



The FCDAC STRATEGIZER

Leading the way to a healthier Forsyth County

March 2023 Volume 2 Issue 11

Receive Our Newsletter



DRUG SUMMIT YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION EVENT



Youth Panel left to right Polly Sarno Tommy Nanarone Gabby



Mike Cowan, FullCircle Program Director welcomes attendees to the 2nd Annual Drug Summit. **Commissioner Cindy Mills** (right, facilitated the event)

Youth Panel left to right, Polly Sarno, Tommy Naparano, Gabby Reeves, and Sam Strickland



Parent Panel left to right, Josh and Angie Sarno, Robert and Christine Sedacca



FullCircle and FCDAC jointly hosted the 2nd Annual Drug Summit - Youth Substance Abuse Education Event on February 8, 2023, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at FullCircle. The attendees, primarily parents, and professionals in drug prevention work received a look into the sometimes hidden and frightening world of young adults and students who, for a variety of reasons, have been exposed to and have taken part in the risky behavior of illicit drugs-street and unprescribed prescription misuse.

FCDAC Director Rachel welcomed and told the gathering that **THC is the drug of choice for young**

people in this area, according to the data the council has collected. The **THC (Marijuana) oil** our young people vape is **70-90% potency**. The marijuana used back in the day was only 7-15 %. "I worked ten years in the drug counseling field, and I saw clients who used hard drugs, which you could see because they looked beat-up, but they did better than clients addicted to THC who looked completely normal on the surface. The worst-case scenario for those addicted to high-potency THC is **psychosis**. The best-case scenario is **stunted emotional development**. The slow-creeping drug manipulates their brain while it's still developing, resulting in (the brain's) **inability to develop coping and communication skills**. This causes **low self-worth**, and they're incapable of making sound decisions for their futures which affects them and those around them," Rachel said.

Rachel continued, "**We have to do something about it. The data FCDAC gathered last year showed that THC products are being normalized**. We all know it. It's a tragedy. Because it's being normalized, the access to this drug, the availability of this drug, and its promotion in mainstream media is something we have never experienced. It is up to us to respond to that. I invite you to join us."

The youth panel comprised four teens (shown in the pictures above): **Polly Sarno, Tommy Naparano, Gabby Reeves, and Sam Strickland**. The afternoon program was facilitated by FCDAC Chairwoman and founder, **Board of Commissioner Cindy Jones Mills**. Mills began by praising the young people who

agreed to participate in the event. She described a recent experience when taking her granddaughter to a concert. "We went to dinner first and smelled marijuana in the restaurant's parking lot. The smell of it was present when they arrived at the concert and even driving down the street, we'd catch whiffs of marijuana. I am sick of this smell! I can't even take my granddaughter to an event without her being exposed to it. Her granddaughter asked what that smell was, and when I explained, her mom asked me not to. Her mom wanted to protect her daughter. But I will never forget what my granddaughter said, "If you don't tell me about it, someone else will." That is the truth! That's why you are here and why this event is important. I am proud of Forsyth County because we care. We care about our young people. We need to hold honest conversations to do a better job."

The entire meeting can be seen by clicking on the video below. Here are some highlights of the panels.

- Youth panel members began drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana at the average age of 15
- drug education was not taken seriously by the students because the videos were from the 1980s; they thought the presentations by teachers were not impactful
- a more impactful approach is one on one talks with significant adults and through testimonies of those who struggled with addiction
- **they used drugs to feel better, more self-assured, and feel popular or get into a popular group, to numb insecure feelings**
- they kept using it because the high became their **way of coping with any uncomfortable feeling or situation**
- friends who used romanticized drug use
- drugs are easily **obtained from other students at school, on social media platforms**
- parental examples of alcohol use
- unconditional love, boundaries can help

The four-member adult panel pictured above shows **Josh, Angie Sarno/ Robert, and Christine Sedacca.**

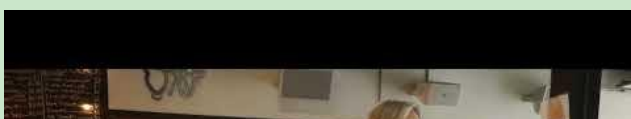
- **drugs are different now, much more deadly**
- drug education in our schools hasn't changed much
- denial of the situation and not recognizing signs
- used anger, grounding, and every type of restriction to no avail
- more resources for parents are needed
- handling the in-between times in addiction to sobriety

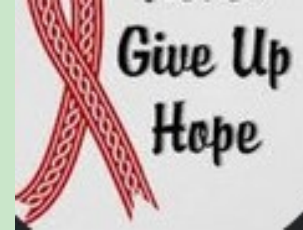
Combo panel of Polly and her parents, Angie and Josh Sarno

- it is a personal decision by the addicted person to change, and "the program I entered gave me hope that I could become sober."
- having emotions are ok; learning to cope with them and to see everything-even hard or disappointing things as opportunities and blessings
- as a parent, I learned to "get over myself" to stop denying the problems, and through the parent support group, I learned how to parent in a different way that showed our love

Commissioner Mills brought the afternoon program to a close, saying, "I love to see you're recognizing the blessings that have come from your experience and not allowing drugs to define your family. Even the pain you experienced is seen as part of the plan and has brought you to where your family is today. You could say we wouldn't be here if we hadn't been there."

**UNABLE TO ATTEND this informative event?
Watch the entire Drug Summit event! (Click
the play button left)**





Providing Entertainment and Resources



Talented Guitarist and Vocalist
Chris Vivanco



Forsyth County Community Connection Executive Director and FCDAC member, **Sarah Pedarre**. Forsyth County Community Connection is a collaborative organization that links businesses, agencies and citizens together for the betterment of children.



Dr. Deborah Silverstein and her students from Emory's



The Connection Executive Director and FCDAC member, **Kayla Bergeron**. The Connection offers a wellness-focused model for long-term recovery, taking a whole health approach. The Connection is a place for those committed to wellness and



Twin Lakes Recovery Center at Twin Lakes, provides the physical, emotional, and clinical



long-term recovery to find fellowship, peer coaching, fun sober social events and support for family members.

support needed to help you reach and maintain sobriety. **Emily Dent** and **Gabby Breiten** are pictured at the table



Our friends from Public Health



Check out this **cool mural** above the food table at the Drug Summit. Mike Cowan, FullCircle Program Director, explains, "The mural represents a meeting topic called **Burn Your Ships**.

The idea is that when Vikings went out to conquer new lands, they would burn their ships, leaving them no way to turn around. This caused the warriors to be single-minded in their mission.

The idea for recovery is to inspire 100 percent commitment to the 12-step program and have no back doors to using drugs and alcohol and no reservations mentally to going back to using. Ultimately, to let go and give the 12 steps a full shot!"

FCDAC Council Meeting, Work and Programs Round-up

Director Kayden's Korner

Thank you! Yes, Big thanks to everyone who participated in the Drug Summit at FullCircle on February 8. The youth and parents panels did an outstanding job! Special thanks to Commissioner Cindy Jones Mills for

facilitating the event and bringing her extensive insight to the forum. Hopefully, this event will continue our progress with drug



MARK YOUR CALENDAR





progress with drug prevention in the community. Please have a look at the recording of the event below.

Great News! We now have a flyer for our awareness event with Shatterproof. Its new title will be "The Walk for Recovery." See the new flyer below! This event aims to eliminate stigma, educate those not in the know, and support those who are. Please, invite everyone you know, and help spread the word!



Our next FCDAC Council Meeting is on **Wednesday, April 5 8 a.m.** at **United Way Offices**

March 1, 2023 Council Meeting

Director Rachel opened the Monthly Meeting by showing us FCDAC's New Rebranded Logo!

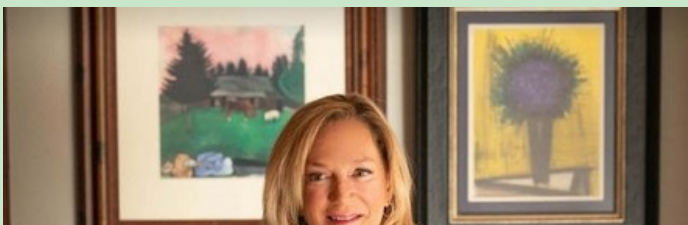


Rachel introduced **Zac Sweat, Co-founder and Creative Director for Open Heart Media**. He created our new logo, pamphlet, business cards, and The Walk for Recovery flyer. Zac's specialty has been centered on the creative development and maintenance of social media platforms, branding/re-branding, videography/editing, website design, and operational functioning for restaurants, retailers, coaching/nutrition brands, and mental health treatment centers.

Meet this month's guest speaker, Heather Hayes, Founder M.Ed., LPC, CIP, CAI

Heather Hayes is the founder and CEO of Heather R. Hayes & Associates, Inc. She is a Master's level Licensed Counselor, Board Registered Interventionist (CIP), and Certified ARISE Interventionist. Ms. Hayes earned her B.A. from Emory University and her M.Ed. from Antioch University in Counseling Psychology.

Heather is a veteran of the behavioral health field with over three decades of experience in treating clients with complex mental health issues and the





complex mental health issues and the full spectrum of addictive disorders. She has worked with clients of all ages and specializes in treating adolescents/young adults, trauma, behavioral issues, and eating disorders.

FCDAC was pleased to welcome Heather Hayes as our guest speaker at the **March 1 Council Meeting** at the United Way.

Meeting Highlights

Welcome, the introduction of attendees, zoom participants, and announcements- Director Rachel Kayden

- Rachel thanked everyone for attending the **Drug Summit at FullCircle on February 8**. It was a fantastic event, with **115** community members attending and many organizations providing resources.
- Rachel unveiled FCDAC's rebranded logo and introduced designer Zac Sweaty, Co-founder and Creative Director for Open Heart Media, who produced it.
- Rachel introduced our Guest Speaker, **Heather Hayes** (see above).
- Heather's title for the presentation was **Language Matters: Reducing Stigma with Recovery Linguistics**.
- Definition of Addiction: **Addiction is a dysregulation of the midbrain dopamine (pleasure) system due to unmanaged stress resulting in symptoms of decreased functioning, specifically in Loss of Control, Craving, and Persistent Drug Use Despite Negative Consequences (PDUDNC)**.
- Americans consume 80% of the world's opiate supply and 2/3 of the world's illegal drugs.
- One in four adults with mental illness also has a substance abuse disorder.
- There are signs and indicators for those at high risk for Mental Health issues and SUD, like trauma, broken home environments, and events like the pandemic. Yet **we don't do a great job of providing services for those who are high-risk**.
- **Fentanyl has changed everything**. There is **no room for experimentation**. This is deadly.
- Stigma is a mark of disgrace. A way we judge based on characteristics, looks, and diseases. It impacts how people treat one another and how the stigmatized person sees themselves.
- A historical look at the medicine model of treatment; Mental illness and SUD didn't fit the Western medicine model because they couldn't figure out what organ was defective.
- So because the medical system didn't deal with it, the legal system stepped in to react to the symptoms ("bad" behavior or antisocial behaviors) of mental illness and SUD.
- Stigma grew tremendously during this time period (over 60 years)
- The latest research on brain mapping shows how the brain works. The frontal cortex is considered the seat of the emotional self, personality, love, will and morality, and conscience. However, the newest research shows that it is in the **Midbrain where drugs work**.
- The Midbrain controls our unconscious sensory reaction activity, fight or flight (defend), need to eat, and sex

- eat, and sex.
- Cravings don't lessen as recovering substance user ages but get stronger, which is why ongoing 12-step meetings are important. Knowing you must fight this disease daily will help people in recovery, not be blindsided.
- talking to kids, overcoming the stigma of the "Not my Child Syndrome."
- Supporting parents and helping them know it is not their fault and helping the parent move away from blaming themselves or burying the problem and look for help.
- Stigma is perpetuated in the way and words we speak, our perceptions, misperceptions, laws, public figures, media, and pharmaceutical companies.
- Recover our language, and choose respectful words in our speech, primarily recognizing each person's humanity.
- **Ashley Dickerson and Marti Roveda** are cochairs of the **Parent Support Committee** and have created a brochure and plan to speak before various parent groups.
- **Amanda Pruett** will chair the **Young Adult/Youth Committee**.
- Adam Miller adjourned the meeting.



Council Meeting, March 1 Heather Hayes, Guest Speaker

Did you miss our AWESOME and informative meeting? Click on the video (left). We learned the latest brain science and new ways to look at how we speak and use words in our prevention activities.

Community Outreach, Youth, Members, and Partners

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



We are ready to spread the word on **THE WALK FOR RECOVERY!** This is FCDAC's premier community awareness event partnering with Shatterproof for 2023! We are ALL IN on this event and encourage everyone to **SHARE, PROMOTE, AND SHOUT IT FROM THE ROOFTOP!** That is just how big this event is! Flyers were distributed at the Council Meeting, and more flyers are available to anyone who contacts Director Rachel [HERE](#).

You can register for the event [HERE](#).

THE WALK FOR RECOVERY

#onestepatatime

AT THE CUMMING CITY CENTER

SUNDAY
APRIL
23
2P-5P



EVENTS

- MEMORIAL TEACUP LIGHTING
- RESOURCE TABLES EDUCATION AND NARCAN TRAINING
- MUSICAL GUEST
- WALK FOR AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

PANEL DISCUSSION

- PARENT, PROFESSIONAL, LOCAL STUDENT & MEMBERS IN RECOVERY

GUEST SPEAKERS

- SPECIAL GUEST MAYOR TROY BRUMBALOW AND MORE

OUR SPONSORS



- **THE WALK**
Together, we'll honor those who lost their lives to this disease, celebrate those living in recovery, and bring hope to the millions still suffering.
- **IT'S Time to FORM YOUR WALK TEAM!**
Ask friends, neighbors, colleagues, church members, civic groups, and organizations to form teams of Walkers.
- **THE SPEAKERS - Mayor Troy Brumbalow and others**

- **COMMUNITY RESOURCE AREA** A community resource area will provide a place where non-profits and organizations working in prevention and treatment will be on hand to showcase and educate about what services they can offer our community. Narcan training will be available. You can sign up for a table.

[CLICK HERE](#)

- **MEMORIAL LIGHTING OF TEACUPS** The lighting of the Memorial Teacups is a moving moment to pause and remember the many who have been lost to Substance Use Disorder. Begun as part of the Overdose Awareness event by FCDAC member and mother **Jennifer Hodge**, the lighting of Memorial Teacups is a heart-moving event sure to increase awareness of this growing tragedy. We welcome and encourage anyone who has experienced this loss to participate. You can also leave your loved ones' information on Eventbrite to be honored, or [Click Here](#).

2nd FCDAC Speaker Training

FCDAC's second Speaker Training occurred on Wednesday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the United Way Offices. Matt Myer, CADAC, CAC, Program Director of the Insight Program, once again led the speaker training.

According to attendee **Ashley Dickerson**, "It was helpful to be reminded of the overall mission of FCDAC. We need to be mindful that we represent the organization as a whole and not misstate information as fact if it hasn't been verified. I also appreciated the reminder to plan before any engagement - to know the event's purpose and who the audience is. Our message will certainly be different in a step-up program for 5th-grade parents than it will be for parents who have older children or are dealing with known substance abuse and seeking recovery resources themselves."

FCDAC is so grateful for **Matt Myer** and his willingness to provide this training to our soon-to-be speakers! He spoke to 15 participants in the training. He emphasized the overall mission of FCDAC, awareness, education, and empowerment.



Parents4FCDAC Parent Support Committee

by Ashley Dickerson



Ashley Dickerson Committee Chair



Marti Roveda, Committee Co-chair

As parents blindsided by our youth's addiction, we are passionate about eliminating the stigma and shame of Substance Use Disorder. Our focus is educating parents and youth leaders on prevention, signs/symptoms, and resources for their child as well as themselves. To reach parents, we will speak at school events, such as Step Up meetings, PTA/PTO meetings, and have informational tables at community events, such as the upcoming Walk for Recovery.

Our message is focused on **eliminating the stigma** that holds parents back from **seeking their own support and recovery**. We've created a **flyer to be used at tabling events** and when **speaking** in the schools, etc., to provide parents helpful information and resources. We are prepared to speak to various parent audiences, based on the event, the age of their children and whether their child is currently in recovery or still actively using substances. In all instances, we want to educate parents and make them aware of the parental resources available.

"Substance Use Disorder is a family disease," and we want to share our strength, hope, and experience to help parents find their own recovery. We are grateful to the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council for allowing us to share our mission through leading its Parent Support Program.

Please, feel free to contact us [HERE](#) if you are interested in collaborating with this committee or have questions.



Exposure to drugs is happening at an earlier age. The potencies of drugs are scary. The Youth Committee hopes to have appropriate conversations with kids by involving young adults. Through community events, schools, and working with parents, we hope to impact the prevention efforts of the FCDAC.

Amanda Pruett, Chair of the Young Adult and Youth Committee



YOUTH COMMITTEE - SCHOOL NEWS

DrugZero Club & Campaign At Alliance Academy for Innovation

Aby Vung Huai, Lohetha Chinna, Srinija Pisipati, and Megha Goddu

The first synthetic drug was created in 1869. Chloral hydrate, used initially as a sedative-hypnotic, can still be found in some countries today, commonly used as a date-rape drug. Since then, mankind has continued to improve the drugs they use for medicinal purposes and increase manufacturing, but these drugs are sometimes abused. For example, narcotics in small doses can be used as a painkiller, but excessive use can lead to physical dependence and addiction. Depressants are a standard and helpful treatment for depression and insomnia, but the side effects of relaxation make such drugs sought-after. However, medicinal drugs aren't the only drugs that have been developed and improved. Drugs made of battery acid and gasoline have been altered for recreational use. Due to such a rise in drug misuse, society faces consequences of Substance Use Disorder and accidental drug poisoning deaths at rates that have never been seen before.

Drug Zero Club at Alliance Academy for Innovation High School in Cumming, GA was founded by four friends with a passion for Drug Prevention. The students authors: **Vung Huai, Lohetha Chinna, Srinija Pisipati, and Megha Goddu** all attend Alliance Academy for Innovation.

"In 2020, the rate of drug overdose deaths accelerated and increased 31% from the year before," according to the CDC. Before the **Covid-19 pandemic**, although statistics increased each year slowly, the numbers were never this high. Having no way to socialize and being trapped in one place all day during the pandemic negatively impacts many teenagers' and adults' mental and physical health. These teenagers then turned to alcohol and drugs to support their inquisitive minds and alert bodies. The spikes in unemployment rates and the homemade videos on social media show that many felt utterly alone. Also, the mental issues that started drug use worsened because of drug use. These include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, manic depression, generalized anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, panic disorder, and antisocial personality disorder. Several things were affected when drug rates spiked. but no one realized how many could be affected. Even

after the significant parts of the pandemic ended, the drug issue continued and is still steadily increasing. Even though the emotional distress that came with covid was the primary cause of the fluctuation, other problems also impact drugs. Families, friends, and outside influences still motivate drug use.

Seeing these issues, the DrugZero campaign hopes to lower the rates of the drug epidemic currently taking place. This is done by **educating the community about drug use and overdoses, as well as treatments to help support a journey of recovery.** DrugZero has sought to establish an **educational outreach program** by contacting multiple organizations in the community to raise awareness of this issue. **Brochures** have been placed at The Carter Treatment Center, Georgia State University, and Alliance Academy for Innovation. The brochures highlight the purpose of the campaign and the effects of drugs.

Surveys, knowledge quizzes, and posters have all been created to help students understand the scope of their drug abuse knowledge.

Two informational presentations have been held to interact personally with members of our community. The **first was a presentation for HOSA members**, a global student-led organization for Future Health Professionals. It highlighted the importance of awareness, the leading causes, the different consequences (such as financial and health) that drug addiction can lead to, and the steps to get out of drug abuse. **The second presentation**, directed towards the freshmen of Alliance, showed the physical and mental consequences of drug abuse and how to deal with peer pressure. Towards the end, the class would engage in an activity to review the topics. We can achieve excellent educational results with persistence and patience. Educating the youth within communities is the key to a brighter future, moving away from drugs and closer to health. DrugZero was chosen as the campaign name because, although this may be a temporary campaign, the ultimate goal is to achieve Drug Zero!



Emily Ennis, Substance Prevention Coach at North Forsyth High School (above)

Gabby Breiten, Jaxon Savajian, Mike Cowen, and I spoke in the freshman health classes at North this semester, sharing our testimonies and doing some prevention work. We talked to seven classes, before about 200 students. My "Sober Jeopardy" recreational event in February involved about 22 students who regularly meet in our small group sessions monthly. This semester has been taking off with students I am speaking with, who are responding well.

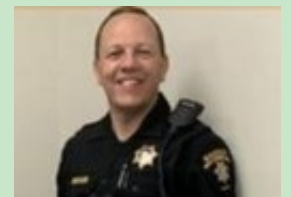
Emily Ennis and I presented our progress report to the Board of Education with **Tom Cleveland's** help. We have sponsored several sober social events for the students and have scheduled parent information sessions, but these have not yet been completed.



Gabby Breiten, Gateway and Forsyth Academy Drug Counselor (right)

Police Sector Report

by Deputy Kevin Ferraro



The Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) is a special unit created by a partnership between the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and Avita Community Partners. The unit's primary goals are to provide a specialized response to citizens experiencing a mental health-related crisis, encourage connections between mental health consumers and local resource providers, and reduce the prevalence of mental illness in the Detention Center. The CIRT team seeks to accomplish its goals by employing both reactive and proactive methods.

Co-Response Team Activities	TOTAL
CIRT Co-Response with other unit	21
CIRT Follow-up	6
Client Face/Phone contact	21
Family/Caregiver Engagement	48
Juvenile Client	5
CIRT School Response	5
Assessed by MH Professional	18
Left/Resolved on Scene	15
MH-Related Persons Arrested	1
10-13/20-13 by CIRT	6
Deputy Initiated Involuntary Comm.	0
Voluntary Transport to Facility	2
Assistance connecting to resource	4

Peer Specialist Activities	TOTAL
Client Face/Phone contact	36
Family/Caregiver Engagement	27
Jail Discharge Plan Mtg	3
MH/AODA Appt Scheduled	4
Transported to community resource	10
Food given	2
Clothing given	1
Assistance connecting to other resource	5
Assistance connecting to housing	1

OUR PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

From our Partner, John Bringuel, at The Council on Alcohol and Drugs

New Documentary, "Crisis of Substance"

John Bringuel writes, "The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is ready to premiere a documentary over a year in the making! **Crisis of Substance will premiere on GPB on Monday, April 24th, at 9:00 PM EST.** The film is up for an Emmy and other awards. I was able to attend the launch and was blown away! I am an excitable person, for sure. However, my reaction wasn't excitement as I was overwhelmed with compassion and stricken with a heavy heart. Being privileged to be able to love what I have done for the past 38 years, I see NOW more than ever that Georgia needs Prevention Champions! We must advocate for care across the continuum and elevate "prevention" to new heights. As we celebrate recovery, let's also celebrate prevention!"

NEWS FOR YOU

LOCAL NEWS

Mocha Miles Mentor Me Run

Mocha Miles Mentor Me Run

MOCHA MILES 5K/1K was held on Saturday, February 25, at Denmark High School 645 Mullinax Road, Alpharetta, to benefit **Mentor Me - North Georgia, Inc.** Mentor Me serves children and youth by providing professionally supported mentoring relationships with approved volunteers.

A long-time FCDAC Member and avid runner, **Susan Tanner**, told the *Strategizer*, "Mentor Me is near and dear to my heart. I began mentoring in 2007 and have continued over the years. The **Executive Director, Kerry Carithers**, attended with Rachel Kern, the Youth Program Director, and many kids from various schools in the area, parents, and runners of all ages. I was personally very touched to have my dear running friends (who don't even live near the area) run this one with me to support my love for Mentor Me!"



Start line of the Mocha Mile Race



Dr. Leila Denmark*



Susan Tanner, center with tan cap and "her crew!"

Since 2002, Mentor Me - North Georgia has connected mentors with children needing guidance in improving their self-image, life choices, and responsibilities. It's all about one-on-one time spent with the volunteer and the young person doing things they enjoy - a few hours a couple of times a month filled with shared interests and activities like playing in the park, fishing, or talking. The volunteer's schedule can be flexible to meet the needs of mentors and young people in different kinds of situations. Mentors can meet with their mentees on weekends, evenings, or after school.

Mentor Me is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the diverse needs of children and youth ages 6-17 in Forsyth County.

Denmark High School, named for **Dr. Leila Denmark***, a well-known pediatric physician who lived and practiced on Mullinax Road near the school for the last 16 years of her seven-decade career. Denmark passed away in 2012 at age 114 and was the fifth-oldest living person in the world and third-oldest living American when she died. "Leila was the third female graduate from the Medical College of Georgia," Mary Hutcherson, Denmark's daughter told FCN staff writer, **Kelly Whitmire**, July 30, 2018 interview when Denmark High

STATE NEWS



Georgia Senate Bill 22 (Hemp Bill)

The Act to amend Chapter 23 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to hemp farming, relating to offenses against public health and morals; the purchase of, sale of, and the offering of samples of hemp products by or to any individual under the age of 18 years old was "Engrossed

on February 21, 2023 - 50% progression.
Action: 2023-02-22 - Senate Recommitted

We will continue to watch this bill's progress. [Click Here](#) to read more about this bill and review the text changes.

FYI

In case you are wondering what an **Engrossed bill** is - Whenever a **bill** is amended, the bill's printed form is proofread to ensure all amendments are inserted properly. After being proofread, the **bill** is "correctly engrossed" and is, therefore, in proper form.



Rx and Illicit Drug Summit

April 10-13, 2023
Atlanta, GA

[Register](#)

FCDAC will send a delegation of five council members to this conference. They are Cindy Mills, Adam Miller, Matt Meyer, Mike Cowan, and Lindsey Simpson. We will look forward to their sharing all they took in at this conference in May.

NATIONAL NEWS

Agents testify at border crisis hearing

3 Gallons of Liquid Fentanyl (25 lbs) Seized at the Border



The House Oversight Committee held a hearing on Feb. 7 to learn about the situation on the ground at the southern border directly from chief patrol agents who deal with the crisis every day.

The committee points out that the lack of border wall construction and insufficient staffing contributed to massive amounts of fentanyl flowing into the United States. Witnesses include Chief Border Patrol Agents Gloria Chavez and John Modlin.

National Poison Prevention Week

MARCH 19–25, 2023

This year National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) is March 19-25, 2023. NPPW is a week dedicated to raising awareness about poison control centers and the Poison Help Line (1-800-222-1222).

When life happens, poison centers are ready 24/7/365 with fast, free treatment advice by calling Poison Help Line (1-800-222-1222). Whether it's a question or an emergency, we can provide life-saving information when people need it most, and it is faster and more accurate than an internet search. On average, 90% of poisonings happen in American homes each year, and more than 70% of people who call us to get the help they need right where they are—saving the cost of a trip to a doctor or hospital.

FYI



Substance Use Prevention

Talk, They Hear You What Parents are saying Podcast

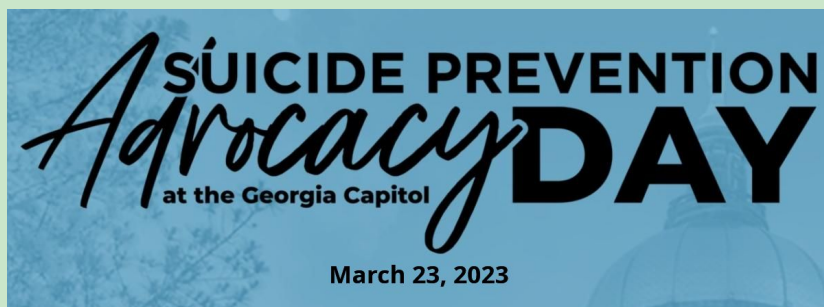
Spotlight on Opioids

In December 2021, SAMHSA launched the "Talk. They Hear You."® campaign's new "What Parents Are Saying—Prevention Wisdom, Authenticity, and Empowerment" podcast. This podcast provides a platform where parents and caregivers can get informed, be prepared, and take action by having open and honest conversations with their kids about substance use and mental health.

In episode #3, parent guests Becky Savage (525Foundation.org) and Ed Ternan (SongForCharlie.org) share the difficult stories of their children's opioid overdoses to highlight the importance of youth opioid prevention, safety, and education.



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the nation's behavioral health. SAMHSA is charged with improving the quality and availability of treatment and rehabilitative services in order to reduce illness, death, disability, and the cost to society resulting from substance abuse and mental illnesses.



Mental Health and SUD are among the leading health conditions that cause disability in the United States. Each year, State Capitol Day events bring advocates together with state and local public officials to share information and urge that suicide prevention be made a priority.

How Peer Pressure Works

"Teens are five times more likely to be in a car accident when in a group than when driving alone, and they are more likely to commit a crime in a group," according to a Temple University 2011 study. It found that when teens are in the presence of their peers, their limbic system triggers a thirst for the pleasant feelings that come from being observed taking risks. So the "pressure toward risky behavior" is happening internally. It's teens' desire for acceptance that drives them.

[Click Here to read more about this study](#)

Cannabis Edibles are Poisoning More Kids As Cannabis Legalization Expands

Treats, such as gummy candy, chocolate, and baked goods, are increasingly falling into the hands of children ages six and younger, according to an article in Healthline (Healthline Media Inc.), an American website and provider of health information, on January 5, 2023.

The article, *As Legal Cannabis Expands, More Kids Are Getting Sick From Edibles*, by Shawn Radcliffe, quoted Dr. Jonathan Ford, a medical toxicologist at UC Davis Health in Sacramento, CA., "Ever since the legalization of marijuana, there has been an increase in unintentional pediatric exposures, particularly with the edible formulations of THC."

Researchers say cases of Pediatric Cannabis poisonings in this age group increased from 207 in 2017 to 3,054 in 2021 — an increase of 1,375%.

Symptoms of Cannabis Poisoning in Children

- anxiety and panic
- weakness, poor coordination, and slurred speech
- sleepiness, fatigue, or sluggishness
- slow, shallow breathing

Bottom Line

The widespread availability of edible cannabis products which look like candy or other sweets appeals to children. The number of children who've consumed cannabis edibles has increased from approximately 200 cases in 2017 to 3,000 cases in 2021. It is up to adults to protect vulnerable children.

To read the entire article by Shawn Radcliffe at Healthline, [CLICK HERE](#).



Virginia Mom Charged With Murder After Toddler's THC Overdose

Tanner Clements, 4, died two days after eating marijuana edibles at a Virginia home. WRC's Julie Carey reports.

On the Calendar



March

- National No Smoking Day, March 8.
- **Brain Awareness Week** March 13-19.
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17.
- **National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week** March 20-26.
- **Welcome Spring**, March 20.
- **Suicide Prevention Advocacy Day GA Capitol**, March 23.
- **National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week**, March 20-26.
- **Spring Break**: Varies throughout March and April.

April

- **Walk for Recovery** Sunday, April 23, Cumming City Center.
- **Crisis of Substance A** Documentary on GPB on Monday, April 24th, 9 pm EST.
- **Rx and Illicit Drug Summit**, April 10-13, Atlanta, GA.
- **National Volunteer Month**.
- **Stress Awareness Month**.
- **Alcohol Awareness Month**.



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

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