

Alexa Van Dalsem

From: Alexa Van Dalsem [alex@alternativesforyouth.org]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 10:35 AM
To: alexa@alternativesforyouth.org
Subject: News from Alternatives for Youth

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

You're receiving this email because of your relationship with Alternatives for Youth.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



youth matters

a newsletter of alternatives for youth

in this issue

Spotlight: David Saidman

Youth and Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

AFY: FYI

No "Kid"ding . . .

quick links

[Calendar of Events](#)

[AFY's Supporters](#)

[AFY's Facebook Profile](#)

[No "Kid"ding Articles](#)

[More about AFY](#)

**spotlight:
david saidman**

volume 3: issue 4

april 2010

Dear Alexa,

This time of year is known for April showers that bring May flowers. Our weather hasn't let us down nor have the youth we work with, continuing to be showered with new ideas, new life skills and new experiences that we hope will help the youth "bloom" in May and in years to come.

April also brings the date 4/20, a day when pro-legalization marijuana activists rally in Denver's Civic Center. With this date and the current conversation around medical marijuana in mind, this month we bring you an update on our involvement with Longmont's discussions on medical marijuana dispensaries and a "No 'Kid'ding . . . Did You Know?" article on Colorado's medical marijuana law and dispensaries.

We hope you are continuing to enjoy the spring as much as we are!

youth and medical marijuana dispensaries

Dispensary Discussions in Longmont

In October 2009, the City of Longmont approved a 90-day moratorium on the opening of new medical marijuana dispensaries in Longmont. The moratorium was extended in December until June 2010 and again extended until August 2010, giving the City time to research approaches, solicit input from the community and track activity at the State level.

Alternatives for Youth's Executive Director, Deb Roberts, had the opportunity to be a part of the community discussions along with dispensary owners, a physician, medical marijuana patients, and law





The basketball stars of AFY's Clearview Educational Center have finally met their match. Each week, they look forward to the challenge of facing Mr. Dave on the court during P.E. at the YMCA. Everyone returns to lunch dripping with sweat, already talking about next week's strategies and arguing over who gets to be on Mr. Dave's team. In his first month as Clearview's Social Studies and P.E. teacher, Mr. Dave has become an invaluable part of the staff team as well. We asked Mr. Dave to introduce himself.

About Dave: "I'm from New Jersey, but consider myself to be from Philadelphia since I spent so much time there while in college. In Philadelphia, I attended Drexel University, home of the Dragons. I graduated with a BA in Social Sciences. I had a tri-major in Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology. During my college days I played in several bands as a guitarist and worked at the best

enforcement and part of presentations to the City Council on behalf of youth. Considering the community and our youth, Deb voiced the following:

- Medical marijuana can be medically helpful.
- In our community, there is an epidemic around youth and alcohol and drug use and abuse with few options for those who need low-cost treatment. How to protect our youth from gaining easier access to marijuana or increasing use needs to be considered in the process.
- Dispensaries can potentially make it easier for youth to get marijuana, and reports have been made that in other locations medical marijuana patients purchase marijuana for youth, growers sell extra marijuana, and dispensary employees sell to non-patients.
- Dispensaries can send a mixed message about marijuana. Youth report believing that marijuana is legal. Community education will need to be done to help dispel myths.
- If dispensaries are to remain in Longmont:
 - There needs to be strict regulation.
 - Dispensaries should be located in commercial zones where regulation will be easier to enforce.
 - A separation of 1000 feet from schools, residential communities and daycares should be enforced.
 - Licensing should follow the liquor license process with background checks, inspection of the property and a public hearing about the opening of a dispensary.
 - Signage should be discrete and should not include the word "marijuana" or a picture of a marijuana leaf.
 - Fees need to be imposed to cover City costs associated with law enforcement.

The City held a [Study Session on April 6](#) to discuss three approaches to regulating dispensaries, including regulating production and distribution to the greatest extent possible; letting the industry self regulate and the market work; and focusing on the health and safety of the community and patients foremost. The City is considering the best location of dispensaries and requirements for distance separation, licensing, security and record-keeping.

Using the research and community input as well as direction from the City Council, land use regulations and licensing standards will be developed for medical marijuana dispensaries and production facilities, incorporating guidance from the State as it becomes law and bringing back an ordinance for the Council's consideration.

As this issue moves forward, AFY will continue to be part of the process, advocating for our youth and the best balance of meeting medical marijuana patient needs and protecting our community's youth.

afy: fyi

Program Updates



AFY's four programs have been busy over the last

cheese steak restaurant in the city.

"After college, I moved back to New Jersey and began my career working with kids in camps and substitute teaching. I spent several years as a group therapist in a day treatment program for adults and found that I missed working in school districts. I returned to working in schools as a substitute teacher and began pursuing a teaching degree.

"In 2003, I moved to Colorado and continued my work as a teacher. I also have worked as a musician for a theater company. In the summers I work as the Production Manager for the Colorado Music Festival at Chautauqua in Boulder."

Why He Became a Teacher: "I first realized that I wanted to become a teacher during college. When I was a senior, I was given the opportunity to teach a freshman level course on race and ethnicity as a TA. I loved it! The idea of teaching after college stuck...and here I am!"

About Working at Clearview: "So far, I love working at Clearview! It is amazing to witness the students' progress and watch them grow academically and emotionally.

month, providing continuing activities, new activities, and reaching new students. With summer not far away, we're also planning for summer activities and the fall. Following are updates about our core programs:

Celebrando la Familia's Homework Clubs continue to provide bilingual tutoring and assistance with organization after school to approximately 100 students at Heritage Middle School and Columbine, Spangler and Rocky Mountain Elementary Schools. Staff provide students with a safe place to go after school with caring adults to help them with their homework and getting organized for school.

Latino Parent Involvement in Education meetings, held in collaboration with other area organizations, in March and April provided information on the topics of "Healthy Relationships" and "Life Long Learning - Educational Resources and Youth Panel." The final meeting of the year on April 28 will be "Tech Savvy." Meetings this semester are being held at [Longs Peak Middle School](#). All meetings are free, open to all interested parents, and include childcare, light dinner and Spanish translation. Meeting dates and topics are also available on our [Calendar of Events](#).

With May not far away, Celebrando la Familia's Program Director, Mary Vigil, is working with [Longmont Celebrates Cinco de Mayo](#) on this fun, family-friendly celebration on May 1, 12:00-7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Park. This year's event includes various musical and dance entertainment, vendor and informational booths, a car show, chihuahua contest, and tons of great food! Make sure to see AFY's Folklorico Dance Group's performance.

Plans are also underway for the eight-week Summer Program, a program that provides academic and recreational activities to elementary and middle school students and leadership activities for middle and high school students. Thanks to grants from the Denver Post Season to Share, Namaste Foundation and Women's Foundation of Colorado, the Summer Program be provided at low cost to over 80 youth.

NorthStar's Program Director, Emanuel Barr, is continuing class with a group of seventh grade boys at Heritage Middle School and wrapped up his sessions with boys at Erie High School. The classes follow [The Council for Boys and Men](#) curriculum, a strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe, strong and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years.

NorthStar evening classes, which focus on anger management, conflict resolution and communication within a family, began on April 12. Evening classes are offered to all interested families at no charge.

Attendance Advocates, a partnership program with the St. Vrain Valley School District, are continuing work this semester at five schools, Heritage and Longs Peak Middle Schools and Frederick, Longmont, and Skyline High Schools. Attendance Advocates are currently working with over 300 students and their parents to uncover the underlying reasons students are not attending school and to connect students to needed resources to address any needs. Attendance Advocates are then able to help students improve attendance, avoid diversion, and improve academically.

Everyone at **Clearview Educational Center** had a wonderful spring break and classes are back in full swing. With only five weeks of school left to go, the staff is scrambling to cram in all they can before summer

"Starting this coming school year, my goal is to create a music program. Students will have the opportunity to learn drums, songwriting, guitar, music appreciation, and all about the music industry."

Favorite Quotes:

One of Mr. Dave's favorite quotes is, "To love what you do and feel that it matters, how could anything be more fun?" - Katharine Graham

This month's Spotlight was contributed by Rhea Maze, Clearview's English teacher.

afy board of directors

Greg Wagner
Board President
Chief Probation Officer, Longmont Municipal Probation

Dr. Jack Hay
Board Treasurer
Retired Assistant Superintendent, St. Vrain Valley School District

Rick Beisel
Board Secretary
Special Program Attorney, Denver Housing Authority

Tom Chenault
Board Member
Owner, Buzz Coffee

Lupe Cortez
Board Member
Manager, Advance Auto Parts

Carmen Ramirez
Board Member
Program Coordinator

vacation. Staff and students will be completing their service learning and equine therapy program at [Joder Arabian Ranch](#). With only two sessions to go, students are "chomping at the bit" for a chance to get in the saddle and actually ride the horses. Many of them are unaware that they will get this chance on the last day with the horses!

The students immensely enjoy their weekly art class with [CU Boulder's ArtsBridge](#) teacher, Mr. Anthony. They are learning new techniques each week to produce the best possible AFY comic book collaboration. Most recently, they learned how to accurately draw human faces, giggling as they practiced on their classmates and honed the skill of adding value to make their illustrations "pop" with lifelike qualities. Students will be even more artistically inspired after our Earth Day field trip on April 22nd. In honor of this special day, we will be walking to the [Muse Gallery](#) in downtown Longmont to see an exhibition of art made from recycled material and found objects.

Students are also enjoying their academic classes. In social studies, the middle school just finished a big unit test on the Western Expansion and the Great Plains. They learned about dry farming, plains Native Americans and their rights, the Transcontinental Railroad, and mining and boomtowns. Up next is a unit on the Second Industrial Revolution. The high school group is gearing up for a unit test on the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, JFK and his political career, and Lyndon Johnson's vision for the United States. Up next is the Civil Rights Movement.

In math, all students are working on very challenging, individualized lessons. They are being pushed to work hard and practice different logical computational approaches. In English class, the photojournalists (a.k.a the middle school) will be going out on assignment and taking pictures for their articles. They know all about the professional photojournalist's Code of Ethics and are excited to enhance their writing with stylistic visuals. The high school group is continuing to debate the issues raised in the 2010 Oscar nominated documentaries. They are researching issues, practicing public speaking, and working towards writing their own speeches on issues of personal interest. In life skills, students are focusing on using appropriate words to express feelings and are creating feeling word logs.

All students will be receiving progress reports next week and parent teacher conferences will be held during the last week of April. Staff hope these conferences will help students create goals that will carry them through to the end of the year with good grades. The study skills and knowledge they have gained thus far will be put to the test in the final weeks to come, and staff is expecting to see some great academic achievements!

The update from Clearview was contributed by Rhea Maze, Clearview's English teacher.

no "kid"ding ...

Did You Know?

Medical marijuana is a hot topic in Colorado and other parts of the country. Over the last two months,



and Mediator, City of
Longmont Community
Relations Program

Kathy Sanner
Board Member
School Resource
Officer,
Longmont Police
Department

Connie Syferd
Board Member
Assistant
Superintendent for
Student Achievement,
St. Vrain Valley School
District

Alternatives for Youth has become better educated about the topic as our Executive Director participated in conversations about medical marijuana dispensaries in Longmont. Did you know:

- The use of medical marijuana became legal in Colorado in 2000 with the passage of Amendment 20.
- Amendment 20 allows for the medical use of marijuana for people with "debilitating medical conditions including cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS" and for treating "cachexia, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures characteristic of epilepsy, muscle spasms characteristic of multiple sclerosis," and other medical conditions approved by the state health agency.
- Medical marijuana users register through and obtain a registry identification card from the state health agency. Registered users are permitted to possess up to 2 ounces, cultivate up to 6 marijuana plants for medical use, and exempt from all civil and criminal marijuana penalties in Colorado. The fee to obtain a registry identification card is \$90.
- The total number of patients who currently possess a valid registry identification card is 21,625. 74% of these are male and the average age of all patients is 40. 12 minors currently possess a registry identification card. 57% of these patients reside in the greater Denver-metro area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties). 11% of patients reside in Boulder County, which accounts for 6% of the state population.
- Children may access medical marijuana with their parents' permission.
- Marijuana use continues to be a federal offense. Because medical marijuana is not legal on the federal level, medical marijuana users obtain a certificate from a physician rather than a prescription.
- Colorado's Senate is currently considering a new bill regarding regulation of the physician-patient relationship, and the House is considering a new bill regarding the licensing structure for medical marijuana centers, growers, and manufacturers of edible medical marijuana products.
- There are currently 8 medical dispensaries in Longmont. There is a moratorium on new dispensaries opening until August 2010. There are approximately 250 dispensaries in Denver and 105 in Boulder.

You can find more information about medical marijuana and dispensaries at the following websites:

[Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: Colorado Medical Marijuana Registry](#)
[Consideration of Approaches to Regulate Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in the City of Longmont](#)
[National Families in Action: Summary of Colorado Amendment 20](#)
[USA Today: Medical marijuana business is on fire](#)

Note: Websites are provided for information and do not indicate an endorsement by Alternatives for Youth. You can find past No "Kid" ding . . . Did You Know? articles on our website by [clicking here](#).

Alternatives for Youth, Inc.'s mission is to promote academic persistence and success of youth by instilling values that lead to positive choices and positive community impact and by encouraging social, cultural, and self development. Since 1978, Alternatives for Youth has been providing services to youth and their families in the Longmont community. Last year, over 1,000 youth and their families received services through Alternatives for Youth, including after-school homework clubs, parenting education, an alternative school for expelled youth, positive recreational activities, youth leadership opportunities, academic enrichment activities, and service learning activities.

Thank you for your support!

Alexa Van Dalsem
Resource Development Director
Alternatives for Youth

get involved!

Yes! I/We want to help young people succeed! I/We wish to support Alternatives for Youth's work in helping youth succeed by:

Volunteering

Making a gift donation of: \$

Name:

Address:

Phone:

City, State, Zip:

E-mail:

You can make a secure credit card donation to Alternatives for Youth using GivingFirst or Google Checkout at www.alternativesforyouth.org/contribute.html. To make a donation by check or cash or to volunteer please return this form to Alternatives for Youth, 24 Ninth Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501 or call 303.776.8184.

Alternatives for Youth is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Donations to Alternatives for Youth are tax deductible. We do not sell or trade our mailing or e-mailing list to anyone.

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to alexa@alternativesforyouth.org by alexa@alternativesforyouth.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Alternatives for Youth | 24 Ninth Avenue | Longmont | CO | 80501