



FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

EDUCATE.
ADVOCATE.
EMPOWER.

enjoy
SUMMER



Strategizer

Leading the way to a
healthier Forsyth County



FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

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TODAY!



SCAN ME

fantastic!

THE WALK FOR RECOVERY



Wow!

The Walk For Recovery is in the history books! It was **fantastic!** We came together as a community to remember those who have tragically lost their lives to SUD and overdose, and, at the very same time, we shout out firmly that **recovery is possible** and is happening all over our county! We presented the many faces of recovery through the personal stories of speakers. Statistics prove that events like this reduce stigma in the community. There were 200-250 attendees, we raised over \$11,000.

Jason Evans welcomed all to the **Cumming City Center**, saying how proud he was of this event and how he admired the mission and goals of **The Walk for Recovery**.

Major Deanne Cash said, "Rachel asked me to give you some stats from the police department and to let you know how we seek to assist those incarcerated for drug offenses." She told the crowd she appreciated the opportunity to share and said, "It takes an entire community working together to alleviate the pain and devastation of the drug abuse crisis. And it is so heartbreaking."

"Let me explain what's happening in our jail and how we play our part. We currently have 428 inmates; 357 are men, and 71 are women. Eighty-six have felony drug charges and 17 of those also have marijuana charges. Everyone knows that marijuana is a gateway to using other drugs. We have 30 inmates charged with DUI's, 15 due to alcohol and 15 due to drugs. We have 104 inmates on felony probation and 64 on misdemeanor probation. We offer assistance to any inmate who wants help through **AA programs** and our own court-referred 9-month **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program**. When they leave the program, we need a welcoming community that gives positive support so they can live in recovery. Today, we are here to say that the **Forsyth County Sheriff's Office fully supports recovery efforts, and we applaud all the support organizations assembled here today.**"

Commissioner Cindy Mills said, "I have a challenge for you. Our county is at a crossroads, and we know that mental health and addiction go hand in hand. We received \$47 Million three years ago from ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act). Our county commissioners voted eight times to use \$30 M toward Mental Health. We planned a Mental Health Stabilization facility. Now, the board has changed its mind about supporting the Mental Health Stabilization Center. They have made all kinds of excuses, and we need the community to let these commissioners know that the citizens want the Crisis Stabilization Center. I challenge you to let them know we want and need this unit as planned! The Board of Commissioners has **public comment times every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month**. Please come and tell your story! We must educate these commissioners and bring this needed facility to Forsyth." Please get in touch with **Mary at NAMI** because she is trying to coordinate speakers at each of our meetings.

Our Speakers: Jason Evans, Rachel Kayden,

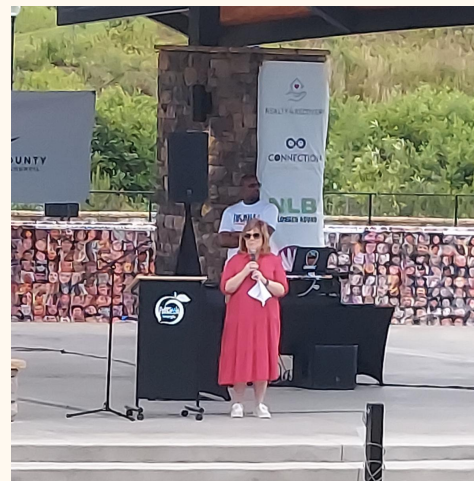
Major Deanne Cash, Cindy Mills



Jason Evans, Cumming City Councilman welcomed everyone to the Cumming City Center.



Our Main Stage Speakers: Jason Evans, Cumming City Councilman, Rachel Kayden FCDAC Director, Major Deanne Cash, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and Board of Commissioner and FCDAC founding member Cindy J. Mills.



Commissioner Cindy Mills said, "I was so happy to speak at the Walk for Recovery. The council has a mission to spread awareness and end stigmas and that's what we got to do. A special thank you to the Cumming City Center for hosting us and to all the exhibitors. Rachel and her helpers all did a phenomenal job putting together the event. I look forward to seeing it continue to improve next year."



Major Deanne Cash is the Jail Commander in the Forsyth County

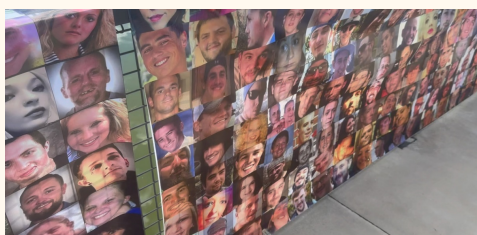
Sheriff's Office. Major Cash reported on the programs inside the jail to help those trying to break addictions and begin new lives.

Our Wall of Remembrance

Rachel Kayden Director of FCDAC said, "We'll never forget those who have been lost to Substance Use Disorder. And it is important that we take a few moments in silence to remember them. Please also take a moment to remember someone who is struggling in this moment and send them thoughts, love and prayers. Next, think about the **gratitude** you have toward someone who has helped you on this journey of life."



Sophia Cook told her story of using substances to cope with the stress of trying to fit in during high school. Instead of fixing a difficulty she became caught in a trap, but found the help she needed through FullCircle where she now works assisting youth who are taking positive recovery steps.

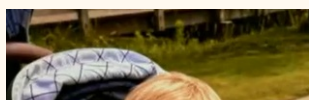


The Walk



Two Youth Council members Avi Karamchandani and Sharmada Venkataramani with Director Rachel Kayden above. "We passed out resources to the attendees and told about our projects." Avi's distributing Drug Deactivation kits and the podcast, "Elevate with Awareness," is hosted by Sharmada.

Family Friendly Fun





Susan Tanner, right, with a young attendee. "Enjoy Sobriety...It's the REAL THING!" Susan said, "I loved this particular t-shirt on a young girl at the WALK! Doesn't this say it all?"



Prevention Partners, Resources, and Vendors



We had 25 community resource tables and many partners in prevention efforts that provided information to all who attended.

FCDAC Council Meeting, Work and Programs Round-up

Kayden's Korner



WOW! The Walk for Recovery was all we could ask for, and I am so grateful

Our Council has come together for one big idea:

Make Forsyth County, GA, a drug-free



for how our Council stepped up to make it such a success! Thank you to our great sponsors who supported the event financially and materially!

community where the health of our citizenry, especially our youth, is valued, educated, and empowered to be their best.

thank you

School is out, and Summer is here! After the initial sigh of relief, but before our minds drift off to spending some lazy days with our Summer read, let's look at all our coalition has accomplished!

- Our annual **Drug Summit** is hosted on FullCircle's Campus.
- **Walk for Recovery** event at the Cumming City Center.
- **Drug Counselors** in several schools
- **Community Speaker Bureau** educates and arms parents with resources to decrease the stigma that often keeps people from taking preventative measures and seeking help.
- A **Youth Council** whose members get the word out to peers and adults through Marijuana Awareness podcasts and community safety projects like the Locking Prescription Vials.
- **Parent Support**

I know you agree, and that's why you continue to make our Council impactful. This Summer, please take time to consider what the Council means to you. How has the Council impacted you or your organization? How do you believe the Council has benefited the Forsyth community?

Please write down these thoughts and comments so we may use them in future newsletters or public service announcements on a Community board.

[Your Comments](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**Our next FCDAC Council Meeting is on
Wednesday, July 10
8 a.m.
United Way Offices**

Council Meeting Highlights

Director Rachel Kayden opened the 8 a.m. monthly council meeting by Welcoming everyone. **The Walk for Recovery** was an outstanding event. As you know, it is difficult to get attendance up because people don't want to think about this issue oftentimes unless they have been pulled in by a crisis. We had approximately **300 in attendance**, which is good since, due to the weather, we had to postpone the event. Many from the prevention and recovery community came out, and the feedback was that the event was respectful of those lost whom we honored with our **Remembrance Wall** and positive, with good vibes emanating as we highlighted the successes of so many in recovery. As we work to reach out to more people and remove the stigma, we look forward to increasing our attendance next year.

The attendees introduced themselves and made announcements

Announcements:

- Rachel, Reminder: we have Narcan available. Please take some on your way out.
- FullCircle is holding a Rummage Sale July 18-21 at "The Shop." (See flyer below)
- Kirstin Banks PRN: Parent Recovery Network FREE [CLICK HERE](#)
- Susan Tanner: Mom's Group. We started this about 3 years ago as a result of the Sunrise Parent Retreat. One of the moms suggested that we continue our relationship by meeting once a week (we chose Monday), and it became a "bible study" whereby we choose a faith-based book, read it during the week, and then discuss it. The leader LOVES cooking, so she cooks a delicious dinner for us! We begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. It has grown from 5 of us to anywhere from 8- 14 moms per Monday night. We have formed an incredible bond. It's a safe place for us to open up..and be completely vulnerable. [Contact Susan Tanner HERE](#)
- DRUG COURT GRADUATION is Monday, June 17th. It begins at 6:00 p.m. Judge Bagley praises each graduate and tells a little bit about him/her and their family and friends often speak too. It's a very interesting and touching night to see an addict proud of completing this program. The location is in Downtown Cumming.



School is out, which means parents need all the support they can get. **This month's guest speaker is Marti Roveda.** She is a passionate advocate for education and recovery for parents of youth challenged with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Having been blindsided by her own child's SUD, Marti openly shares her strength, hope, and experiences gained on her journey. She created an online support program for parents of youth participating in an in-patient program in Nashville and is a speaker on parent recovery and drug awareness/prevention. Marti also co-chairs the FCDAC Parent Support Committee. When not pursuing her passion for prevention, awareness, and

parent recovery, Marti works full-time in strategic sourcing for a chain of OBGYN clinics and enjoys time with her family.

"I am a parent in Parent Recovery. I co-chair FCDAC's Parent Committee with Ashley Dickerson, whom I met at the parent program at Insight. We teamed up to bring our strength, hope, and experience to the program here and help educate parents on parent recovery. My passion for parent recovery and education has grown, so I've become an encyclopedia of resources," she said.

Marti related her family's story and her son, John. Here are some of the "signs" I observed. If you see these things, it is time to seek resources.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIORS?

- Do you have more interest in your child's future than your child does?
- Are you driving your child's successes?
- Is your child emotionally irrational and always blaming others for their unfortunate situations?
- Is it a struggle to gain information about new friends and events?
- Does your child manipulate facts that are counter to what you know to be true?

OTHER SIGNS CAN INCLUDE:

- Losing interest in school or declining grades.
- Losing interest in their favorite activities or spending time with family.
- Getting in trouble at school or with the law. (even if not drug related)
- A change in eating or sleeping habits and personal hygiene.
- Use of digital currency. (Crypto Currency such as Bitcoin, CashApp, etc)
- Difficult to track social media exchanges. (Telegram, SnapChat, Instagram)
- Your child's self confidence and ability to ask for help is low.

COMMON MYTHS REGARDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Addiction IS NOT a moral issue and lack of will power. (IT IS A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE!)

My child wouldn't know where to buy drugs (Social media has become the home delivery service for drug abuse.) Over

My child wouldn't know where to buy drugs (social media has become the home delivery service for drug abuse.) Over 75% of opioid abuse begins with legally prescribed medication.

My child is too involved with sports to have time for drugs.

I'm a good parent, so I'm sure that I would know if substances were a problem. (Physical addiction can occur way before external signs of drug use are visible)

My child is homeschooled or in private school where drugs are not an issue.

Weed is not addictive and my child only smokes it once in a while. (Today's synthetic weed is extremely addictive and can lead to psychosis and hospitalization)

My child comes from a happy home and has everything they need so they have no reason to use drugs. I would know if they had emotional issues.

Drug abuse is something impacting "those" families; not my family. (Addiction doesn't discriminate and impacts all families of all race, religion, financial and marital status)

None of the above myths surprise those of us in prevention. It happens to many families. It isn't "those families." Our kids are struggling today. They are uncomfortable in their skin. Our society says, "You feel odd? Do you want to have a good time? Have a Corona and smoke a joint, and you'll have a good time." Once they start, the substance starts to build a false sense of self-esteem.

NOW WHAT?

- Open Ears/ Close Mouth
- Let them know they are loved EXACTLY how they are
- Offer to help them get support
- Set boundaries focused on healthy mind and body
- Educate yourself
- Seek Support for You



Parents, put on your oxygen mask first. Recognize your need for support and this turn your child has taken begins a grieving process for you.

Ask open-ended questions and listen. Let them know you love them where they are. Set boundaries. "I cannot let you hurt yourself, or put you in situations or enable situations that facilitates injury."

Keep offering them support through providing resources. Let them see you are getting support for yourself, and it will help them find resources to make healthy choices. In conclusion a few tips.

TIPS & TOOLS

Communicating with your child

Parent Slogans

- 3 Cs
 - Didn't cause it
 - Can't cure it
 - Can't control it

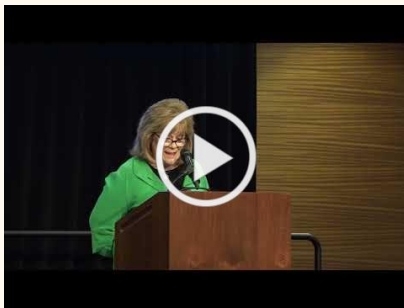
- Don't engage with them if they are agitated or argumentative – walk away.
- ABCs (Awesome, Bummer, Cool)
- Helpful responses
 - "I don't know, let me talk to mom/dad, my sponsor or the counselor about that"
 - "Call your sponsor"
 - "What does your sponsor, the counselors or your group think?"
 - "Do you want me to listen or to help?"
- Can't control it
- 4th C - but you can contribute to it
- One Day at a Time
- Stay in my own lane
- Let Go and Let God
- FEAR - False Events Appearing Real,
- QTIP - Quit taking it personally
- Detach with love
- Earned highs
- Trust is a win win
- LOVE - Let Others Voluntarily Evolve

Please watch the entire meeting by clicking on the player to the right.



Community Outreach, Youth, Members, and Partners

Faces of Mental Health



Commissioner Cindy Mills introduced Rachel Lamb, (right) a 20 year old woman who spoke about her childhood mental health experience and the



lack of care available in Forsyth County. Ms. Lamb asked the Commissioners who voted NOT to fund the Whole Health Building to reconsider, because there are nine-year olds who deserve a chance to grow-up with care they need in Forsyth County and not

In May, we celebrated **Mental Health Awareness Month**. On May 13, **The Faces of Mental Health** conference explored the state of our community's mental health with former Rep. **Michael Dudgeon**, Live Life Licensed Clinical Social Worker **Maureen Bixler**, Board of Commissioner **Cindy Mills**, and others.

Board of Commissioner Cindy Mills moderated the evening. She said, "Education leads to prevention, and whether we are discussing mental illness or drug prevention/recovery, it all goes back to mental health."

And yet, we live in a time when people refuse to acknowledge the fact that mental health is just like our physical health and it must be cared for and monitored and that from time to time, as with our physical health, there can be mental health breakdowns. And just like with our physical maladies, the person with mental health

challenges can get better with proper medicine, care, and lifestyle changes.

Mills said, "These events should be supported by everyone who sees the need to end stigmas and should unite everyone in our community who cares about our citizens' well-being. I hope we can have more events of this kind to build a more robust contingency of advocates for mental well being in our state and

need in Forsyth County and not become a statistic.

contingency of advocates for mental well-being in our state and county."

Parent Partners Corner

by Ashley Dickerson and Marti Roveda



Ashley Dickerson

Ashely holds the role of Revenue Accounting Director at AT&T and is an active member of FCDAC. Her personal journey as a parent of a child who suffers from Substance Use Disorder covers a lot of pain, frustration, and isolation; but also a lot of hope and healing. Ashley openly shares her story of personal recovery with other parents to reduce the shame and stigma of the disease and help start the dialog among parents who may be struggling to find support for themselves.

FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL
Parent Committee

Mission: To eliminate the stigma and shame of Substance Use Disorder by educating parents and youth leaders on prevention, signs/symptoms, and resources for youth and parents.

[What to expect, When you suspect]

Can you identify with any of the following behaviors?

- Do you have more interest in your child's future than your child does?
- Are you driving your child's successes?
- Is your child emotionally irrational and always blaming others for their misfortunate situations?
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- My child wouldn't know where to buy drugs (Social media has become the home delivery service for drug abuse.) Over 75% of opioid abuse begins with legally prescribed medication.
- My child is too involved with sports to have time for drugs.
- I'm a good parent, so I'm sure that I would know if substances were a problem. (Physical addiction can occur way before external signs of drug use are visible)
- My child is homeschooled or in private school where drugs are not an issue.
- Weed is not addictive and my child only smokes it once in a while. (Today's synthetic weed is extremely addictive and can lead to psychosis and hospitalization)
- My child comes from a happy home and has everything they need so they have no reason to use drugs. I would know if they had emotional issues.
- Drug abuse is something impacting "those" families; not my family. (Addiction doesn't discriminate and impacts all families of all race, religion, financial and marital status)

What Do I Do Now?
Know that YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
Do not be too afraid or ashamed to seek parent support immediately!
Contact your child's school counselor.
Reach out to us at Parents4FCDAC@gmail.com for support.
Use this QR Code to access a list of resources.

Marti Roveda



Marti is a passionate advocate for education and recovery for parents of youth challenged with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Having been blindsided by her own child's SUD, Marti openly shares her strength, hope, and experiences gained on her journey. She created an online support program for parents of youth participating in an in-patient program in Nashville and is a speaker on parent recovery and drug awareness/prevention. Marti co chairs the FCDAC Parent Support

Youth Outreach

Youth Council



Avi Karamchandani reports, "I am continuing Vinayak Menon's Council Deterra Drug Deactivation Kit distribution." The Council provides Deterra Drug Deactivation kits to over 25 organizations in Forsyth County and distributed some 10,000 kits in 2023."

"Also, Sharmada Venkataramani and I responded to an opportunity through our schools called "Project Connect." The teachers will gather community resources and distribute them to the students before the start of school. Sharmada and I will provide appropriate resources from FCDAC," Avi said.

Members teaching Members

Parent Support

By Dana Bryan



Few events can be more overwhelming, frightening, and disappointing than learning of your child's involvement with substance abuse, whether illegal drugs, prescription drugs, or alcohol. As I listened to Marti Roveda, the inspiring and

informative speaker at our June Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council meeting, I was brought back to vivid memories of that time in my life.

Marti experienced this heartbreak when her 16-year-old son became involved with addictive substances and made the inevitable changes in friends, activities, and personality. Her presentation focused on the importance of parents working on their own issues, interests, and goals while at the same time forming a bond with other parents who can be supportive and will understand what it is like to experience substance abuse in one's child or family. Marti shares her experience with other parents as she works to advocate for education and recovery for

parents of youth who are challenged with SUD (Substance Abuse Disorder). In her words, she is in parent recovery and works her program daily.

As I listened to Marti, I was reminded of two changes I made which probably influenced my ability to communicate with my daughter Lauren when she was taking risks in her choices. Drugs were only one of those risks. After trying several local programs, including hospitalization for drug abuse on two separate occasions, the program that seemed to be the best fit for Lauren and our family was at Hyde School in Bath, Maine. As parents of a student at Hyde, my husband and I were involved in our own



Dana Bryan

Dana is a retired middle school teacher and

member of FCDAC. Through her personal loss of her daughter to drug experimentation, Dana devotes her time reaching out to youth through presentations about the real consequences and high risk of experimenting with addictive substances and how it affects them, their futures, and their families. She contributes her insights monthly to the *Strategizer*.
Thanks, Dana!

parent program, both with Hyde parents who lived in our region as well as with other parents on the Hyde campus throughout the school year. One of the first things I learned as a Hyde parent was, "We cannot control what other people do, but we CAN CONTROL how we react to what they do." This statement will help give courage when someone considers reacting in a way that enables drug abuse, alcoholism, or other negative behaviors. I find it helpful in all situations and relationships in my life and am forever grateful for those who introduced me to this aspect of reacting to difficult situations.

The other lesson I learned helped me communicate with my daughter so that she did not feel threatened or become argumentative. You may have heard of "I" messages. This is simply a conversation that begins with the word "I" instead of "you" when addressing a behavior about which you are concerned. I learned to begin my sentences with the word "I," and my statements sounded like the following: "I am concerned when you use substances which can alter your brain or even kill you." "I am frightened when you sneak out at night." "I am sad when I see that your choices are interfering with your education and the goal you have had for so long to become a veterinarian." Lauren always listened to my concerns when presented with an "I" message. Nobody can argue with you about how you feel or about your fears or concerns. Although this was at a time in my life when I had many worries about my daughter's future, I have some special memories of sitting on my screened porch with her and voicing my concerns in a conversation that did not become hostile and in a way that she was able to feel the love I had for her. I felt the unconditional love between us.

I hope I have explained myself in a clear way that will benefit those who read my article. Summer is a time when children experience more unsupervised time and will make many unsupervised decisions about their lives, activities, and friendships. As a result, summer can bring new challenges and concerns for parents. I wish for each family member to experience personal growth as you develop positive bonds and special memories within your family.

Our Partners in Prevention

More Great Community Events from our Friends at the ...

COME ONE, COME ALL!

**FULLCIRCLE RUMMAGE
SALE**

**WE ARE SEEKING
DONATIONS FOR THE
SALE**

**BRING ITEMS TO
"THE SHOP" AT
433 CANTON HWY SUITE
301**



JOIN US AT

09:00am - 05:00pm
433 Canton Hwy Suite 301 Cumming, GA
30048



Get great deals on household goods, toys, furniture & much more.

Amazon Return Bin Store.

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Proceeds will benefit
The FullCircle Program



For More Information:
470-253-7335
mikecowan@fullcircleprogram.com

JOIN US AT
"THE SHOP" FOR THIS
4-DAY EVENT
JULY 18, 19, 20 & 21! 9
AM-5 PM DAILY!



Georgia Council
for Recovery
Freedom from Addiction

Georgia Council for Recovery is proud to announce the launch of its new website domain, www.gc4recovery.org, in alignment with its recent name change. Formerly known as www.gasubstanceabuse.org, the new domain reflects our dedication to providing comprehensive support for individuals and families

navigating the path to recovery. This update streamlines our online presence, enhancing accessibility and brand recognition for all stakeholders. We encourage you to update your bookmarks to www.gc4recovery.org to continue seamlessly accessing our valuable resources and services.



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

2024 Theme: The Art of Recovery
Calling Artists in Recovery

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is launching the [2024 Art of Recovery](#) project. This initiative highlights the impact of art on mental health and substance use recovery, showcasing how creative expression can serve as a pathway to solace, healing, and empowerment.

The project solicits submissions from artists with lived or lived recovery experience, including artwork and a brief description of the artist's inspiration.

"We invite people with lived experience to submit photographs, paintings, drawings, or mixed media artwork that is meaningful to them and their journey," said Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., HHS Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the leader of SAMHSA. "While the process of creation has long been recognized as a therapeutic tool, it can also serve to inspire others.

The Art of Recovery project works to raise the voices of people with lived experience and illustrate the possibilities in recovery, hope, and healing.”

- Submissions are open **May 7 to June 28**. Artists may submit in two categories: painting, drawing or mixed media, and photography.
- **Categories for youth 13-17 and adults 18+.**
- **Selected entries will be posted on SAMHSA’s website as part of an online exhibit, Gallery of Hope: Artistic Expressions of Recovery Across the Nation.** The online gallery will launch in September and run throughout the month to celebrate National Recovery Month.
- Up to 150 youth submissions and 350 adult submissions will be posted in the virtual gallery. **Artists may submit one piece of art along with a brief description of the inspiration behind the artwork.** Submissions will be reviewed based on originality, creativity, and how well the entry expresses the theme.
- **Artists will be notified by July 31, 2024, if their artwork has been selected.**

[Click Here for More information](#)



The Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist Academy was developed by the Georgia Council for Recovery to create a workforce of peers who provide recovery support services to Georgia's communities. Funded by Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities, the CARES Academy is the first of its kind in the country to be Medicaid billable.

GC4R is currently accepting applications for CARES 65!

Upon completion of the CARES Academy, peers are able to:

- Advocate for recovery for themselves, the peers with whom they work, their recovery community, and for a Recovery Oriented System of Care.
- Conduct individual recovery check-ins by supporting peers in self-directed care and assessing a peer's 'recovery capital' using Motivational Interviewing (also NREPP) skills to enhance the relationship.
- Run recovery groups

[Click Here for Application*](#)

*Application Deadline June 28, 2024, [Contact Phone CARES Team Here](#)

NEWS FOR YOU

National News

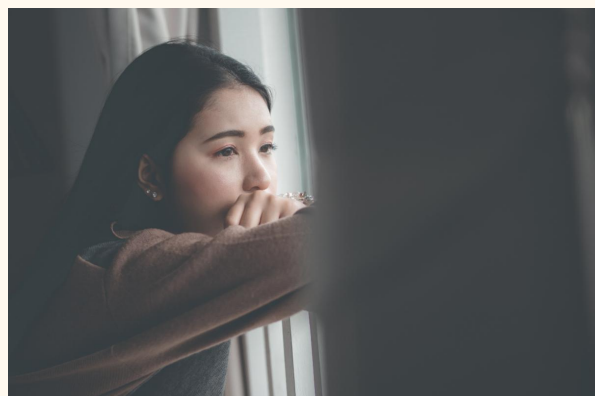
US House Agriculture Committee Amends 2018 Farm Bill to Close Loopholes for the Sale of Intoxicating Hemp Products

On May 24, 2024, it was reported that the House Agricultural Committee passed the mark-ups, including **Republican Mary Miller's (IL) amendment to the 2018 Farm Bill**. The amendment will **close the loopholes that allowed the production and sale of intoxicating THC products** derived from hemp. The amendment redefines hemp. **Hemp will fall into two distinct categories: 1. Hemp Grown for Cannabinoid Extraction:** The term 'hemp grown for cannabinoid extraction' means any hemp grown for purposes of extracting cannabinoids intended for human or animal consumption, inhalation, or topical use; **2. Industrial Hemp:** The term 'industrial hemp' means hemp— (A) grown for the use of the stalk of the plant, fiber produced from such a stalk, or any other non-cannabinoid derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of such a stalk;...

Miller said, "My amendment closes the loophole created in the 2018 Farm Bill that allows intoxicating hemp products like delta-8 to be sold. **These products are being marketed to children and sending hundreds of them to the hospital.** We must stop teenagers and young children from being exposed to addictive and harmful drugs." **These products are often found in gas stations, convenience stores, and smoke shops and have sparked the concerns of many.**

The Farm Bill with Miller's amendment will now go to the House Floor. **The panel's adoption of the ban likely sets the stage for a showdown with the Democratic-controlled Senate.** The House and Senate versions of the bill **differ significantly, particularly in their approach to hemp regulation. The Senate version does not make the same distinctions between industrial hemp and hemp for cannabinoid extraction, setting the stage for intense negotiations.**

More than 321,000 U.S. children lost a parent to drug overdose from 2011 to 2021*



May 8, 2024 NIDA PRESS RELEASE.

An estimated 321,566 children in the United States lost a parent to drug overdose from 2011 to 2021, according to a [study](#) published in JAMA Psychiatry. The rate of children who experienced this loss more than doubled during this period, from approximately 27 to 63 children per 100,000. **Children lost more fathers than mothers (192,459 compared to 129,107 children) during this period.** The study was a collaborative effort led by researchers at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"It is devastating to see that almost half of the people who died of a drug overdose had a child. No family should lose their loved one to an overdose, and each of these deaths represents a tragic loss that could have been prevented," said **Nora Volkow, M.D., NIDA director**. "These findings emphasize the need to better support parents in accessing prevention, treatment, and recovery services. In addition, any child who loses a parent to overdose must receive the care and support they need to navigate this painful and traumatic experience."

From 2011 to 2021, 649,599 people aged 18 to 64 died from a drug overdose. Despite these tragic numbers, no national study had previously estimated the number of children who lost a parent among these deaths. To address this gap, researchers used data about people aged 18 to 64 participating in the 2010 to 2019 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) to determine the number of children younger than 18 years living with a parent 18 to 64 years old with past-year drug use. NSDUH defines a parent as biological parent, adoptive parent, stepparent, or adult guardian.

denies a parent as biological parent, adoptive parent, stepparent, or adult guardian. The researchers then used these data to estimate the number of children of the nearly 650,000 people who died of an overdose in 2011 to 2021 based on the national mortality data from the CDC National Vital Statistics System. The data were examined by age group (18 to 25, 26 to 40, and 41 to 64 years old), sex, and self-reported race and ethnicity.

The researchers found that among the estimated 321,566 American children who lost a parent to overdose from 2011 to 2021, the highest numbers of deaths were among parents aged 26 to 40 (175,355 children) and among non-Hispanic white parents (234,164). The next highest numbers were children with Hispanic parents (40,062) and children with non-Hispanic Black parents (35,743).

"Children who lose a parent to overdose not only feel personal grief but also may experience ripple effects, such as further family instability," said Allison Arwady, M.D., M.P.H., director of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. "We need to ensure that families have the resources and support to prevent an overdose from happening in the first place and manage such a traumatic event."

[Click Here](#) to read the entire Press Release.

Reference:

- CM Jones, et al. [Estimated Number of Children Who Lost a Parent to Drug Overdose, US, 2011-2021](#). JAMA. DOI: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2024.0810 (2024).

Call for Advocacy

IMPORTANT PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY on the Proposed Rescheduling of Marijuana

The DEA's proposed rule to reschedule marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule III drug appeared in the Federal Register on May 20, 2024. **This starts the 60-day public comment period.** Schedule III drugs are defined as having a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence.

It's important to share why you disagree with this decision based on your personal experience with your family member.

[Link to the public comment site](#)

You might want to write your story in a text document before typing it into the site so you don't lose your work if you make a mistake.

Comments are part of the federal record. You can post public comments with your name, or you can post public comments anonymously. **Comments are due by July 22, 2024.**

PR PROPOSED RULE

Schedules of Controlled Substances: Rescheduling of Marijuana

Posted by the Drug Enforcement Administration on May 20, 2024

Comment

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OR Use the [CADCA Advocacy Sample](#)



CADCA Advocacy has a sample comment and a direct link to send the submission.

[Click Here to go to CADCA Advocacy](#)

FYI

GET THE FACTS ABOUT DRUGS **JUST THINK TWICE**



Gabi's parents died from drug overdose.

"So, my first overdose, I had just started using drugs, and I was 12 years old," Gabi said.

These days, Gabi attends a recovery high school in Central Austin. The charter school is part of Austin Recovery Network, and it's there that Gabi gets the help to stay sober — though she admits getting to this point has been challenging, and she almost didn't make it.

[Justthinktwice.com](#) is Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website.

Gabi has tempted fate more than a dozen times by her own account.

Hey, Dads! Father's Day is a Great Day to Talk... Because Your Child HEARS YOU!

Summer is here, and Father's Day is June 16. Resolve to check in with your kids every day this

summer.

- One of the most influential factors during a child's adolescence is maintaining a strong, open relationship with a parent. When parents create supportive and nurturing environments, children make better decisions.
- Talk to your kids directly and honestly, and they are more likely to respect your rules and advice about alcohol and drug use. It can protect them from many of the high-risk behaviors associated with using these drugs.
- If parents don't talk about the risks of underage drinking and substance use, their kids might not see any harm in trying



SHE'S INTERESTED IN LEARNING NEW THINGS.

Talking with her often about marijuana and other drugs builds an open, trusting relationship.

Get into the habit of chatting with your child every day. It will make it easier to

have serious conversations about things like marijuana and other drugs, and will make your child more comfortable coming to you for advice. For tips on how—and when—to begin the conversation, visit:

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov



alcohol and other substances. Having a conversation allows parents to set clear rules about what they expect from their kids when it comes to alcohol and other drugs.

Fentapills



Produced by Song for Charlie, this educational video about fake prescription pills made of illicit fentanyl premiered on National Fentanyl Awareness Day.

"Fentapills—You Need to Know" is a four-minute video for middle and high school students, parents, and educators.

On the Calendar



June

- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, June 16
- Drug Court Graduation June 17
- Summer Begins June 21
- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, June 26

July



- Independence Day, July 4
- CADCA Mid-Year Training Institute, July 14-18
- FullCircle Rummage Sale, July 18-21

DONATE TODAY!

SCAN ME

Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council | 240 Elm Street | Cumming, GA 30040 US

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