



FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

EDUCATE.
ADVOCATE.
EMPOWER.

Strategizer

Leading the way to a
healthier Forsyth County



FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

DONATE
TODAY!



SCAN ME

May 2024 Volume 4 Issue 1

[Donate to FCDAC Here](#)

WALK FOR RECOVERY~ NEW DATE
MAY 19! SEE YOU THERE!





THE CITY OF CUMMING PRESENTS

THE WALK FOR RECOVERY

#onestepatatime

AT THE CUMMING CITY CENTER

SUNDAY MAY 19 2P-5P

NEW DATE!

EVENTS

MUSIC AND GAMES
FACE PAINTING
PIZZA AND PRIZES
RESOURCE TABLES
WALK FOR AWARENESS

GUEST SPEAKERS:
MAYOR TROY BRUMBALOW
SHERIFF RON FREEMAN
COMMISSIONER CINDY MILLS
AND MORE!

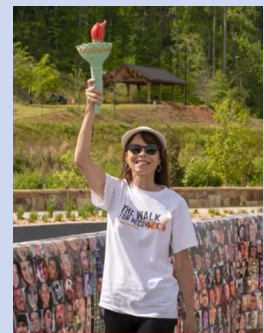
OUR SPONSORS

SCAN FOR MORE INFO!

Due to poor weather on April 21, The Walk FOR RECOVERY was postponed...

MAY 19 IS OUR NEW DAY!

A DAY TO SHOUT OUT RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE!



Thank you to our great Sponsors! Let's Support them too!

Kayden's Korner

The Walk For Recovery

- The Council provides resources and



Countdown has re-started!
We are looking forward to

support for parents of children affected by misuse of drugs and in



We are looking forward to great weather on **May 19!** Thank you, everyone, for your support and patience. Please come and bring everyone in your sphere of influence to this event!

Please Help with an Important Council Need!

FCDAC is collecting testimonies and letters of support for our Council. Please consider writing a brief letter explaining how the Council has impacted your life or the life of someone you know and what you believe is our positive impact on the Community.

Do you need any help figuring out where to start? Here are some ideas!

- FCDAC is a vital community asset as we provide a current community assessment of the good, bad, and ugly going on in drug abuse, misuse, and mental health concerns in Forsyth County.
- The Council is a **community coalition** of community organizations, professional groups, and interested citizens **who bring fresh ideas and actions to our Community to educate better, advocate for, and empower our citizens to lead healthier lives.**
- The Council **develops programs** (e.g., the distribution of drug deactivation kits and life-saving Narcan) to provide services to the Community for drug prevention.

- their recovery from addiction.
- The Council was and is **instrumental in getting drug** counselors into our Middle and High Schools.
- Council activities include **advocating for law changes** through educating public officeholders.
- The Council has purchased space for **billboards and distributed posters, facilitated educational seminars and events,** and participated in programs to get drugs off the streets.

ALL LETTERS ARE DUE BY MAY 15!

Finally, please consider attending the **Mental Health Meeting on May 13, 6- 8 p.m. at the Forsyth Conference Center.** (See the flyer below.)

Many events are coming, so please check out the **Community Outreach, Youth, Members, and Partner Actions** below.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



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

FCDAC Council Meeting, Work and Programs Round-up

Council Meeting Highlights

Director Rachel Kayden opened the 8 a.m. monthly council meeting by Welcoming everyone, introducing attendees, and making announcements.

Announcements:

- **The Walk for Recovery is May 19.** Please pass out flyers and encourage everyone to come!

- May 13 is an important Mental Health Conference (See flyer below)
- **Letters of Council support and your testimonies** describing how the Council is making a difference in your life and community are needed by **May 15**. Please take the time to write a letter.
- **Project Coordinator Caroline Milstead** will leave the position to begin a Drug Counseling internship with the Insight Program. **Charlie Kapustin** will assume the position and is currently being trained by **Caroline**.



This month's guest speakers are **Danielle Rietta**, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Counselor at Avita Community Partners, and Lieutenant **John Dawson**, the Behavioral Health Coordinator at the Hall County Sheriff's Office, who attended the April Rx and Illicit Drug Summit in Atlanta.

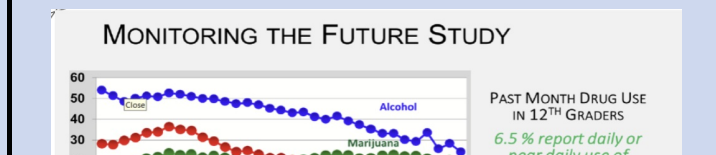
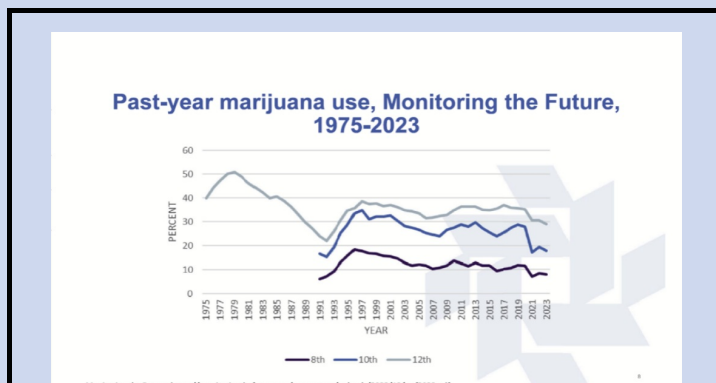
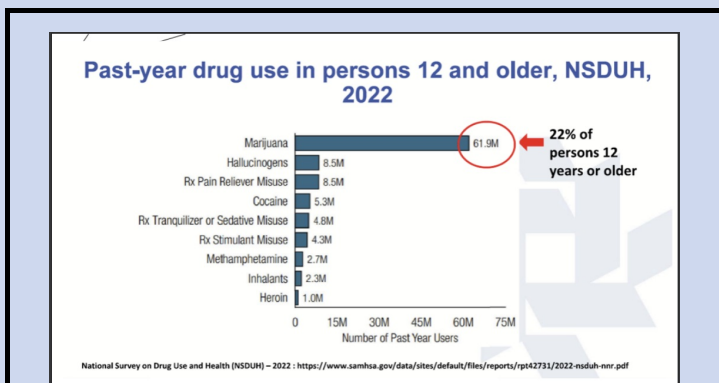
[Click Here](#) to review other Conference resources.

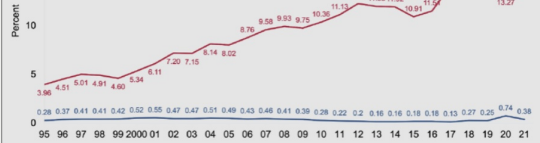
Danielle Rietta spoke first. 1. Danielle: This was my 4th time at the Summit. They have many focus areas, but I want to touch on what I got, which focused on cannabis, heroin, xylazine, HB 1013, and a media messaging campaign, "**Better Without It,**" from Brevard County, FL.

2. The Conference is like drinking from a fire hose. It has nine tracts with many smaller break-out groups on specific topics. In between are large Plenary Sessions with key-note speakers from the alphabet agencies, e.g., CDC, NIH, DEA, NIDA's Nora Volkow, and many others.

3. Opiates/ fentanyl is almost old news, but **xylazine** is being mixed with fentanyl and other street drugs. **Xylazine** is a veterinary drug that is very bad for humans and has a disgusting side effect: it causes the skin to rot. The necrotic eruptions don't always occur on the injection site. Another fact is that in an overdose situation, **Narcan** is not effective.

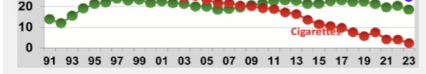
4. **Cannabis impact is high. Marijuana is the most used drug.** Age 12 + 22% of the population has used marijuana. Heroin is at the bottom, but if Fentanyl is mixed in and people are unaware, a whole new level of danger is opening. Starting in 1991, there has been a tracking of 8-12th grade. **Use is going up, and perceived harmfulness is going down.** THC level concentration has gotten so much stronger. **Back in the 70s, it was 3-5 %, and the strong potency weed that is smoked today is 25-30 %, with Wax and Dab concentration is 65-90%.** CBD concentrations have not gone up. Past month's drug and alcohol use in 12 grader shows a decrease in alcohol and tobacco use since the 90s, but the use of marijuana is increasing because of their misperception of danger. **Use went from 12% to 20%.**





Percentage of THC and CBD in cannabis samples seized by DEA, 1995-2021

<https://nida.nih.gov/sites/default/files/images/canabispotency-2022.png>



Perceived harmfulness of smoking marijuana regularly in 2023

PERCEIVED HARMFULNESS OF SMOKING MARIJUANA REGULARLY IS DECLINING IN 8TH, 10TH, AND 12TH GRADERS

Source: University of Michigan, 2023 Monitoring the Future Study

5. Psychoactive substances are 4 times stronger.

6. GA Panel discussion was directed toward the development of **HB 1013** and deals with the need for the bill. There is a disparity in insurance coverage for mental health illnesses. Mental Health conditions are increasing in GA. CDC trends from 2018-2021 show that suicide trends are rising, with **1500 lives lost in one year** and **1.4 million adult Georgians having a mental health condition**. That is twice the population of Atlanta. Half of the individuals in the US with mental Health Conditions received no treatment in those years due to cost. GA was slightly better at 45.4 % mental illness with no treatment. One in six of the homeless population has mental health conditions. Georgia has a mental health professional shortage.

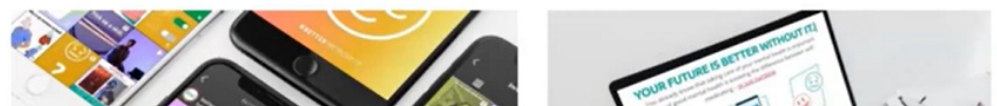
7. **Better Without It Messaging Campaign.** Brevard Prevention Coalition partnered with a marketing agency. The target audience is Gen Z, youth born between 1995 and 2010. Smartphones and the negative repercussions of COVID-19 lockdowns influence them. Online and social media define them. They **view themselves as Personal brands** (how they present themselves to others is as important as how they view themselves), have inclusive attitudes, a sense of social responsibility, and are consumers and influencers.

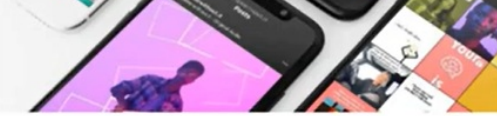


8. Based on their data on Gen Z, the Campaign focuses on a question this generation often asks themselves, "What if I don't become what I could be?" They are afraid of missing out. The Campaign encourages young people to make positive life choices to reach their potential and highlight their strengths. They nurture competence, confidence, connection, character, and compassion. It encourages them to follow their passion by finding a hobby or learning a skill. It uses social media like YouTube and TikTok reels to connect with its audience. What cool possibilities would be missed if they took drugs?

9. **School Diversion program.** An eight-week program is offered to students who are referred because of first-time drug possession/use on school grounds. The program includes a school meeting with parents, Intake/orientation (week 1), and four weeks of group counseling, not consecutive, as there are two breaks for work on projects that could possibly be used in the Campaign. The success rate of those completing the program is 84.6% at discharge.

SUCCESS METRICS TO DATE





BUILDING VISIBILITY

- 5 million+ teens/young adults reached with ads & content
- 500 million+ impressions
- 15 million+ video views
- 13k+ social media followers

ENGAGING OUR AUDIENCE

- 900k+ social media reactions
- 20,000+ comments + shares
- 240+ survey responses
- 25+ youth signed up for content team and focus groups

Our second presenter was Lt. John Dawson, who provided his takeaways from the conference. 10. He is working on his master's in social work as he works with the Hall County Sheriff's Department. Break-out Sessions were all Law Enforcement related. **Deflection** is a term that means **connecting people to treatment instead of incarceration**. The effort is achieved through **Law Enforcement Programs and Community Partnerships**.



Takeaways

- Deflection- connection to treatment instead of incarceration and accountability courts
- Harm Reduction- mitigate risks for risky behavior
- Culture
 - How society views people with substance use disorder
 - How LEOs and the legal systems view people with substance abuse disorder
 - How people with substance abuse disorder view LEOs and the legal system
- Addiction Treatment for Incarcerated Individuals
- Emphasis on Partnerships
 - Find the right organizations
 - Find the right champions within those organizations
- Data Driven Approach
 - Quantitative results- numbers driven
 - Qualitative results- stories of success
- Valuable Insights



Healthy Leaders, Healing Cultures and Helpful Responses: A Trauma-Informed Continuum to Sustain Flourishing of Impacted Families and Responders

- Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) lay the groundwork for addiction and other diseases
- When we stigmatize people who use drugs, who we are really stigmatizing are people who have been deeply hurt by childhood trauma
- Stigma associated with abuse prevents treatment

Another break-out session that was eye-opening and informative to me dealt with **Childhood trauma and how that trauma translates into adults with addiction and mental health issues**. When we stigmatize addicts, we are really stigmatizing people who have been deeply hurt by childhood trauma. Knowing that fact increased my empathy. The stigma associated with abuse prevents treatment.

11. The West VA program was showcased at the conference, and showed us how the partnership between Law Enforcement and Community organization worked in creating a unified WV Substance Abuse Response Plan. 12. **Harm Reduction** is a public health approach to limiting and minimizing the negative consequences associated with risky behavior. This is a different approach than I have been exposed to, but I saw that the program had similar goals to the partnership models.

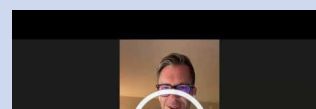


Police Deflection Programs: Developing Public Health & Public Safety Partnerships in Small to Mid-Size Communities

- Deflection- connecting people to treatment instead of incarceration
 - Self-Referral/First Responder Referral
 - Community Responder
 - Co-Response
 - Officer Intervention (Pre-Arrest Diversion)
 - Post-Overdose Outreach
- Law Enforcement Programs (High Opioid Use Areas)
 - Recovery Assistance Program (RAP)- Shakopee, MN
 - Hope Not Handcuffs Program- Village of Liberty, NY
 - Respond, Evaluate, Advocate, Connect, Heal (REACH)- Jeffersontown, KY
- Community Partnerships

Rachel thanked our presenters and ended the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

If you would like to listen to our meeting



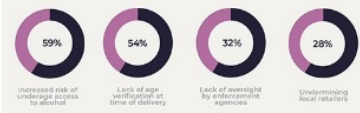
ISSUE

As alcohol delivery gained popularity, regulations were passed during the pandemic to include direct shipping, deliveries made by licensed establishments and 3rd party delivery. These are additional avenues for youth to access alcohol with a lack of systematic accountability. Just a short decade ago, Georgia did not allow alcohol sales on Sundays and had many "dry" counties. Now, you can order alcohol, which is still a controlled substance, almost anywhere with alcohol sales channels opening direct to the consumer and the home.

Three out of four American adults surveyed are concerned about the age verification process when using an online vendor or delivery platform for purchasing alcohol.



Nearly 60% of American adults concerned about alcohol shipping identified an increased risk of underage access as their top concern.



In January 2023, Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America (WSWA) released survey findings (graphic above) that only 25% of those receiving alcohol deliveries were properly ID checked by delivery personnel. Additionally, the article discusses the impacts of cross-jurisdictional and interstate alcohol shipping...benefiting less than 10% of American adults while more than doubling ID check failure rates putting minors at greater risks offering more access and availability to alcohol (3).



CONCERNS

- 1) Individuals **under 21** years old easily accessing alcohol through delivery.
- 2) Individuals who are **already intoxicated** easily accessing more alcohol through delivery.
- 3) Accountability, education, and checks and balances within the Georgia alcohol delivery system.

As alcohol becomes increasingly more available via delivery services, adults have more access. According to the CDC, "studies show a relationship between underage drinking behaviors and the drinking behaviors of adult relatives, adults in the same household, and adults in the same community and state. There is a relationship between youth and adult drinking, including binge drinking, in states and communities...A 5% increase in binge drinking among adults in a community is associated with a 12% increase in the chance of underage drinking... Among adolescents whose peers drink alcohol, those whose parents binge drink are more likely to drink alcohol than those whose parents do not (2)."

Compliance

Georgia is one of 40 states that allow alcohol retailers and restaurants/bars to outsource delivery direct to their customers including internet sales and shipping. These additional outlet avenues are a cause for concern for alcohol delivery compliance as there are far more alcohol outlets than enforcement officers. Every state sets its own rules for alcohol delivery. In Georgia, there is little to no accountability, education, or checks and balances within the alcohol delivery system. All too frequently restaurants, third-party delivery companies, delivery drivers, and even law enforcement don't know the rules or requirements. This makes enforcement and oversight difficult, if not close to impossible with more than **25,000 licensed liquor outlets** and only **46 Special Agents** (2022 GA DOR Annual Report) enforcing both alcohol and nicotine regulations. That equates to each agent needing to oversee 300+ alcohol retail establishments plus additional nicotine retailers.



The Environmental Scan is a community assessment tool.

The purpose of the Environmental Scan is to help identify factors in the community that may contribute to alcohol and substance use and problems related to their usage.

The Environmental Scan is designed to be completed by volunteers and coalition members.

Scan To Help



Please ask staff, members of your coalition, friends, family, and ANYONE from Georgia (over 21) to order alcohol for delivery and scan the code to report back the findings. Thanks!



1. <https://winepair.com/articles/map-states-drink-alcohol-america-2022/>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm>
3. <https://www.wswa.org/news/4-adults-who-purchase-alcohol-through-online-vendors-or-directly-manufacturers-donot-get-identified-as-overage-2023-01-20>

Meet our new FCDAC Project Coordinator Charlie Kapustin



Hello! My name is **Charlie Kapustin**, and I am super excited to begin working as the project coordinator for the Forsyth Drug Council! I was born in Philadelphia, PA, but I grew up in Charlotte, NC.

After high school, I took a gap year, during which I lived in Israel for a year studying while also volunteering as an emergency medical technician with Magen David Adom. After my gap year, I attended Elon University for a semester before moving to Atlanta to get sober through the Insight Program in 2022. For the past year, I have been taking

classes at Gwinnett Technical College, furthering my education while working part-time at Snooze AM Eatery.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Welcome Charlie!

Youth Outreach

Youth Council



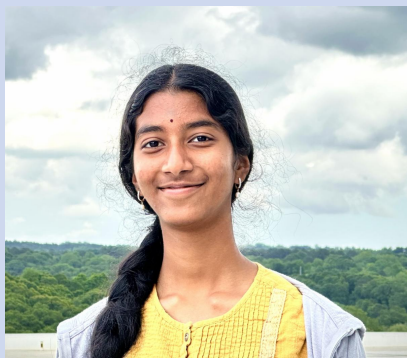
Sharmada Venkataramani, Elevate with Awareness Podcast, Episode 3 "Addressing Mental Health and Drug Education Needs in Forsyth County with Commissioner Cindy Mills.

Sharmada Venkataramani has been a member of the FCDAC Youth Council since September 2023. She is a junior attending South Forsyth High School. She has an avid interest in drug policy and has published a Georgia State Social Studies Fair award-winning research paper on the pharmaceuticals and the opioid epidemic.

pharmaceuticals and the opioid epidemic.

Episode 3, Addressing Mental Health and Drug Education Needs in Forsyth County with District 4 Commissioner Cindy J. Mills, aired on April 10, 2024. Commissioner Mills also serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. She is a founding member of the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council. Family Haven recognized her as the 2017 Humanitarian of the Year for her efforts to reduce the cycle of domestic violence. In this episode, Mills expounds on her insights into the needs she sees in addressing mental health concerns and drug prevention work in Forsyth County.

[Click Here](#) to listen to Episode 3



Welcome Rathna Malapati to the Youth Council

I am a rising junior at South Forsyth High School, and I heard of the Drug Awareness Youth Council at my school in one of my clubs. I want to get involved with the FCDAC Youth Council to do something impactful in my school community and beyond. Every now and then, I hear stories of people my age living relatively close to me who are struggling due to drug abuse, and I think it's very important to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drugs. Whenever I hear about a family finding some mysterious "candy" in their child's Halloween candy, I think there's still a

lot more that we, as a community, can do to spread awareness about these issues and keep our community safe.

School News



Gabby Breiten, Gateway and Forsyth Academy Drug Counselor

Emily Ennis, Prevention Coach, North Forsyth High School.



Emily Ennis and Gabby Breiten checked in with the *Strategizer* and summarized this month's activities. They also spoke an essential truth that is foundational to leading thriving lives: **the opposite of addiction is connection.**

Emily said, "We spoke in the health classes at North this week (April 22-26). We provided resources and preventative tools to the students. The point of our health class presentations is to form a connection with the students. **The opposite of addiction is connection.** If the students feel more connected, the **seeds we plant are more impactful in preventing them from using substances or giving them hope and direction if they need help.**" Gabby said, "At North, there were about 25 students in each health class, and I spoke to two full classes. We typically present through the council and include our health initiatives, our testimonies, and psychoeducation, discussing the increased percentage of THC they are being exposed to and positive emotional coping skills like the value of earning and developing trust."

"My Parent Information Session at North Forsyth was held on April 30," Gabby said. "Council members Marti and Ashley shared their parent testimonies at my parent event, and we had a turnout of 22 parents. We typically talk about signs and symptoms, trends, resources, and parenting techniques such as boundaries," she continued.

as boundaries, she continued.

Emily said, "This year has been a **growth year** for the students at North. The most impactful thing I've seen this year is **more parents getting involved** and working with us to bring their children to the proper level of needed care. That's such an essential factor in what we do. I appreciate all the support we get from the community and our many drug awareness council peers," Emily said.

Gabby said, "I believe the programs are developing, and it appears to have gained more support from the community. Parents tell me they wish drug prevention coaching positions existed in all middle and high schools. A lot of school personnel are supportive as well. Supporting this new movement of preventionists in the classrooms, this semester, several volunteers, including Emily and me, have been able to conduct a weekly support group at Lambert and Denmark high schools, along with our usual ACE (Academy of Creative Education), North, and Central visits," she said. "The goal would be for the support to correlate adequately with the **statistics that show the average age of use is 12**. I am thrilled with the amount of students Emily and I were able to meet with this year and the feedback we have gotten from our groups," she said. "We are always looking to improve and grow, but we finished the year having **exceeded our goals of facilitating 80 group sessions, 800 individual meetings, four parent sessions, and eight sober social events yearly**. I think the greatest success stories are the students who obtain/maintain sobriety either through our services alone or with the additional support of outside resources. It is incredible to be able to play a part in helping someone make positive changes in their life," Emily said.

Members teaching Members



The Boys and Girls Club of Forsyth A New Resource for Youth

By Dana Bryan

On April 24th, I attended the grand opening of the new Boys and Girls Club of Forsyth. It is on Antioch Road, near The Place, on a large piece of property donated by Tommy and Chantal Bagwell. I chose to write about the Boys and Girls Club because a lot of people do not know about its existence. Many of those who will attend are at high risk of getting involved with drugs if they are not guided in a positive direction. The mission of this organization is "To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."



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.

The Boys and Girls Club will be a wonderful influence on the boys and girls in Forsyth County. This organization stresses the importance of academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. Those who attend can go year-round, which puts them in an environment that will not include drugs. The Boys and Girls Club is a place where those who attend can feel safe, connect with others, and develop the skills and confidence to prepare them for a successful future. One impressive statistic is that 100 % of those who attend regularly graduate from high school.

The goal of the Boys and Girls Club is the same as that of our Forsyth

The goal of the Boys and Girls Club is the same as that of our Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council: to influence boys and girls to stay away from drugs and other addictions in order to live a positive and productive life. The Boys and Girls Club will provide many choices and opportunities to direct the time and energy of those who attend away from drugs.

futures, and their families. She contributes her insights monthly to the *Strategizer*. Thanks, Dana!

Our Partners in Prevention

More Great Community Events from our Friends

SUNRISE PARENT RETREAT



The Sunrise Parent Retreat. Giving parents an opportunity to

- Rest
- Refocus
- Refuel as they advocate for their child's recovery from addiction.

The 5th Sunrise Parent Retreat was held at The Sautee Inn in Sautee Nacoochee, GA, from April 26 to 28. It was a weekend that was more than we could have imagined!

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to HIM be the glory..." Ephesians 3:20-21

- ✓ Met strong, dedicated & intentional parents who LOVE their children
- ✓ Enjoyed delicious food at The Sautee Inn
- ✓ Jim Shambo reminded us that we can surrender our fears, dreams, & expectations to God
- ✓ Refocused by designing flower pots with Amy Black Durham
- ✓ Heard stories of hope from Jeff & Linda Brethauer
- ✓ Gifted with music & testimony by Ryan Flanagan
- ✓ Discovered that we are not alone.

Julie and Pacer Cordry
The Sautee Inn, Sautee Nacoochee GA





(from left to right) Julie and Pacer Cordry, Terri and Jim Shambo.



Amy Black Durham provided the Design Your Flower Pot creative break for the participants.



The Sautee Inn is a perfect spot for these parents to restore and revive a sense of themselves and their journey.

Pictured left to right: Pacer Cordry, Joe Gulino, and Julie Cordry.



Musician, Ryan Flanagan shared his testimony and music. "I am blessed to be a small part of the wonderful [Sunrise Retreat](#) and spend time with new friends. It is a very humbling experience to share your story and how you got to where you were and then to a place I could never have imagined."

NEWS FOR YOU

Local News

East Forsyth High student ingested 10 THC gummies

'I honestly thought I was going to die.' An East Forsyth High student ingested 10 THC gummies, forcing a medical lockdown. On May 2, 2024, an East Forsyth High School student brought THC Gummies to school and shared them with three friends. All landed in the hospital and may be facing school disciplinary measures.

[Click Here to watch the report.](#)

Drug Arrest

On April 7, Forsyth County deputies arrested a 26-year-old Cumming man and a 22-year-old Gainesville woman for alleged possession of drugs and firearms on GA 400 during a traffic stop for a speeding violation.

The man was found to have dime bags and two plastic baggies containing a white powder, which the man confirmed was cocaine. Marijuana, a pink powdered substance, a glass pipe, an AR-15, and a second handgun that returned as stolen out of Lumpkin County were found during a search of the vehicle, the report states. The man was charged with felony possession of methamphetamine and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, as well as misdemeanor possession of drug-related objects, possession of marijuana under 1 ounce, and theft by receiving stolen property.

The female suspect had a raw left nostril filled with the pink substance, which tested positive for MDMA. The woman was charged with felony possession of methamphetamine and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, as well as misdemeanor possession of marijuana under 1 ounce.

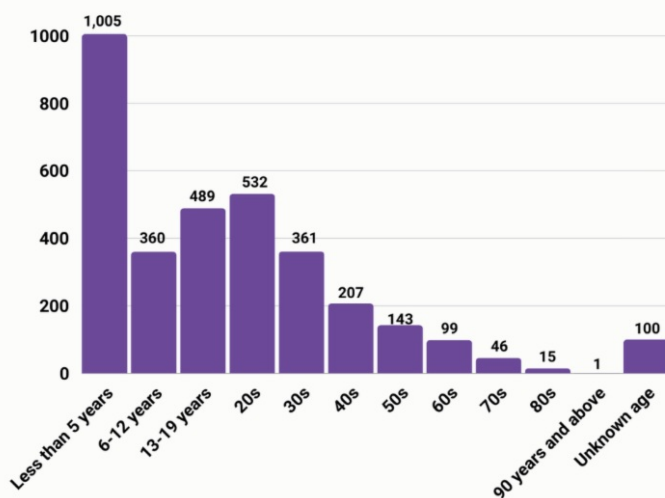
Both suspects are being held at the Forsyth County Jail.

National News

Children and Teens Make Up Majority of Delta-8 THC Exposures

Delta-8 THC Exposures Among Age Groups in 2022

Smart Approaches to Marijuana: <https://www.learnaboutsam.org>



Source: America's Poison Centers 2022 Annual Report of the National Poison Data System

Note: Children Less than 5 years old and exposed to Delta-8!

1005 cases!

Source- America's Poison Center's 2022 Annual Report

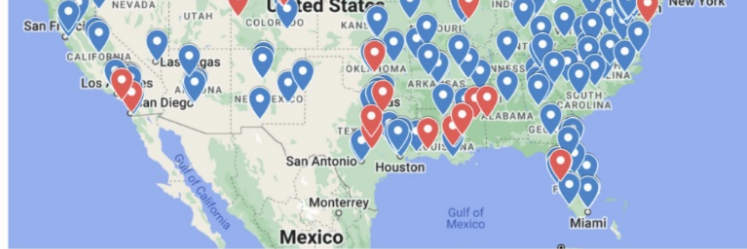
[Click Here for the story](#)

Mapping the Delta-8, Delta-9, or any THC-Related Emergency Visits



Note: There were nearly 1,000,000 marijuana-related emergency department visits

Related Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations through available news reports



This map is an aggregate of readily available news reports for ED visits and hospitalizations related to unknown THC sources with varying legal status. Please refer to our full report for more information.



in 2022, according to the federal Drug Abuse Warning Network.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

What's Coming!



The **Mid-Year Training Institute** (MYTI) offers four days of in-depth, interactive training sessions geared specifically for community coalition leaders and staff. MYTI also includes two levels of training for the National Youth Leadership Initiative activities (i.e., Key Essentials and Advanced). From fundamentals of coalition building and strategic planning to evaluation and research, you will walk away motivated and inspired.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



National Prevention Week is a public education platform showcasing the work of communities and organizations across the country that are preventing substance use and misuse and promoting positive mental health.

- Involving communities in raising awareness of substance misuse and mental health issues, implementing prevention strategies, and showcasing the effectiveness of evidence-based prevention programs.
- Fostering partnerships and collaborations with federal agencies and national organizations dedicated to improving public health.
- Promoting and disseminating quality substance use prevention and mental health promotion resources and publications.

[Click Here for Resources](#)



Jawann Blanchey – Pro Drummer

Natural High's latest Storyteller!

In his video Jawann says, "There's always going to be a moment in your life where you have a choice of turning back or keep going...don't give up, keep going, and your rise is going to be greater than your fall."

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



BRAIN-BASED PARENTING PART 3

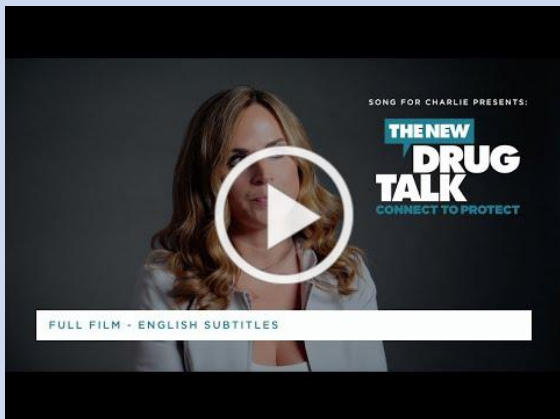
PART 3 in this three-part series on **brain-based parenting IS HERE!** Brain-based parenting is helping many parents better understand several important roles they play in their kids' lives. Understanding this concept can help reduce the risk of underage drinking and drug use and empower brain development as kids move toward becoming fully functioning adults.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Informative and Compelling Video Fentanyl Awareness

The New Drug Talk, presented by Song for Charlie.

This is truly an unprecedented time. We're at a point right now in the United States where each week, the equivalent to a classroom of high school students dies of Overdose. In the last couple of years, overdose deaths have skyrocketed because of fentanyl found in fake pills and other substances





Traditionally, Memorial Day, May 31, also known as Declaration Day, celebrates and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. The celebrations began in 1860, and many people, even today, visit cemeteries and veteran memorials on Memorial Day. Most see it as the start of the summer season and celebrate with BBQs and picnics, but let's pause and remember those who sacrificed so much for our nation. Let's think and talk to others about how we can give back positively to our country.

On the Calendar

Happy
Mother's
Day

May

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- National Prevention Week, May 12-18
- Fentanyl Awareness Day, May 9
- Mother's Day, May 12
- Memorial Day, May 27

FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

**DONATE
TODAY!**

SCAN ME

June

HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY

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

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

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