (EAC, Inc.) 66 programs on Long Island and in the New York metro area protect children, create opportunities for seniors, promote healthy families and communities, empower people through employment and education, and provide alternatives for people with substance abuse and mental health needs.

Since 1986 EAC has operated Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC), a national program model designed to break the addiction-crime cycle of drug-involved offenders by moving the offender through the criminal justice process and into drug and or mental health treatment, simultaneously providing monitoring services as an adjunct to criminal justice supervision. TASC comprehensive case management services create a unique interface among the criminal justice system, the treatment service system, and the offender, thus allowing for effective and efficient outcomes.

EAC's TASC Programs are located in Kings, Bronx, Queens, Richmond and Rockland Counties as well as in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

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