



# CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN



## October 2022 Newsletter

Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler

### Friendly Reminders!

\*RSVP for our Annual Fundraiser Dinner on October 21<sup>st</sup> by October 17<sup>th</sup>. CASA volunteers get a free ticket for themselves and a guest.

\*Don't forget that 12 hours of continued are due by the end of the year!

\*Reports are due 2 weeks prior to your court hearing.

### Holidays

Columbus Day  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022



### Birthdays!

- 14- Andi Clark
- 15- Steve Rees
- 16- Denise Albsmeyer
- 17- Tina Vernor
- 22- Jessica Howard
- 25- Jenna Harrelson
- 27- Whitney Mintert
- 28- Imogene Rose
- 28- Jeanne Flint

Enjoy  
your day!

### Pike County

Learn & Grow

Topic: Substance Abuse/Addiction

When: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Pike County office & via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86831584277>

### Adams County

Noon Networking

Topic: Bella Ease- Dorinda Smith

When: October 13<sup>th</sup>

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Zoom & Hope Lutheran Church

# October



**Webinar - Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong**

Here's the link:

**Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong | Johann Hari - Bing video**

### Hancock County

Networking

Topic: Helms Career Center-Calvin Stevens

When: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Time: 12:00pm

Location: 601 Maine Street, CASA Office

### Morgan County

Networking

Topic: Court Terms and What They Mean

When: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Location: Presbyterian Church Library

## What Is drug addiction?

Addiction is a chronic disease characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences. The initial decision to take drugs is voluntary for most people, but repeated drug use can lead to brain changes that challenge an addicted person's self-control and interfere with their ability to resist intense urges to take drugs. These brain changes can be persistent, which is why drug addiction is considered a "relapsing" disease—people in recovery from drug use disorders are at increased risk for returning to drug use even after years of not taking the drug.

It's common for a person to relapse, but relapse doesn't mean that treatment doesn't work. As with other chronic health conditions, treatment should be ongoing and should be adjusted based on how the patient responds. Treatment plans need to be reviewed often and modified to fit the patient's changing needs.

## What happens to the brain when a person takes drugs?

Most drugs affect the brain's "reward circuit," causing euphoria as well as flooding it with the chemical messenger dopamine. A properly functioning reward system motivates a person to repeat behaviors needed to thrive, such as eating and spending time with loved ones. Surges of dopamine in the reward circuit cause the reinforcement of pleasurable but unhealthy behaviors like taking drugs, leading people to repeat the behavior again and again.

As a person continues to use drugs, the brain adapts by reducing the ability of cells in the reward circuit to respond to it. This reduces the high that the person feels compared to the high they felt when first taking the drug—an effect known as tolerance. They might take more of the drug to try and achieve the same high. These brain adaptations often lead to the person becoming less and less able to derive pleasure from other things they once enjoyed, like food, sex, or social activities.

Long-term use also causes changes in other brain chemical systems and circuits as well, affecting functions that include:

- learning
- judgment
- decision-making
- stress
- memory
- behavior

Despite being aware of these harmful outcomes, many people who use drugs continue to take them, which is the nature of addiction.