

May 20, 2019

**Pasco County
Alliance for Substance
Abuse Prevention**

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A Statement Regarding the Passing of Austin Eubanks

Last Tuesday, our community had the honor to meet and hear Austin Eubanks provide a powerful keynote presentation about the intersection of trauma, mental illness, and addiction. His speech inspired 500 attendees, as he shared his intimate 20-year journey and messages of hope.

Austin's message resonated in a way that is unique to those who have survived trauma and addiction; but he spoke in a way that made our diverse audience understand and empathize. Most importantly, he motivated everyone to act and make the world a better place in the face of the addiction epidemic.

Austin has stated, *"What is essential to healing emotional pain is authentic human connection... and that is something we are being torn away from at an ever greater rate."* We encourage our community members to honor Austin by remembering to always connect authentically with our loved ones, our colleagues, our friends, and every member of our community.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to Austin's family and friends. Although he has passed too early, his voice will echo in our memories and actions forever.

In memory of Austin Eubanks,

Monica Rousseau, MPH, CHES
Chairperson, ASAP Board of Directors
Chairperson, ASAP Coalition

#ConnectAuthentically