

# The FCDAC STRATEGIZER

Leading the way to a healthier  
Forsyth County

August 2021 Volume 1 Issue 4



## BACK TO SCHOOL

### Forsyth County Sheriff's C.H.A.M.P.S. School Program Equips 5th and 8th Grade Students To Reject Drug Misuse

**Today's students** face dangers previous generations could not have imagined. Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety (C.H.A.M.P.S.) was founded in 2003 by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association (GSA) to address these urgent challenges. Forsyth County has been a strong adopter of the program to help our youth.

#### **Mission Statement C.H.A.M.P.S.**

To provide an educational program for Georgia's youth, which provides guidance, and the skills, ability, and knowledge to be safe, healthy, and happy, in preparation for a successful life.



#### **A C.H.A.M.P.S. SUCCESS STORY**

"On my first day of class at Chestatee Elementary School I had a student walk into the classroom, give me a dirty look and tell me that he did not like police officers," recalls Deputy Kevin Ferraro. "Throughout the school year, I watched his mindset change a little bit each time I arrived to teach. He began to engage more and

more, give me high fives as I was coming or



leaving. Towards the end of the year, he even shared his candy with me," Ferraro said. "At our last session for the year, he thanked me for teaching him how to stay safe. This is still one of the most satisfying moments of my Law Enforcement Career," he said.

### Deputy First Class Kevin Ferraro Forsyth County Sherriff's Office Community Relations Unit.

Deputy Ferraro has served as a member of FCDAC for 3 years. He has been teaching C.H.A.M.P.S. since 2015.

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Target Audience: **Fifth and Eighth grades.** GSA's goal is to extend this program into middle schools and high schools eventually.
- Program Length: Twelve weeks is recommended; however, the program may be shortened or extended to meet the needs of the Board of Education and the Sheriff.
- Class Length: 45-60 minutes, one day a week.
- Instructors: C.H.A.M.P.S. lesson plans are taught by certified deputy sheriffs who have successfully completed C.H.A.M.P.S. instructor training.
- Presentation: Each instructor will be equipped with lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, and student workbooks.

#### Lesson Plans

- Introduction
- Internet Safety & Social Media
- Alcohol
- Leaders & Followers
- ATV Safety
- Marijuana
- Bullying
- Methamphetamine
- C.H.A.M.P.S. Project (Essay / Poster Contest)
- Peer Pressure
- Choices & Consequences
- Prescription Drug Abuse
- Cocaine
- Stress
- Gangs
- Tobacco
- Graduation
- Understanding & Avoiding Violence
- Home Alone / Child Abduction Safety
- Water Safety
- Hunting & Firearm Safety

**BUILDING POSITIVE NORMS IN OUR COMMUNITY**



**Lindsey Simpson**, Prevention Coordinator, Forsyth County Schools, shared about the ongoing **Positive Norms Billboard Campaign** at the FCDAC July meeting.

"We have four billboards rotating across the community," she said. "The campaign's goal is to encourage parents to start or have the conversation with their teen regarding alcohol or other substances as well as address community norms regarding substance use identified through our Community Survey and the GA Student Health Survey. Our target audience is parents and community members," Lindsey said.

Positive Social Norms Campaigns are a positive, science-based approach to health promotion, proven to change community perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. The Social Norms Theory maintains that positive behaviors are the norm, then they engage in that type of behavior. If the harmful behavior is "typical," they are more likely to engage in it. Therefore, as a community, we need to promote positive behaviors that are present in our community. Positive Social Norms Campaigns focus on the positive behaviors that are present rather than the negative ones.



**Lindsey Simpson, MS**, currently serves as Prevention Coordinator at Forsyth County Schools and is a founding member of FCDAC who is currently on the ACEs and Survey Committees. Lindsey earned her Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Brenau University and currently is a Certified Preventionist in the state of Georgia. At Forsyth County Schools, she manages various grant projects addressing substance use and suicide prevention as well as coordinates the FCS' School-Based Mentoring Program. She is actively engaged in various community and state-level initiatives supporting prevention. Lindsey has devoted the last 10+ years to raising community awareness and educating students, parents, and community members on substance use and suicide prevention.



**Lindsey Shadburn Simpson**, Prevention Coordinator Forsyth County Schools, and FCDAC member announced on Monday, July 26, the launch of the **2021 Forsyth Community Survey!**

### WHAT IS THE 2021 Forsyth Community Survey?

To better serve our community, Forsyth County's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project is surveying community members about their attitudes concerning underage drinking. The **anonymous survey** asks personal but important questions about your attitude related to teenage alcohol use. **It is important that we receive responses from all members of the community, parents and non-parents alike.** The results will be used to help us plan community-wide prevention efforts in our county. No one will know how you answer the items on this survey. Please answer every question based on what you actually think and do. The survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete. Participating in the survey is voluntary. The survey ends August 23, so do your part today to make this a success, and thank you for your contribution.

**PLEASE TAKE THIS SURVEY AND HELP SPREAD IT THROUGH THE COMMUNITY BY POSTING IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAILING IT TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!**

**CLICK AND [TAKE THE SURVEY](#)**

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE NEWS

**"We Must Step-Up Our Prevention Efforts During The C-19 Variant Surges - Committees Encouraged to Meet On-Line," says Director Tammy**



### Committee Leaders!

Do you want to call a Committee meeting? Not sure how to accomplish it during a temporary spike in covid? Reach out to Director Tammy for access to online meeting rooms ([tammy@unitedwayforsyth.com](mailto:tammy@unitedwayforsyth.com) or by cell: 706-247-1532) You can schedule a Zoom or Cisco Webex meeting for your committee. We are now well-versed in online meeting forums, and we, in prevention, cannot let ANYTHING stop our **ESSENTIAL** work! Lives are at risk, and we must BE THE ONES for them!

**[EMAIL TAMMY TODAY!](#)**

## SUSAN TANNER to Chair newly formed Golf Committee

FCDAC member Susan Tanner has volunteered to Chair the newly formed Golf Committee!

I am an Atlanta native and have been a Forsyth County resident since 2004. I joined the **Drug Awareness Council** when it began in 2013.





joined the Drug Awareness Council when it began in 2018. My husband and I are actively involved with **Mentor Me** at the local middle schools, and I have been a personal mentor to two girls over the years. I volunteer monthly with an inspirational ladies group called **The Exchange** here in Cumming. I have owned a personal pet sitting business since 2007 and adore all animals. I am a dedicated runner and have been running road races for about 35 years and refuse to get old! My husband Scott and I have 3 grown

kids and 3 grandkids. We attend North Point /Browns Bridge Church and enjoy the small group Bible studies.

My motto in life is "Treat people the way you wish to be treated... with kindness."

## Jones Memorial Golf Tournament: at Country Land Golf Course Friday, September 24th 2 pm Shotgun Start

**It is time** to spread the word, organize a team, obtain some sponsorships, and donate raffle items to make this year's fundraising tournament the best ever! "To do this, the council needs everyone's help," said Tammy Nicholson.

According to Chris Mason, Country Land Golf Course Manager, "Last year the tournament hosted 50 golfers and raised \$3000! Let's make this even bigger and better!"

Lunch is included with Country Land BBQ chicken and pork as menu options.



**JONES MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**



**Country Land Golf Course**

@countrylandgolf · Golf Course & Country Club

**Benefitting the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council in honor of Leon, Robert, and Wayne Jones.**

### What can you do to HELP!

**Action Items For Players, Teams, Sponsors, and Raffle Items are:**

- Register as a player or form a team
- Sponsor a Hole or Invite someone to be a Hole Sponsor
- Donate or ask for Raffle Donations

Hole sponsors will have a printed sign at the tee box of their sponsored hole and will be recognized at the raffle/awards ceremony. To do this, complete the embedded form and email it to **Chris Mason** [cmason@countrylandgolf.com](mailto:cmason@countrylandgolf.com) or fax it to **770-887-0023**.

## Action Items for Promotion of event and/or Event Day Volunteers:

- Join our Committee
- Promote the event on Social Media and through word of mouth
- Pass around the attached registration form
- Volunteer to greet people and man our FCDAC Information Table

To be involved with promotion or day of event, Volunteer email Susan Tanner our Golf Committee Chair [bulldawgsusan@yahoo.com](mailto:bulldawgsusan@yahoo.com).

## REGISTRATION FORM

### NEW COMMITTEE FORMING! ACEs: Adverse Childhood Experiences by LouAnn Altshuler

A new committee is forming at FCDAC! It will focus on awareness of, prevention, and the skills needed to overcome trauma occurring in childhood, known as **Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs)**.

According to CAPT, Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies, "**Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are a significant risk factor for substance use disorders and can impact prevention efforts.** Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect. They may also include household dysfunction such as witnessing domestic violence or growing up with family members who have substance use disorders. ACEs are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person's lifespan, including those associated with substance misuse." For a more comprehensive overview from CAPT, [CLICK HERE.](#)

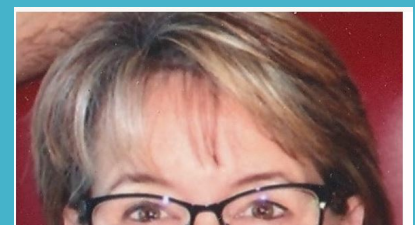
We envision this committee finding creative ways to educate parents, educators, and community leaders about ACEs and how each can make a difference in our children's lives. We also envision providing opportunities for parents and childcare workers for skills-building workshops as an integral part of this education process.

One of the most critical problems we face is a lack of knowledge about the impact of childhood events on the developing brain and how to minimize the impact. Many parents and caregivers want to develop their ability to foster resilience in their children, and our committee would like to create the means of providing this knowledge and skillsets to them. The Schools already implement ACEs programs, so our committee will research the best means to establish Community based programming for parent groups, HOAs, Church groups through panels and community workshops.

Through my personal experience as a child affected by ACEs (family members with Substance Use Disorders), my chosen career field, and continued educational opportunities through attending a CADCA Midyear conference a few years ago, I felt led to begin this committee. At this time, our committee has 5-6 members who bring a diversity of thought and experience. The first action of the committee is to build our logic model and strategic implementation plan. We envision workshops, presentations, and educational panels in our future! If you want to join our committee, please get in touch with me

[HERE.](#)

**LouAnn Altshuler** is a retired psychotherapist who specialized in addicted family systems. She is also a certified interventionist. LouAnn personally experienced ACEs in her childhood through family members with Substance Use Disorders. She chose her career field to help struggling families and children. LouAnn has



continued her education through the CADCA Midyear conference a few years ago and is passionate about the prevention work of the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council. She chairs the new FCDAC's ACEs Committee.



## DR. WILLIAM GEARY LEADS THE NEWLY FORMED SURVEY COMMITTEE

**Dr. William Geary**, the former Deputy Director of Evaluations and Research of CADCA's National Coalition Institute, who came on board as our new evaluator in January 2021, addressed the members in attendance at the August Council meeting concerning our need to find a way to re-capture the required CDC and SAMHSA 4 core measures of all DFC (Drug-Free Community) coalitions. The four core measures are:

- 30-day alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.
- Perceptions of risk.
- Perceptions of parental disapproval.
- Perceptions of peer disapproval.

The four core measures were formerly captured on the state student health survey, which has now been changed. A survey committee composed of Council Members Lindsey Simpson, LouAnn Altshuler, and Margaret Dawe, will begin working with Dr. Geary on updating the council's annual internal survey and also work to re-capture the critical core measure data. If you are interested in joining this important committee, please contact Tammy Nicholson [HERE](#).



**Dr. William Geary** (owner of Global Evaluation Solutions) (GES), former deputy director, Evaluations & Research CADCA's National Coalition Institute who came onboard in 2021 replacing Dr. Ann Price who had served as our external evaluator since 2015, year one.

## YOUTH SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES Project Updates!

Vinayak Menon's Summer Internship Project Moves out! 800 Drug Deactivation Pouches Distributed!



**HELP**  
Saesha and her team  
**"PICK-UP THE BUTTS!"**



Vinayak Menon distributing the Deterra Drug Deactivation Pouches to The Place of Forsyth County.

In July *Strategizer*, Vinayak Menon, FCDAC's Youth Sector Leader, announced his summer internship project to distribute 2000 Deterra Drug Deactivation Pouches to community partners like hospitals, private pharmacies, hospices facilities, the coroner's office, and families in need. The Drug Deactivation Pouches were provided through Safe Project, a national non-profit initiative tackling drug addiction.

Vinayak tells the *Strategizer*, "There has been much progress with my project. I have delivered upwards of 800 Drug Deactivation pouches (capable of destroying 72,000 pills) to our partners in the community. Currently, we've worked with local hospital clinics, the Bethelview Pharmacy, and The Place, which assists people of the Forsyth County area with essential needs and to be self-sustaining." "Additionally, we attached flyers to the pouches with information about the opioid crisis and surveys that can garner important feedback for our Coalition," he continued. "Moving ahead, we are looking forward to receiving more pouches from the SAFE Project and connecting with additional partners in the county, such as hospice care facilities and the coroner's office," Vinayak said.



Saesha Kapoor's internship project, "PICK UP THE BUTTS!" is a campaign to keep cigarette butts from poisoning our environment through a November clean-up day. See July's *Strategizer* for the full story!

She is seeking Council Members' help to find locations where butt litter is high!

So, when you are out and about, **SNAP SOME PICS, and email your results to: [fcdacyouthleader@gmail.com](mailto:fcdacyouthleader@gmail.com).** Thank you!







Vinayak distributing Deactivation Pouches to Health Mart Pharmacy.



Cigarette butt litter releases many dangerous chemicals into our waterways!

## Members Teaching Members

### The Real Gateway Drug: NICOTINE by Dana Bryan



Is there a connection between starting to smoke cigarettes or vaping and being at high risk for involvement with drugs? **YOU BET THERE IS!!!** Often, when I have met someone involved with drugs at some point in their life, I have asked them which drug they started with, and I have heard the same answer 100% of the time. They always trace their drug use back to the day they started smoking cigarettes or vaping.

In addition, the younger a person is when they start smoking or vaping, the greater the chances are that this will lead to their involvement with drugs. The close relationship between smoking or vaping and drug use might surprise you, as it did me, but think about the reasons that cause a person to begin to smoke or vape. While there are many reasons, and if we ask 10 people why they started smoking or vaping, they might each have a different answer, but their answers will probably include some of the following reasons:

1. out of **curiosity** to see what it is like;
2. to be **accepted** by a certain group of people;
3. in order for other people to think they are **cool/fun**;
4. in order to **feel cool or grown-up**;
5. because they don't have the **courage to say to a friend, " No! I don't want to!"**

Aren't these the same reasons that cause a person to try drugs? That's why there is a close connection between starting to smoke cigarettes/vaping and getting involved with drugs. When adolescents or teens make their choices using this type of thinking, unless they change their reasoning to make their choices, their smoking/vaping will likely lead to experimentation with drugs and/or addiction to drugs.

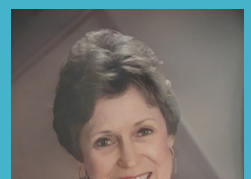
Of all the chemicals that are addictive, **NICOTINE** is the chemical to which a person will become the **MOST ADDICTED TO** and the **FASTEST**.

**WOW!**

**STATISTICS:** If I asked 100 adult smokers their age when they started smoking/vaping, 94 would tell you they started smoking/vaping **before they were 19!** And, the 6 who started after they were 19 would probably tell you they were just a few years older and still in college.

**CONCLUSION:** If a person can get into their 20s without becoming a smoker, they will probably never become a smoker!

**Dana Bryan** is a retired middle school teacher and member of FCDAC. Through her personal loss of her daughter to drug experimentation, Dana is now devoted to reaching out to the youth and educating them about the dangers of drug use.



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.



## One Member's TAKEAWAYS FROM THE RX Drug and Heroin Summit and SAM'S Conference

**Margaret Dawe**, County Director of Forsyth Division of Family and Children Services, gave her Takeaway from the Rx Drugs and Heroin Summit and SAM (Smart Approach to Marijuana) Conference at FCDAC's July Council Meeting. She listed three areas presented that were impactful: marijuana, opioids, and

ACEs.

"I have 30 years experience in the Child Welfare field," said Margaret, "and I found the SAM (Smart Approach to Marijuana) Summit provided valuable information and statistics supporting much of what we too have found in our prevention work." Here are some of the finds:

**Marijuana** today is more potent, a gateway drug; studies show grave health repercussions with increased causal connection to mental illnesses, many physical side effects including damage to unborn babies, and detrimental cognitive development of the brain. There was also evidence of the economic damage marijuana has caused by increased labor shortages and accidents on the job and our highways. The legalization of recreational/medical use of marijuana in Colorado has shown us a failed experiment with unimaginable health damage of those partaking of this drug, increased accidents attributed to working and driving under the influence of marijuana, affecting detrimentally economic growth, public health, and safety. "Colorado's experiment is an utter failure, and the data gathered after the legalization of recreational use of marijuana shows what a failure it has been. Yet, **the winds of legalization are blowing strong**. The marijuana industry is using the medical "needs" issue to get a toe in. Now, increasingly, states are being seduced by the money-laden marijuana lobby groups and approving it for recreational use. We must fight legalization, but we must realize it may come and recognize that education is our best weapon," Margaret said.

"In the **Opioid Crisis**, I was encouraged by the multidisciplinary approach promoted to address the problem. Law enforcement recognizes that arresting people doesn't solve the problem. Really what people need are mental health and addiction treatment and prevention education," she said. "The Pharmaceutical Industry produce opioids for chronic pain management and have made billions on the lives of these patients who have become addicted of which many have lost their lives," she noted. "Many doctors have been complicit in this, succumbing to pressure to buy from big pharma and pressure from patients who want and demand them, even though the doctors know the addictive results. The conference reaffirmed my belief that the more synthetic a drug is, the more likely it is bad for you!" Margaret added.

"**ACEs**, Adverse Childhood Experiences, are very near to my heart and my work," Margaret said. The conference looked at a holistic approach to help children who have experienced childhood trauma and best help them and their parents. "The more types of adverse trauma a child experiences, the more likely they are to have more challenges in learning, developing life skills, and in their ability to make healthy choices. We need to use a comprehensive approach to assess and resolve the issues children and families face," she said.

"Something important and we work hard at in our office is to avoid stigmatizing parents. While there are a few bad actors who are parents, for the most part, we encounter wounded parents who need resources and help to be the parents they desire to be." Margaret said.

and help to be the parents they desire to be," Margaret said.

"I found these conferences very informative for us who work in prevention and advocacy as part of our professional life or as part of our life's passion. I cannot recommend attending them highly enough!" she said.

**Margaret Dawe**, County Director Forsyth Division of Family and Children Services, FCDAC ACEs Committee and FCDAC Survey Committee

## LOCAL NEWS

# 5TH Annual Teacup Memorial

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 31 2021

The Teacup Memorial is a project of FCDAC Member Jennifer Hodge whose son, Robbie Hodge, lost his life because of drugs.

Jennifer announced the 5th Annual Teacup Memorial remembering all who have been lost to Substance Use Disorder. This year the evening event will be held on

**Tuesday, August 31**  
**in the United Way building at**  
**240 Elm Street, Cumming, GA from**  
**6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**



**Forsyth County Commissioners** will read a **Proclamation** brought forth by Heather Hayes, licensed drug therapist and interventionist at

the August 19 Board Of Commissioners Meeting. The "Fed Up Campaign" proclamation says we are fed up with people dying from an overdose. On August 31st, the town square will be lit in purple as part of the **5th Annual Teacup Memorial**, recognizing those that have lost their lives to overdose deaths. As part of the Teacup Memorial, **Jennifer**



August 31st, 6:00 - 8:30pm

Awareness & Remembrance with Speakers, Candle Lighting, & Community

Hodge will display 33 banners depicting the faces of lives lost every two weeks in America at the United Way, 240 Elm Street.

The Teacup Memorial is a heart-moving event meant to increase awareness of this growing tragedy. Counties all over the country are beginning evenings of remembrance for those lost, increasing awareness and action in their communities.

Local prevention organizations, recovery organizations, and programs will be present to give hope, encouragement, and information about themselves and how they can help. Refreshments will be provided.



**Jennifer Hodge**, Century 21 Results REALTOR® co-founder of Realty4Recovery with her late son, Robbie Hodge, leads the fight against addiction along with much help from the community. Realty4Recovery is a non-profit organization that uses Real Estate as a way of funding these events and helping other non-profits. Jennifer Hodge is FCDAC Member.

## FULLCIRCLE PROGRAM FUNDRAISER "RAYS OF HOPE: REMIX" IS **SOLD OUT!**



**Victoria Ray**, FCDAC Member and FullCircle Program Director in Forsyth County reported (to her delight!) August 3 at Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council Meeting the August 28

Fundraiser, "**Rays of Hope: Remix**" has been **SOLD OUT!**

The event taking place in Cumming could still use **sponsorships for the event**. Sponsors receive recognition with their logo displayed on Fullcircle's website for an entire year!

"FullCircle is a ministry that offers hope and support for families and young people in crisis through a 12-Step program using Enthusiastic Subjects, Philanthropic Enthusiastic Subjects

## SUICIDE SUMMIT THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9

**National Suicide Prevention Week** is September 5-11. In conjunction with this awareness week, **A Suicide Summit** will be held on **Thursday, September 9** at **Local Church Forsyth**, 3105 Dahlonga Hwy Cumming, GA 300405, at 6:30 pm.

FCDAC Chairwoman and Forsyth County Commissioner **Cindy Mills** will lead this Forsyth County Mental Health and Wellness Initiative. She is gathering a youth panel to discuss the mental health crisis, what youth face today, and what is happening in the schools. "Listening to youth is so very important and is key in formulating our

county's response," Commissioner Mills said.

**Commissioner, Cindy Jones Mills**, Chairwoman Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, District 4, and FCDAC Chairwoman and Founder



Sobriety Philosophy. Enthusiastic Sobriety Philosophy believes that young people will stop their self-destructive behavior only if they are offered an alternative that is both fun and fulfilling," Victoria said. "For a young person to gain sobriety and happiness, meeting their social and emotional needs is critical. The goals of enthusiastic sobriety allow young people to remain true to themselves while improving their self-worth and interpersonal relationship skills," she continued.

Recovery work is done enthusiastically at FullCircle with young people struggling with a variety of issues including, but not limited to substance use, mental health concerns, pornography, gambling, eating disorders, self-harm, and other compulsive behaviors.

"Your support at our event allows us to continue to do lifesaving work at Georgia's FullCircle Program!" said Victoria.

[Click Here](#) to help through sponsorships or donations. Thank you!



**Victoria Ray**, FCDAC Member and Director of FullCircle Program of Forsyth County

**STEMMING THE TIDE OF SUICIDE IN AMERICA**

Suicide is a serious public health problem that causes immeasurable pain, suffering, and loss to individuals, families, and communities nationwide.

<b>1.4</b> MILLION ADULTS ages 18 and older attempted suicide in the past year.	<b>3.3</b> MILLION ADULTS ages 18 and older made suicide plans in the past year.	<b>10.7</b> MILLION ADULTS thought seriously about trying to kill themselves.
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Resources to prevent suicide abound, including SAMHSA's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

ENGAGE WITH NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK TODAY.  
[www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week](http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week)

**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

### SUICIDE: THE FACTS

- 10TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE US\*
- 47,511 AMERICANS DIED BY SUICIDE IN 2019\*
- 1.3 MILLION SUICIDE ATTEMPTS MADE IN THE US IN 2019\*

\*\*Statistic retrieved from [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#) August 9.

**Dr. Norton, CBD and Rx Drugs  
Live Zoom Webinar!  
August 19th  
10 a.m. until Noon**



Dr. Merrill Norton is now retired from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy as of January 1, 2021. His current position is President/CEO of Chemical Health Associates, Inc. and working as a consultant and trainer for mental health and substance use treatment agencies.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, August 19th, when Dr. Merrill

## Norton comes to your office via Zoom!

This information was sent to *FCDAC STRATEGIZER* by our partner in prevention, John Bringuel.

"Dr. Norton is going to bring to you the straight scientific pharmaceutical talk about the dangers of CBD and prescription drugs. The webinar portion of the Zoom meeting will **start at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 11:00 a.m.** Dr. Norton will stay with us for questions answers and discussion until 12:00 p.m.," John informed us on Wednesday.

"If you have never heard and seen Dr. Norton speak you will be blessed to attend this "live" webinar presentation and discussion. With the proliferation of CBD products flooding the market you certainly need to know the science about how CBD could affect prescription and other drugs," he said.

*To attend simply follow the Zoom instructions below on August 19th. No need to RSVP.*

*If at all possible please join the call by 9:55 so you can hear Dr. Norton in his entirety.*

**Topic: Dr. Merrill Norton, CBD and Rx Drugs**

**Time: Aug 19, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking this link: [https://gachamber.zoom.us/j/82967307199?](https://gachamber.zoom.us/j/82967307199?pwd=Q2JBTTNKFNQMWx3TGIZcGpuNGppUT09)

[pwd=Q2JBTTNKFNQMWx3TGIZcGpuNGppUT09](https://gachamber.zoom.us/j/82967307199?pwd=Q2JBTTNKFNQMWx3TGIZcGpuNGppUT09)

Meeting ID: 829 6730 7199

Passcode: 178762

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82967307199#,,,,\*178762# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82967307199#,,,,\*178762# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 829 6730 7199

Passcode: 178762

Find your local number: <https://gachamber.zoom.us/u/kccaCkW6Q7>

**John Bringuel, MA, ICPS, Statewide Project Director and Isa Tatum, MPA, Program Assistant, Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative, alerted *FCDAC Strategizer* of this important event! Thanks, John!**



# Legislative Updates of Bills Concerning Marijuana and THC

These are bills and resolutions concern Marijuana as of June 1, 2021.

A bill becomes an act when the Governor signs it into law. Following the last day of the legislative session which was March 31, 2021, bills typically are signed into law or vetoed by the Governor in April and May. All of the bills below that passed both Chambers (the Senate and the House) were signed by the Governor and will become part of Georgia law as of July 1, 2021, unless the bill itself indicated a different date.

**SB 195** – (Mullis-53<sup>rd</sup>) This bill allows for 30 medical marijuana (THC oil) dispensaries in GA now, with more to follow based on increasing numbers of low THC oil patients. It also provides for additional powers of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission, such as the issuing of dispensing licenses to production (cultivation and manufacturing) licensees. It allows local governments to decrease the buffer zone between covered entities such as schools and churches and dispensaries, currently set at 1,000 feet. STATUS: The content of this bill, initially a hemp farming bill, was changed to contain the above content. (See HB 601 and HB 645 below for more details.) It passed both the House and the Senate.

**HB 601**(Stephens – 164<sup>th</sup>) This bill sought to exempt low THC oil, marijuana, and tetrahydrocannabinols that have been approved by the FDA from the Georgia Criminal Code. STATUS: Passed the House but was defeated in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee. **However, the bill's content became a part of SB 195 (see above) which passed both Chambers.**

**HB 645** (Gravley – 67<sup>th</sup>) Sought to update, revise and add to the Hope Act passed in 2019, which legalized marijuana cultivation, and THC product manufacture and sales. The bill revised some of the process by which the Access to Medical Cannabis Commission establishes rules and regulations for Hope Act implementation. It also concerned the number and locations of "retail outlets," also known as medical marijuana dispensaries. HB 645 would allow the Commission to issue dispensary licenses to cultivating and manufacturing licensees. More than one retail outlet within reasonable driving distance of each registered THC patient's home would be allowed. STATUS: Passed the House unanimously, but was defeated by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. **However, the bill's content became a part of SB 195 (see above) which passed both Chambers. Signed into law by the Governor.**

## NATIONAL NEWS

### DRAFT OF NEW BILL PROPOSED FUNDING FOR DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS

In the proposed funding draft of legislation on July 15, the House Appropriations Committee approved the draft version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHSE). In it, the bill includes funding proposals for various areas of importance to CADCA and the substance use and misuse prevention field. Highlights include:

### SAMHSA Awards Grant to Administer 988 Dialing Code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

On July 16 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced Vibrant Emotional Health (Vibrant) will be the administrators of the new 988 dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline).

"The need for quick, easy and reliable access to emotional support and crisis counseling has

## SAMHSA

### Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

- \$243.503 million for CSAP This includes:
  - \$139.5 million for the Strategic Prevention Framework/Partnership for Success (SPF-PFS) grants (+\$20 million over the final FY 2021 appropriated amount of \$119.5 million). This includes +\$15 million for the PFS grants and +\$5 million for the Rx SPF.
  - \$15 million for Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act programs (+\$5 million over the final FY 2021 appropriated amount of \$10 million). This includes +\$4.5 million for the enhancement grants and +\$500 thousand for the adult-oriented media campaign.
  - \$3 million for a new program for at-home drug deactivation and disposal to include grantees from urban, rural, and tribal government partners.

### Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant

- \$2.858 billion The Committee also included a directive that would require states to spend at least 10% of SAPT Block Grant funds on recovery services. The new 10% set-aside for recovery support proposed in the President's Budget Request is included in the bill.

### State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant Program

- \$2 billion (+\$500 million from the final FY 2021 appropriated amount of \$1.5 billion)

### Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)

#### Programs of Regional and National Significance

- \$651 million

### Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Programs of Regional and National Significance.

While these above figures are PROPOSED the final amount is something we will be following. For more in-depth information on this funding bill proposal,

Read the proposed Bill in its entirety

[HERE](#)

to emotional support and crisis counseling has never been greater," said Tom Coderre, Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the interim head of SAMHSA. The stressors caused by the pandemic lock-down exacerbated, a great need for this service due to drug and alcohol abuse, and mental health issues of every sort have risen. The new 988 dialing code will make access to a mental health safety net within reach of all Americans by dialing three numbers 988. The number will be activated July 16, 2022. Until then, anyone who needs help or who has a loved one at risk of suicide can call or chat with Lifeline operators at 1-800-273-8255 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline).

To read the entire news release:

[Go Here](#)

## Communities Talk to Prevent Underage Drinking IS

Through the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking, a SAMHSA Initiative gets youth involved to educate and attempt behavioral change through youth-led events and activities!

### Resources for Youth Engagement

Increasingly, underage youth play key roles in reducing and preventing alcohol use and its consequences among their peers. In 2019, young people had a part in more than three-quarters of **Communities Talk** activities. Youth participated as planners and speakers, as well as audience members.

Click on the PDF - [Guide to Youth Engagement in Underage Drinking Prevention Events \(PDF | 8.5 MB\)](#)

The PDF guide helps organizations effectively partner with a youth to plan and conduct efforts to prevent and reduce underage drinking.

Check this valuable site with lots of resources TODAY!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Read a summary of the bill  
[HERE](#)

# Join our newsletter family!



Do you know someone who would like and might benefit from reading the *FCDAC STRATEGIZER*?

Please share this newsletter! Inviting friends and family to read our newsletter is an easy way to spread our reach into the community and accomplish our goals to increase awareness, educate, and encourage healthy living.

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## On the Calendar

### August

- **Teacup Memorial** for those lost to Addiction Tuesday August 31 6:30-8:30 United Way Office Cumming
- **Rays of Hope, Full Circle Fundraiser** August 31 (Sold - Out)
- **Tammy OUT OF OFFICE** Aug. 23-27
- **Psoriasis Awareness Month**
- **International Youth Day** August 12

### September

- National Recovery Month
- **Suicide Summit** Thursday, September 9 Local Church Forsyth 6:30 pm
- CDC Continuation Grant Award Announcements
- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- World Alzheimer's Month

### October

**2ND FCDAC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**COUNTRY LAND GOLF COURSE, CUMMING, GA**  
**Friday, October 1, 2021**

**\*Play**

**\*Donate (raffle items)**

**\*Volunteer**

[Click Here to sign up to Golf](#)  
or  
[Click Here](#) to Volunteer

