ALTERNATIVE TO SUSPENSION PROGRAM

SOS's Alternative to Suspension (A2S) program addresses the needs of students who exhibit at risk behavior with drugs and/or alcohol which interferes with school and/or violates schools district’s Code of Conduct and requires removing the students from school for a period of time.

Goals of Program:
- Provide a supervised alternative to lengthy suspension for public schools who have a student or students who are showing "at risk" alcohol and/or drug behavior
- Help students become educated about causes of substance abuse, progression of use, abuse to dependence, identify and gain insight into their at-risk patterns of use with drugs/alcohol along with past/present/future consequences, and work to achieve complete abstinence from drugs and alcohol.

After finishing the A2S program, students will be able to demonstrate an increased ability to remain abstinent from all drugs and/or alcohol, demonstrate a working knowledge of substance abuse/addiction along with their own personal relapse prevention plan. Students should also demonstrate better skills in the areas of: communication, decision-making and problem-solving. These skills will help students create positive changes in their own life and in their relationships with their peers, families and other adults. Students also should better understand the connection between their own behavior and the positive or negative consequences they receive.

Eligible Students:
- Public School Students between ages 13-19 (younger ages may be considered, upon request).
- Students with parents willing to be supportive and/or participate in the A2S program.
- Students that have had a one time or ongoing school incidents (involving alcohol and/or drugs).

Entering the Program:
A referral may be made by phone to 405-810-1766 ext. 0 or online at (www.okcsos.org) by any approved school staff member. When referral is made SOS will either contact the student and their family and/or attend any school-based meetings or hearings where the student is meeting with school staff member to discuss the terms of their suspension and create a "warm handoff" to SOS staff. This "warm handoff" between school staff and SOS staff is intended to increase the potential for the student to engage in the program and make it to SOS services. SOS staff also hopes this will build relationships with school personnel.

Program Overview:
SOS's A2S program can receive students with specific recommendations such as:
- 10-hour (weekend) substance abuse education course for first time code of conduct violation
- 24-hour (6-weeks) substance abuse education course for repeat code of conduct violations
- and/or Drug/Alcohol Testing (Only)

Or

The A2S program can also begin (if needed) with an initial substance abuse screening/assessment which can lead to the following recommendations:
- Drug/Alcohol Testing (Only)
- Substance Abuse Education: 10-hour (weekend) for first time or 24-hour (6-weeks) for repeat violations
Executive Director
James Patterson, ICADC
Sincere
adolescents
SOS is a non-hesitant program
Students
Attendance
School Based Service
The A2S Outpatient Treatment Program Options:
• Outpatient Treatment Program: (6-weeks) that may be extended (if needed) after staffing occurs with school personnel (if there are issues with the students or the families progress, drug/alcohol tests results, attendance, etc.)
• Intensive Outpatient Treatment and Aftercare/Relapse Prevention Program: (12-weeks) that may be extended after staffing occurs with school personnel (if there are issues with the students or the families progress, drug/alcohol tests results, attendance, etc.)
• Referral and assistance to higher level of care i.e. inpatient/residential treatment (if requested).

The A2S Outpatient Treatment Program Options:
• Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Programs- These programs are designed to address the needs of adolescents and families who have or are showing symptoms of a substance dependency problem. Outpatient (2-5 hours per week), Intensive Outpatient (6-9 hours per week).
  o Family and Significant Other Substance Abuse Education- This program is designed to address the needs of families who have a significant other who is suffering from substance abuse.
  o Anger Management Programs- This program is designed to address the needs of adolescents who have are showing symptoms of an anger and substance abuse/dependency problem.
  o Wellness Group- This group educates and promotes a healthier lifestyle and decision-making processes.
  o Recovery Support- This program is designed to create a recovery-based environment for each student and (if applicable) engage them in community-based recovery resources (self-help meetings i.e. AA, NA, CR, RR, Smart Recovery, etc.).
  o Case Management- This service helps meets the community-based needs (food, transportation, etc..) of the student and the families within the community.

School Based Service Options (if requested):
• School Based Consultation Services- These services focus on making SOS staff available for school-based meetings (meetings with principle, hearings, etc..) with the student, family and school personnel in situations where at risk drug and alcohol behavior is involved. SOS can also assist school personnel and the family in determining what level of intervention (treatment) is the best fit for the student.
• School Based Outreach Group and/or Education Services- These group services are designed to address the needs of students (onsite at the school) who are showing symptoms of substance abuse issues/problems.

Attendance:
Students and their families (if applicable) must be willing to participate in the A2S program and must attend the A2S program in its entirety to receive a completion certificate. If you have any questions and/or referrals, please do not hesitate to call SOS at 405-810-1766 ext. 0 and ask for James Patterson or email them to: james@okcsos.com.

SOS is a non-profit state certified outpatient and intensive outpatient substance abuse agency; whose purpose is to help adolescents, adults and families suffering from or affected by substance abuse and/or chemical dependency.

Sincerely,
James Patterson, ICADC
Executive Director

Educating Our Community * Saving Our Families * Proving Treatment Works