

2nd Quarter 2007

NATSAP News

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs



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Natsap Holds Advocacy Day

On May 10, 2007, thirty-six representatives from the NATSAP membership joined Jan Moss and Rosemary Tippet in Washington, D.C. to educate our legislators on the work done in our programs and our commitment to ensure the safety of children and the support of the family unit. The group represented fifteen states, twenty-eight NATSAP members and met with over fifty senators and congressional representatives.

The Day began with a briefing by Michael Barnes of DCBA Law, who reviewed the message of the Day and what to expect during the meetings. The NATSAP Advocacy Handbook, maps of Capitol Hill and instructions on finding the senate and house offices were distributed at the pre-Day reception. The representatives were provided a folder with information on NATSAP and other relevant information for distribution during their meetings. Transportation to the Hill was provided. The representatives met with their senator or congressional representative and were divided into groups of two or more. Jan Moss and Rosemary Tippet assisted in some of these meetings as well as attending their scheduled meetings.

Each representative was grateful they had followed the instructions to wear comfortable shoes as they found themselves walking from building to building and several blocks between the Senate and House buildings.

The enthusiasm at the wrap-up meeting held at end of day at the Washington Hilton was rewarding. Everyone

reported a warm reception, willingness to listen, and a commitment to assist NATSAP in ensuring that effective legislation with realistic, practical, workable policies is enacted that will provide truly therapeutic care for children.



NATSAP and its members are in favor of a partnership between caregivers and governmental agencies, so that regulation and policies are realistic, practical, workable, and truly therapeutic for children. We hope for measures that are developed in cooperation and in our shared commitment to help troubled youth gain back their lives and find hope.

Angie Senic, Eckerd Youth Alternatives, expressed her appreciation of the Day "NATSAP Advocacy Day was very beneficial. I appreciate having the opportunity to interact with our lawmakers and make them aware of the important and successful work we do in therapeutic programs throughout this country. It is critical to our continued operation that we have legislative support. Maintaining relationships with our lawmakers is the best way to achieve this goal, and Advocacy Day gave us the platform to begin developing these relationships. Personally, I really enjoyed the day and feel the experience was informative for me as well. I gained knowledge that I can share with others in our programs at EYA, and I also now have a better understanding of the legislative process."



Jared Balmer, Island View RTC,
Ken Allen, West Ridge Academy

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Heritage Schools,
Clinton Dorny,
Discovery Ranch,
Matt Checketts,
Vista RTC
Jared Hamner,
West Ridge Academy



Jacqueline Danforth,
New Horizons for
Young Women with
Maine
Sen. John Warner



Mark McGuiness,
Prescott House,
at Sen. John
McCain's Office



Off to a Meeting:
Jan Moss, NATSAP
Sid Parham,
Family Foundation
School
Angie Senic,
Eckerd Youth
Alternatives



Ben Montano,
Three Springs
with
Virginia
Gov. Tim Kaine



President's Corner: *Accepting, Embracing and Leading Change* **Sharon Laney**



Dr. John Santa, our previous Board President, did a wonderful job of developing and utilizing the committee structure. These committees have accomplished so much and are positioned to accomplish even more in 2007-2008.

The NATSAP Board met in March and part of our meeting was used to review our needs and prioritize reasonable deliverables. We asked the question that many of you have also asked, "what are we - a trade or professional organization?" We determined that we are both and as a professional trade organization we will focus our efforts on continuing to raise the bar high as well as make sure that we serve our members.

We also reviewed our past, noting the many accomplishments of the organization, as well as understanding NATSAP's need to become more structured and systematized.

During the last six months, each of you has become more aware of our challenges and recognize how our industry is changing. During our 2007 conference in La Jolla, there was a common theme: "industry threats and trends" resulting in a "call to arms" so to speak.

Powerful trends, critics and forces are at work now, and may grow even stronger over the coming years. As a result, more and more programs and schools will be pushed to reduce costs while improving quality, will be required to focus on evidence based treatment, to re-strategize, mergers/buyouts will increase and much more. These threats make each of our involvement with NATSAP even more critical and necessary that we rally together.

I believe that NATSAP members collectively will adapt to the shifting conditions, will continue to improve the standards of good practice and ethics, and will join with similar organizations to effect positive change to our industry.

Change is inevitable. Our goal as a NATSAP Board, and you as a NATSAP member, must be to understand and accept change, systemize our deliverable services, structure our organization on a more business model, assist each other to persevere with the sharing of knowledge and tools, while continuing to raise awareness and standards.

Recent events (our visit to Capitol Hill and contributions to our public policy work) have demonstrated our members' commitment and willingness to contribute. In the coming months we will need each and every member to commit to an active role in NATSAP. Respond to our requests to complete a survey, to nominate an alumni for the NATSAP Advisory Council, to submit articles to our newsletters and to our Journal (JTSP), to develop relationships with your congressional representatives; seek out a committee chairperson and get involved! This is your organization and the threats are to all of us.

I am optimistic that 2007-2008 will bring good changes. Together we will move NATSAP forward while positively impacting our Industry and continuing to serve the children and families who are the reason for our commitment to excellence.

NATSAP Research and Evaluation Network: Update

The Project in a Nutshell

Description

The NATSAP Research Committee, chaired by John Santa, Ph.D., Montana Academy, is working with Dr. Michael Gass and graduate student Michael Young at UNH to develop and manage a data collection network designed to allow for maximum participation by NATSAP member programs. The hope is to create a deidentified aggregate database. The plan is for the majority of the network's data gathering to be conducted through a web-based outcome and data management application.

Goals

- Collect aggregate outcome information that will help NATSAP communicate the nature and quality of member programs' work to stake holders.
- Allow programs to access clinically relevant assessment info for treatment planning purposes
- Allow programs access to their own de-identified aggregate information for purposes of quality improvement
- Organize the data into an archival database that can be accessible to approved additional research projects

Update

The NATSAP research committee and University of New Hampshire based research coordinators have been working over the past few months to get the network up and running. Four beta- test sites have been selected and have gone through the application process, the study protocol has undergone review by the UNH Institutional Review Board, and we have negotiated a licensing agreement with the Auchenbach System of Empirical Assessments to use their Youth Self Report and Child Behavior Checklist forms within our electronic web-based application. We are currently working with www.Carepaths.com to set up our proposed protocol (see figure 1) in a semi-automated web-based format that will provide study participants on-line access

to assessments and personalized e-mail reminders.

The committee is hoping to complete the beta testing process and begin enrollment of interested programs by the end of the summer. Although the project has been presented at both the national and at regional NATSAP conferences already, once the system is up and running, a more comprehensive effort to recruit and inform member programs will take place.

In the meantime, if you have questions about the project, please contact Michael Young at (603)862-2007 or Michael.Young@unh.edu.

Figure 1.
Proposed Data Collection Schedule for NATSAP Research and Evaluation Network Outcomes Study

	Time 1 Admission	Time 2: Discharge	Time 3: 1 Year post-discharge
Youth	1. Assent Form 2. Youth Admission Background Questionnaire 3. ASEBA YSR and/or Y-OQ-SR	1. Youth Discharge Background Questionnaire 2. ASEBA YSR and/or Y-OQ-SR	1. Youth Post-Discharge Background Questionnaire 2. ASEBA YSR and/or Y-OQ-SR
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)	1. Consent Form 2. Parent/Guardian Admission Background Questionnaire 3. ASEBA CBCL and/or Y-OQ	1. Parent/Guardian Discharge Background Questionnaire 2. ASEBA YSR and/or Y-OQ-SR	1. Parent/Guardian Post-Discharge Background Questionnaire 2. ASEBA YSR and/or Y-OQ-SR
Participating Professional Collaterals (Including program staff)	ASEBA CBCL and/or Y-OQ	ASEBA CBCL and/or Y-OQ	ASEBA CBCL and/or Y-OQ

Montana Licensure Update Linda Carpenter

It is true what they say, if you work together on a common goal, good results can follow. NATSAP programs in Montana have been working together this year to pass a licensure bill that will regulate the therapeutic programs that operate in our state. Legislation was passed last April that requires the board of Private Alternative Adolescent Residential and Outdoor Programs (PAARP) to set rules regulating private alternative residential and outdoor programs by January of 2008.

The bill outlined areas that are required by all programs and allows the board to set rules that regulate such items as behavior management; personnel; medication maintenance and nutrition, which will address the safety of children in out of home care.

Currently the PAARP board has appointed a committee to look at possible rules and make recommendations to the board. The committee is made up of program representatives as well as state elected representatives from the legislature. They hope to have their work completed with recommendations to the board by late fall. Members of NATSAP serving on the committee are Mary Alexine from Chrysalis (also a member of the PAARP board) and Linda Carpenter from Hope Ranch.

NATSAP programs in Montana are working closely to be sure that meaningful professional standards and oversight are part of the regulations. Safe and effective therapeutic care for children remains the priority.

*2007 NATSAP Utah
Regional Conference
Tony Mosier, Conference Chair,
Telos RTC*

The 2007 NATSAP Utah Regional Conference was a wonderful success, with over 350 attendees. In order to support the growth in attendance over the past two Utah Regionals, a new venue, Thanksgiving Point, was selected. The conference was held on Thursday, April 19th and Thanksgiving Point, a popular entertainment destination featuring an ancient life museum, shopping, a petting zoo, IMAX theatres, and beautiful gardens, received a resounding “two-thumbs up” from those in attendance.

The conference was held during the “Festival of Tulips” much to the enjoyment of the horticulturists among us. Lon Woodbury (of strugglingteens.com) was the keynote speaker. His address focused on how Internet marketing is impacting our industry.

The breakout sessions were divided into several special interest “tracks”: Residential, Clinical, Leadership, etc. Training topics included transition planning, coping with administrative stress, qualities of successful front-line staff, treating trauma response, substance abuse treatment, emergency preparedness, NLD, treating Asperger’s Disorder, and working with “the lost child”. NATSAP representatives offered additional training on NATSAP Individual Certification and the NATSAP Research Initiative. Dr. Ellen Behrens encouraged the NATSAP membership to participate in this very important initiative.

Jeff Smith, the outgoing President of the Utah Chapter, was awarded a NATSAP Service Award for his excellent contribution to the Utah area. Jeff did a tremendous job serving as a representative for the private sector throughout the revisions of Utah State regulations governing residential treatment.

We thank the presenters and organizers of this conference. It is amazing to consider that NATSAP is largely a volunteer organization. Clearly the spirit of service and collegiality was demonstrated throughout the day. See you in Savannah for the 2008 National Conference!

*2007 Northern Rocky Mountain Chapter
Regional Conference
Linda Carpenter*

The quote that comes to mind as I write this article is “If you build it, they will come”. Well, the newly formed Northern Rocky Mountain Chapter did just that. We planned our first conference for May 5, on a Saturday, in Sandpoint, ID hoping that our program professionals would come. And indeed, 80 strong came from Idaho, Washington and Montana. Chaired by Steve Fairbanks from Building Bridges the day dawned bright, sunny and warm and the conference was called to order after setting up extra tables and chairs to accommodate everyone.

Delegates heard presentations from Pat Hawkins, Wilderness Treatment Center, on Alcoholism and the 12 Step Goals; Carol Santa, Montana Academy, on Teaching for Executive Functioning; Andy Anderson, Independent Small Programs Alliance, on Crisis Management and John Santa on the NATSAP Research Project. Attendees also enjoyed a presentation by Sidney Parham, NATSAP Board Representative, (who had his first trip to Montana and Idaho) along with Penny James, Explorations, representing the NATSAP Board and sharing the certification initiative NATSAP has undertaken for direct care staff.

The chapter members have decided to offer a second regional conference in September and the public relations committee, under the guidance of Tim Corson, Montana Academy, is planning a fun run on Sept. 8th, in Kalispell, Montana to raise awareness of our profession, bring the membership together for fun and fellowship and raise money to assist the mental health facility in our region.

The enthusiasm in the region for NATSAP and its programs is exciting and the energy being generated is indeed contagious. Come join us in Kalispell on Sept. 13th or better, yet, bring your “tennies” and join the fun on Sept. 8th.

NATSAP wishes to acknowledge all of the volunteers from NATSAP programs who contributed greatly to ensure the success of these conferences. Your extraordinary efforts on our behalf make our regional conferences possible. Again, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
--- Jan Moss, Executive Director

*Gatehouse Academy Young
Adults Depict the Horrors
of Drunk Driving
Glenna Conway*



The young adults of Gatehouse Academy, a long term drug and alcohol treatment center, are on a roll with service work these days. Recently the young adults teamed up with the Wickenburg Police Department, Department of Public

Safety, Wickenburg Fire Department, and Lifeline Ambulance Service to put on a powerful show for Wickenburg High School students and staff.

The scene was a mock drunk driving accident. Three Gatehouse Academy residents posed as victims trapped inside two crushed vehicles while two others lay outside the vehicles. Real smoke was set off by a flare right before emergency crews rushed in to help. The fire department began spraying out the fake fire while the ambulance service began treating injuries that were created with stage make-up. At one point the “jaws of life,” a high-powered hydraulic rescue tool, was used to extricate one of the victims from their car. The drunk driver was handcuffed by Wickenburg

Department and taken away.



The Wickenburg High students and staff had no idea that the event was going to take place. They discovered the accident unfolding after the fire alarm was set off inside the school. Once they filed outside they came upon the gruesome scene. At the end of the skit the students were brought into the school's auditorium to learn more about the serious effects that drunk driving can cause. The High School's principal and the Wickenburg Police Department strategically planned the event before prom night.



“Our hope is that the Wickenburg High School students will take the memory of this event with them and think before getting into a vehicle where alcohol and drugs are involved” stated Kent Sherman CEO of Gatehouse Academy, “We consider it our duty to help spread this message”.

30 Years Later

Just found your website (Wendigo Lake Expeditions), and was completely astonished to see you are still up and running! Congratulations on your longevity and the sure and certainty you have helped many like me. I was assessed for Project D.A.R.E. (Portage Program) back in 1975. I graduated with my crew in August 1975, and am still today using everything you taught me, both life and outdoor skills. I am currently living in British Columbia, and am out on the ocean every day. The lessons I learned, the encouragement and support I received were the genesis of, and remain to this day, some of my greatest strengths as a father, citizen, friend and outdoorsman. I arrived at Camp Portage/Wendigo in the spring of 1975 at the age of 15 and graduated just after my sixteenth birthday. I have three daughters now, 18, 25, and 26. All are doing fantastic, with one in the hospitality industry, another in retail and one a nurse. All are

accomplished at all aspects of the training I received, including water and climbing skills. Getting the opportunity to look at myself, my fears, my perceived limits and my hard work, it has paid off a thousand times over. I want to say thank you so much.

I send my very best to the present staff, and urge you to continue the invaluable work you have undertaken. To parents of students in or about to come to Wendigo Lake Expeditions, I also send my thoughts and wishes for their children's success.

Once again, kudos, and a most hearty and sincere thank you. SEEK YOUR HORIZON!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yours truly,
Brian

I Chose New Haven
Kristin Crick, 2005 Alumnus

New Haven is considered a lot of things by different people—some girls and families consider it a haven, as the name implies, while there are the obvious girls who consider New Haven a punishment. In fact, most girls get on the plane to Utah just “knowing” that their parents are “punishing” them for being “bad.” However, my journey to New Haven was a little different. I chose to go. I found the website and I showed my parents, who subsequently talked to a plethora of therapists and psychiatrists in our area, trying to get as many opinions as possible. I knew that I needed to go and I knew that New Haven was the place; my parents just didn't believe me at first—I mean, my mom and the Admissions Director were practically best friends before they even met, they talked so much. I don't blame them, though. It's a big decision to send your firstborn 1,800 miles away from home for months and months and leave her completely in the care of people you don't know. It's an even harder decision when she's such a danger to herself.

Even though I chose New Haven and knew that it was the right place for me, I cannot begin to describe the terror that I had when I hugged my mom goodbye right before she left. I remember her saying, “Give it a chance,” and thinking that there was no way I could do it – that I could never get better. I didn't want to disappoint her, though, so I simply said, “Okay.” It makes me cry even now to think about that moment. I remember that it was then that the reality of the fact that I was going to be stuck in that big white house for the next five-to-nine months with these people I had just met set in. I was terrified that my parents would spend all that money and devote all that time and I wouldn't change. I thought that they would forget about me. I was scared that no one would like me there and that it would be like the hospital—cold and scary. I was mostly scared about opening up and allowing change to happen. I was terrified of breaking out of the comfort zone I had made for myself.

I could now chronicle my stay at New Haven and different stages I went through and experiences I had. There are even a few good stories I could tell that I will never forget. However, I've learned that that's not what's most important to me anymore. I will always remember certain specific details of my stay at New Haven. I could never forget the things that happened to me and the people

I've grown so close to because of my stay there. But what I focus on now is not that, but how who I am has been shaped by the small period of my life that was New Haven.

I came to New Haven from Louisville, KY but I graduated from high school through New Haven and decided to go to the University of Utah, in Salt Lake City. Because of this, I've had different experiences than most girls have after they leave. I live close enough that I could visit everyday. In fact, I visited at least 10 times within a month after I transitioned (and two weeks of that month were spent in Kentucky)! Since I live so near, I've become close friends with some of the staff. I've hung out with staff and their spouses outside of New Haven. In fact, I celebrated my eighteenth birthday with three staff and their husbands, eating ice cream and playing games. Most girls don't get this chance. I feel very lucky that my interactions with the people at New Haven have evolved into such a friendly, "normal" relationships.

Lately, however, my relationship with New Haven has changed even more. I haven't visited in about a month. It's not because I don't think about New Haven or because I don't think it's an important part of my life anymore, but it's because it's not my immediate life. I live only forty miles away, but my life now consists of the things I've gained because New Haven taught me how to help myself. I still talk to my therapist, I still talk to girls I was there with, I still think about New Haven, but my life is what it is now, and I know that that's what I need to focus on. I love New Haven with all of my heart and I am so very, very grateful for all it has taught me. The most important thing I've learned, though, is that I need to live in the here and now; I need to focus on my life now while still appreciating and recognizing where I've come from.

I am now a sophomore at the University of Utah, studying recreational therapy, with lots of friends, very happy, and I have so many opportunities ahead of me. I would not be where I am without the guidance and patience that everyone at New Haven had with me. I've gone from being a withdrawn, self-destructive teenager, to a happy, well-adjusted woman. And it wasn't New Haven who did this to me; they gave me the skills so I could make it happen.

New Haven shows us that we are loved, teaches us how to love, and helps us spread love in our lives. They don't make the change for us, but they are essential to the change. I am so happy that I went to New Haven when I did and I'm forever thankful to New Haven for providing me the possibility to have this sort of balance in my life. Thank you.

A Note from Hidden Lake Academy

The unfortunate fire which completely destroyed the Hidden Lake Academy's Academic Building brought out the best in everyone. Staff, students and members of the community instantly rallied together to give a new face to misfortune. It was one of combined effort and purpose. Luckily, when the school gymnasium was built it was designed as most schools now design and construct their academic buildings. The Gym is surrounded by classrooms on all sides. Because we already had a large academic building they were being used as office space. Staff immediately moved offices and classrooms were made ready; cleaning and painting them overnight.

Textbooks from the library and dorm rooms were gathered. New desks, chairs, tables obtained. Within 48 hours a new academic building rose literally from the ashes.

It was an amazing effort by not just our staff but students as well. Everyone worked together determined not to let this tragedy affect the school. The students and teachers love the new classrooms. Out of ashes a new spirit has been born. Thank you to everyone who reached out and made this transformation happen.

Keeping NATSAP Informed

I was recently reviewing the Seen n' Heard section on Struggling Teens and found several announcements about a new executive or admissions director in our member programs. There was even an announcement of new ownership.

Unfortunately, none of these announcements made it to the NATSAP office. The importance of informing us? 1) we can update the information on your program page on the NATSAP website and 2) we can update our member contact list to be sure that these important individuals at your program receive the NATSAP communications.

So – we are asking that when you send Struggling Teens the announcements that you include NATSAP as well. All you have to do is send it to info@natsap.org

Thanks!!!

Jan Moss

NATSAP Members Honored

President and co-founder, Elliot Sainer, of Aspen Education Group was named the 2007 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the Consumer Services Category for the Greater Los Angeles Region.

Jayne Selby-Longnecker of Benchmark Young Adult School was honored at the Fifth Annual "Celebration of Women in Business," with an award presented by The Orange County Association of Health Underwriters (OCAHU).

*When conscience governs vision,
leadership endures and changes
the world for good.
--- Stephen R. Covey*

2007/2008 Calendar of Events

2007	Event	Location	City / State
June 22-24	2007 Adventure Therapy Best Practices Conference	University of New Hampshire	Durham, NH
July 4	Independence Day- NATSAP Office Closed		
July 5 -6	NATSAP Office Closed		
August 17 -20	APA Conference	San Francisco Hilton and Marriott Hotels	San Francisco, CA
September 7 – 9	Wilderness Therapy Symposium	Naropa University	Boulder, CO
September 13	Rocky Mountain Regional Conference		Kalispell, MT
Sept 23 – 25	National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camping	Jekyll Oceanfront Clarion Resort & Spa	Jekyll Island, GA
September 27	Northeast Regional Pre-Conference Dinner	The Colony Hotel	Kennebunkport, ME
September 28	Northeast Regional Conference	The Colony Hotel	Kennebunkport, ME
October 3 -4	NATSAP Board of Directors Meeting	The Riverhouse Hotel	Bend, OR
October 4	Northwest Regional Pre-Conference Reception	The Riverhouse Hotel	Bend, OR
October 5	Northwest Regional Conference	The Riverhouse Hotel	Bend, OR
October 18	Southeast Regional Pre-Conference Reception	Wyndham Vinings Hotel	Atlanta, GA
October 19	Southeast Regional Conference	Wyndham Vinings Hotel	Atlanta, GA
November 6 – 10	IECA Fall Conference		Los Angeles, CA
November 8 – 11	Association for Experiential Education Annual Conference	Peabody Hotel and the Little Rock Convention Center	Little Rock, AR
November 22	Thanksgiving – NATSAP Office Closed		
November 23	NATSAP Office Closed		
December 24	Christmas Eve – NATSAP Office Closed		
December 25	Christmas – NATSAP Office Closed		
December 31	New Year's Eve – NATSAP Office Closed		
2008	Event	Location	City / State
January 1	New Year's Day – NATSAP Office Closed		
Feb 7 – 8	2008 NATSAP National Conference	Savannah Westin Harbor and the Savannah Convention Center	Savannah, GA
May 13 – 17	IECA Spring Conference		Minneapolis, MN

Highlight your membership by adding the NATSAP logo to your website



NATSAP

Vision

Our vision is a nation of healthy children. We are the voice inspiring, nurturing, and validating the courageous work of our schools and programs.

NATSAP

Mission

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs serves as an advocate and resource for innovative organizations which devote themselves to society's need for the effective care and education of struggling young people and their families.

2nd Quarter 2007

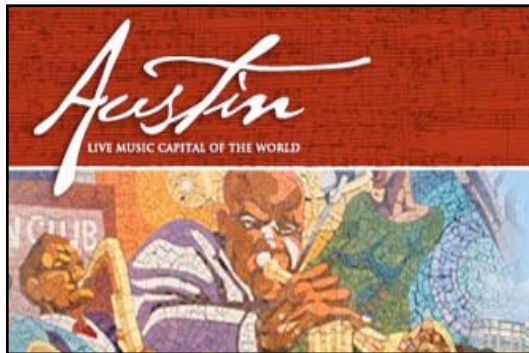
Very Important!
Please contact the
NATSAP office with any
changes in information
about your program so
we can keep the
NATSAP Website
current. Thank you!



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2nd Quarter 2007

NATSAP Selects 2009 National Conference Location



NATSAP will be celebrating our
10th Anniversary
in Austin, Texas at the Hilton Austin
on January 29 - 31, 2009



National Association of Therapeutic
Schools and Programs
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TO: