



FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

The FCDAC STRATEGIZER

Leading the way to a
healthier Forsyth County

August 2023 Volume 3 Issue 4

[Receive Our Newsletter](#)



**2023-2024
YEAR TO
GROW,
LEARN,
CONNECT WITH
OTHERS AND
LIVE
DRUG FREE!**



**Greet the Bus! September 23
City Center**

MOBILIZE RECOVERY ACROSS GEORGIA

EDUCATING | MOTIVATING | CELEBRATING | ENGAGING | MOBILIZING



**CLINTON
GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**

Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia is a bus tour crisscrossing GA

Mobilize Recovery Across GA is a bus tour crisscrossing GA during National Recovery Month. Over 800,000 Georgians live in long-term recovery from Substance Use Disorder. The tour will unite Georgians to celebrate recovery and educate individuals on harm reduction and recovery resources. The tour is designed to connect communities and is based on bringing people together. At each stop, the Overdose Response Network, with support from the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, will connect community members-Professionals from treatment facilities, law enforcement, families and allies of people in recovery, local media outlets, faith leaders, policymakers, and state representatives, local businesses and collegiate recovery communities. **The tour will culminate at City Center in Cumming!**

**FCDAC IS PARTNERING WITH THIS EVENT!
WE NEED OUR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP'S ASSISTANCE!**

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

RECOVERY IS REAL
In CUMMING, GEORGIA!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 at
THE CITY CENTER AMPHITHEATER 2 – 4 pm

MOBILIZE RECOVERY
ACROSS GEORGIA
BUS TOUR 2023

LIVE MUSIC – SPEAKERS – NARCAN TRAINING – MORE!
LIMITED FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED

Special thanks to our local host

Logos: FULCIRCLE, NLB NO LONGER BOUND, FOREST COUNTY, CONNECTION, FOREST COUNTY COMMUNITY CONNECTION, #GARecovers, UNG UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA, CLINTON FOUNDATION, MOBILIZE RECOVERY, DBHDD Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities, SERVE YOU, Georgia Council for Recovery Freedom from Addiction.

FCDAC Council Meeting, Work and Programs Round-up

Director Kayden's Korner



CADCA Mid-year 2023 was a success! I was thrilled and honored to attend and meet many individuals with the same objectives as FCDAC. Mid-year is a 5-day conference hosted by CADCA. CADCA (Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America) is an international membership organization representing more than 5,000 community anti-drug coalitions in the US and abroad. The conference's purpose and goals were to collaborate, educate, and inspire ideas for drug prevention with other DFCs (Drug-Free Coalitions) nationwide. All objectives were achieved.



I attended many sessions on structuring and successfully running a coalition in education.

This was explicitly helpful, so we will continue to grow our efforts and work in multiple areas. I attended sessions on health equity, sustainability, and how to organize and structure a council. After these learning sessions, I realized we needed to hire a **Project Coordinator**. [IF INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL ME HERE.](#)

In addition, we are developing new

The first success in collaboration was my opportunity to meet with our CDC



representative

Brandon Johnson. Rarely are we able to meet face-to-face, and it is wonderful to put a face to those emails and phone calls. We discussed success with the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council, specifically our school work. In addition, we were able to discuss our challenges. **Primarily our challenges collecting Core Measure Data** in 11th and 12th grade. This data is required by the grant and is used by the Council to develop a response to the community's needs. Brandon was able to provide resources and suggestions to help with our challenges.

In addition, I met dozens of other DFC Program Directors and coalition members, and we shared all our successes, challenges, and solutions. Finally, I met with the **NMI (National Marijuana Initiative) representative.** We discussed the disappointing marijuana legalization efforts in so many states and the harsh effects of vaping. After our meeting, he agreed to send a representative to educate our council, **FREE** of charge! More details to come.

The **National Marijuana Initiative (NMI)** is your free resource for factual evidence-based information concerning marijuana, THC potency research and public health concerns associated with today's marijuana.

Scan the QR code to the right to be taken to the NMI website.

Discover resources such as:

- Educational Video Content from Subject Matter Experts
- The NMI Speakers Bureau
- Emerging Information and Research Library
- And much more for you to use

Follow us on social media and be notified when new material or research findings are posted to the NMI website.

The National Marijuana Initiative is a federally funded drug prevention initiative operating within the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

www.thenmi.org

@NMI_EDU

@NMI_EDU

National Marijuana Initiative

committees, Data Committee, Youth Committee, Parent Committee, Sustainability Committee, School Committee, and Community/Outreach Committee. If you are interested in joining any of these, please email me.

Lastly, I was **inspired** at Mid-year! I am proud of our council. Many individuals I encountered were impressed by our programming for Middle and High Schools providing drug/alcohol prevention classes. Forsyth County has **50,000** students, and we have an **MOU** with the schools to impact them all is such an accomplishment. I broadened my horizons by listening to other coalitions' achievements and programs. These include but are not limited to **capacity building** through stickers initiatives, changing the pain scale at the doctor's office to have a list of solutions instead of pain faces, **parent social media education** (see below), cleaning parks, and more. I now know the process of how to complete many programs for the future of our council.

Overall, I'm thrilled I attended this conference. If, in the future, any coalition member is interested in attending, please let me know!

WEBINAR LIBRARY

Want to dive deeper into a particular topic? Check out all of our past webinars to learn from various experts ranging from DEA Agents and Addiction Psychologists to Trauma Consultants and Behavior Modification Therapists.

@OPERATIONPARENT

Follow us on social media! Stay up to date on all of our upcoming webinars and join a vibrant community who cares about prevention.

DON'T MISS OUT!

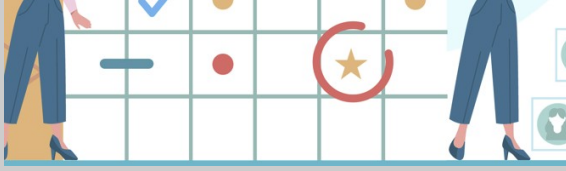
Cell Phones
Anxiety
Vaping
Bullying
Gaming
Drugs
Eating Disorders
Depression
Social Media
Alcohol
Relationships

operationparent

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Our next FCDAC Council Meeting is on **Wednesday, September 6**



August 2, 2023 Council Meeting

Meeting Highlights

Welcome, the introduction of attendees, zoom participants, and announcements- **Director Rachel Kayden**. Announcements: **Rachel announced** that **Mobilize Recovery Across GA** is a bus tour crisscrossing GA(47 Stops) in September during National Recovery Month and will make its final stop here in Cumming, at **City Center** on **September 23, 2-4 pm**. I need all hands on deck to be at this event. A flyer will be sent to you next week. The Council is looking for a **Project Coordinator and Sustainability and Fundraising specialist**. If you are interested, please get in touch with me.

Kayla from the Connection announced **Narcarn Training** on August 16, 11 am at the Connection. **Teacup Memorial** August 27, 2-4 pm, 2920 Ronald Reagan Blvd, Suite 109 Cumming.

Our guest speakers are **Vinayak Menon**, who recently was invited to the White House; **Emily Ennis**, a substance prevention coach from North High School; and **Gabby Breiten**, a substance prevention coach for Gateway, and Forsyth Academy, who will discuss their work in the schools; and **Lindsey Simpson and Susan Sabo** from FC Schools Student Support will address their prevention efforts and mental health response for the students in the county.

Vinayak Menon is a recent graduate of Lambert High School and, for the past four years, **FCDAC's Youth Sector President**. He has done many projects to assist prevention in the Community-distribution of the Deterra drug deactivation kits. He has represented our county at CADCA National Forum in the Youth Advisory Council.

As a result of this work, he was invited to the UN's Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria. He was the only US Delegate and worked with a committee of youth from 40 different countries.

Vinayak delivered the youth statement at the Plenary Session. While there, he met Dr. Rahul Gupta, the President's advisor on all things related to drugs in the US. Vinayak told him about the work being done in Forsyth County. A month later, Gupta invited him to Washington. Vinayak and his mom toured the White House and the ONDCP (Office of National Drug Control Policy). "I learned about how federal policy works for substance misuse. Similar to our council, there were specialists in all areas, from treatment to harm reduction and emergency response to prevention.



"I hope to stay connected to this council as I go off to college because prevention has been so central in my focus, and I want it to remain there," he said.

Our speakers, **Gabriel Breiten**, and **Emily Ennis**, are Substance Prevention Coaches in our schools and will tell us how their programs are going and the status in the schools.

- **Gabby Breiten** works at Gateway, Forsyth Academy, and Central) and **Emily Ennis** works for North Forsyth

Lindsey Simpson and Susan Sabo, Student Support for Forsyth County School District, will inform us about the availability in the school district for mental health support services.

- **Lindsey**.Prevention training for our staff; Teach our teachers to recognize what to look for in themselves and

what to look for in themselves and their students. We offered **Mental Health First Aid**. Another program is **Asist (Applied Suicide Intervention Skill Training)** which is a more intense and in-depth training on intervention. **Mindful Breathing Program**, 3-day training learning to take a breath and use their skills with the students to alleviate anxiety.

- **Emily Ennis** is the first North Forsyth High School (traditional public school) Substance Prevention Coach in a full-time position. The first year was a building year. It creates a relationship with teachers, students, and their parents. Building rapport is still vital. In the coming school year, getting parents more on board and involved is essential.
- **Gabby**. Survey (115 more surveys since 2021 have increased our data) say 1. The average first use is 12.98 (but trends are moving toward younger ages) 2. 82.9% used marijuana first. 3. 82.9% of those reporting marijuana use moved on to other drugs. 4. 13% report daily use. The concentration of THC in the products is up to 90 to 100%, or so much more potent than the THC in marijuana of the 1990s when it of 2 to 5 %; in the 2010s, THC was 30 to 40%. The adverse effects of concentrated THC are more intense, and addictions happen much faster. It is being marketed toward the younger population of students. Delta 8 is very sketchy because no one knows what's in it, and ingredients are often changed.
- **Emily**. Substance Support Coaches have support groups, sober social events, parent information sessions, transition meetings, individual appointments, and Freshman health class talks.
- Parent involvement is the number one factor for success, and we want to increase this in the upcoming year.
- **We are helping**; efforts are working. Last year, 148 students attended outside support groups or received additional treatment. 418 youth have attended school support group meetings. 702 students met individually 3 085 individual

- **Student offerings** **MindWise** helps students recognize signs of suicide and or depression and how to get help for themselves or others.
- **Sources of Strength** is a program that is a wellness model that students learn to apply to their lives and lean into. Students can lean into eight strengths: Mental Health, Family Support, Positive friends, Spirituality, Generosity, Healthy activities, Mentors, and Medical Access. We use trained peer leaders to implement the program.
- **Susan Sabo**. Expand mental health care. Mental health facilitator Sue Sabo was hired to facilitate and get in front of mental health issues. Mental health threats like Suicide ideation have increased dramatically with cell phone use and the pandemic. There were 520 incidences of suicide ideation last year. There were 312 reports of threats to others.
- We have a 3-year plan: Year 1- best use of funding service gaps, relationship building, identifying needs. Year 2 establishing processes with local school staff, parents' education on mental health topics, and professional learning with counselors; Year 3 A growth model, Building sustainable systems, research best practices, and making adjustments.

Rachel wrapped the meeting up by encouraging everyone to step out into our mission, remember how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time! We can all be creative and be part of the solution!

individually. 3,000 appointments were held.

Community Outreach, Youth, Members, and Partners

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AUGUST IS OVERDOSE AWARENESS MONTH

ANNUAL TEACUP MEMORIAL BRINGS ATTENTION TO OVERDOSE AWARENESS

Council Member Jennifer Hodge hosts the 7th Annual Teacup Memorial on August 27 at Century 21 in Cumming from 2-4 pm at 2920 Ronald Reagan Blvd, Suite 109 Cumming.

The Teacup Memorial is a heart-moving event meant to increase awareness of the growing tragedy of those who have experienced the loss of a loved one because of a drug overdose from across the state. The afternoon program is 2-3:15 pm speakers, 3:15- 3:45 pm the teacup lighting, and 3:45 and on will be socializing.



Overdose affects everyone. From grieving families to spontaneous first responders, overdose impacts are far-reaching and fall indiscriminately.



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

Parents4FCDAC Parent Support Committee



Ashley Dickerson

Ashely is
Revenue

Accounting Director at AT&T

and is an active member of FCDAC. Her journey parenting a child who suffers from Substance Use Disorder covers a lot of pain, frustration, and



What to expect, When you suspect

Can you identify with any of the following behaviors?

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

Other signs can include:

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

What Do I Do Now?

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



Common Myths Regarding Substance Abuse:

- Addiction IS NOT a moral issue and lack of will power. (IT IS A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE!)
- My child wouldn't know where to buy drugs (Social media has become the home delivery service for drug abuse.) Over 75% of opioid abuse begins with legally prescribed medication.
- My child is too involved with sports to have time for drugs.
- I'm a good parent, so I'm sure that I would know if substances were a problem. (Physical addiction can occur way before external signs of drug use are visible)
- My child is homeschooled or in private school where drugs are not an issue.
- Weed is not addictive and my child only smokes it once in a while. (Today's synthetic weed is extremely addictive and can lead to psychosis and hospitalization)
- My child comes from a happy home and has everything they need so they have no reason to use drugs. I would know if they had emotional issues.
- Drug abuse is something impacting "those" families; not my family. (Addiction doesn't discriminate and impacts all families of all race, religion, financial and marital status)

pain, frustration, and isolation; but also a lot of hope and healing. Ashley shares her recovery with other parents to reduce the shame and stigma and help start the dialog among parents struggling to find support. She contributes her insights monthly to the *Strategizer*."



Marti Roveada

Marti is a Strategic Sourcing for Axia

Women's Health, an active member of FCDAC, and a volunteer parent advisor for an under-18 recovery program in Nashville. With a child who began recovery before age 18, Marti is passionate about educating and eliminating stigma associated with SUD. She partners with Ashley to contribute monthly insights to the *Strategizer*.

An Opioid Webinar From Project Opioid USA

How can we use resources to solve the opioid crisis?

With over 100,000 deaths in the US last year, the Opioid Webinar from Project Opioid USA was designed to provide the latest stats nationally on both fatal and non-fatal overdoses, maximize funding sources to prevent overdoses, align community leaders in your region to deliver solutions, and expand treatment for our youngest and those most at risk.

Project Opioid's emphasis is to empower communities with tools to fight this epidemic by building coalitions, analyzing local data, and increasing awareness of new treatment methods.



2 OF EVERY 5 PILLS WITH FENTANYL CONTAIN A LETHAL DOSE

Source DEA

Overdose deaths in the United States are expected to top 110,000 in 2022.

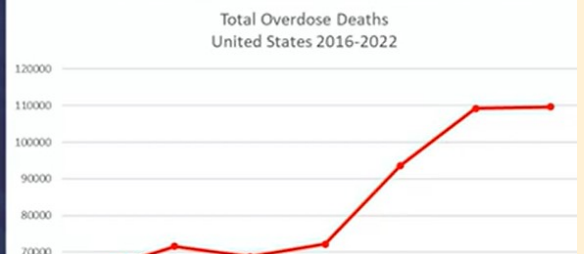
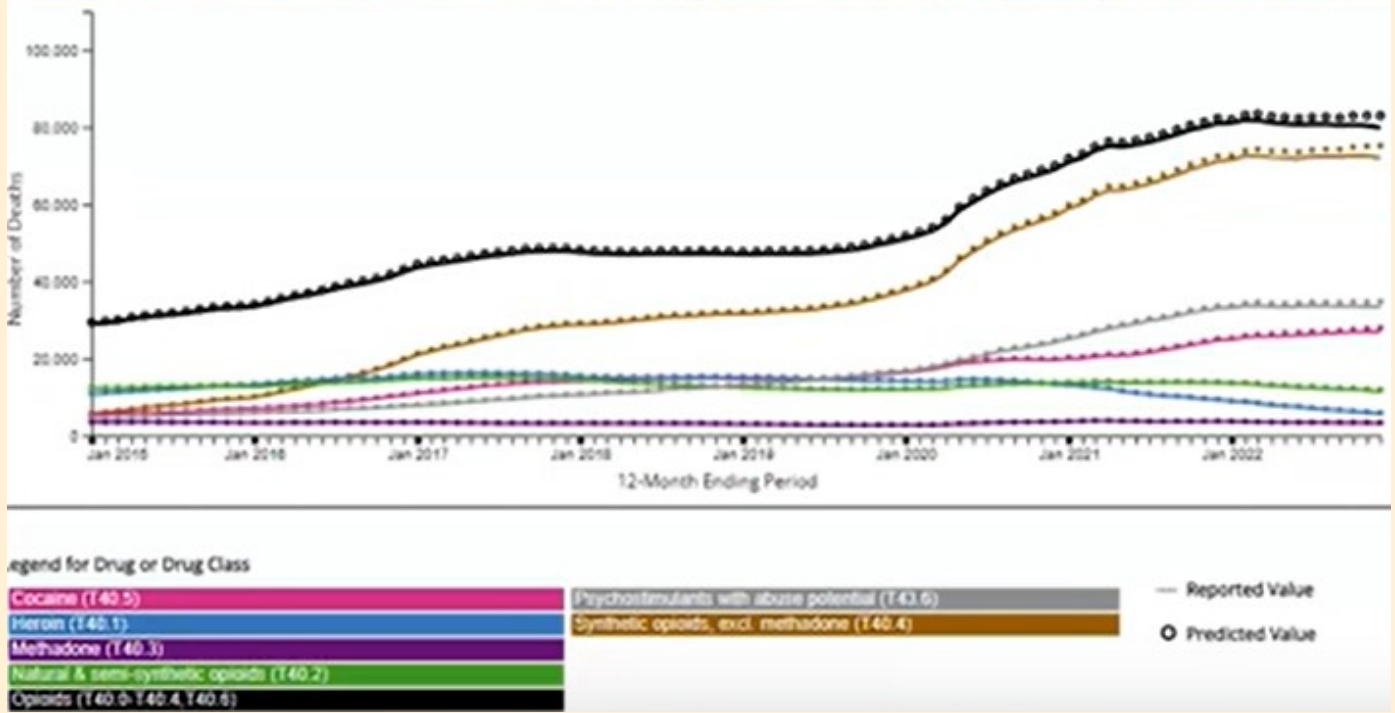
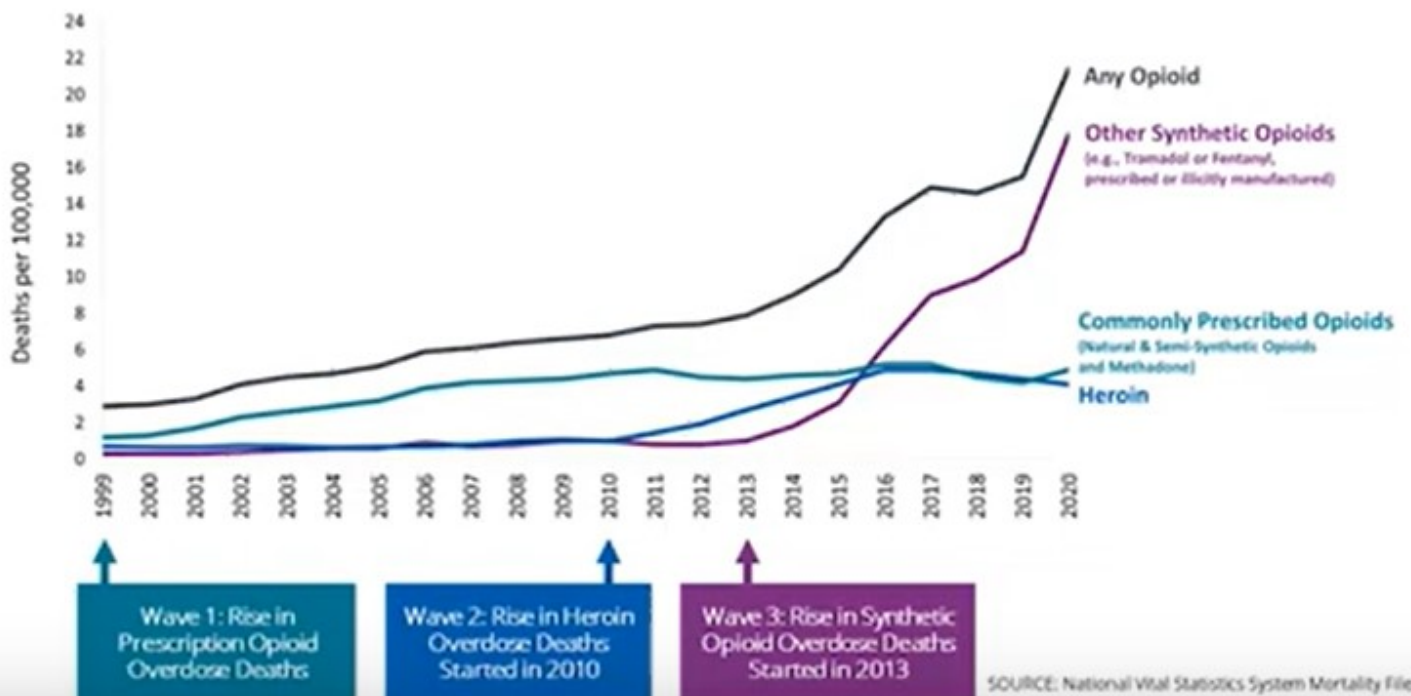




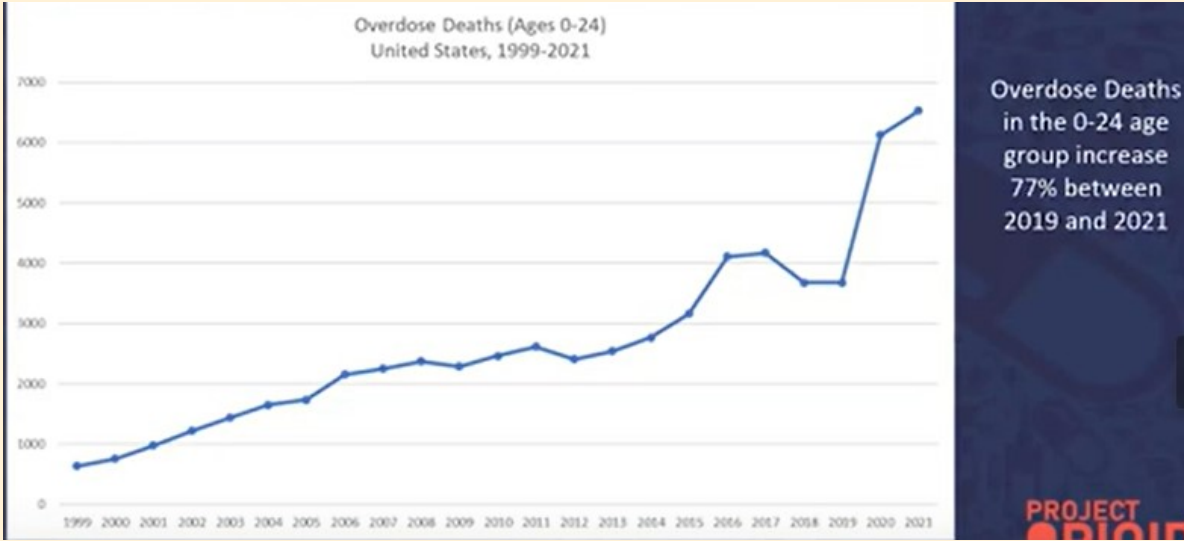
Figure 2. 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: United States



Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



The purple line shows the massive increase in synthetic opioids flooding the US from China through Mexico. Synthetic opioids, highly addictive, have been introduced to every illegal drug, and even people not intending to expose themselves to opioids find themselves addicted, and the cartels have more customers. The overdose risk increases because those people have a low tolerance for fentanyl. It is the number one cause of death in the 18-45-year-old group. Training for administering Narcan and making Narcan available is high on the list of uses for the settlement money.



These slides indicate the changing picture of the overdose crisis from a prescribed opioid overdose to our current situation, the explosion of opioid/fentanyl illegally sold on the streets of this country. The funds obtained from litigation on the state and local levels can help combat the new crisis in our communities and get funding for treatment to our most in-need citizens. While drug use has gone down, the overdose rate in this most vulnerable age group has skyrocketed.

There are big questions we need to ask and get answers for, like, who will control the money (State or Local governments), and how will accountability and transparency of the distributions be determined? The goal is to get it to the projects and people needing prevention, treatment, and recovery. Fifty Billion dollars were awarded to the plaintiffs in the Opioid Settlements so far with possibly another 30 Billion to come from unresolved cases.

National Prescription Opiate Litigation (NPOP) Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) in Cleveland, Ohio (2,600+ Cities, Counties, Native American Tribes, Individuals)

Other litigation outside the MDL (States + 2,400 other plaintiffs)

>\$50B Settlement Proceeds to Date
~3,600 unresolved cases (2/3 in the MDL)

Georgia's Settlement

- According to the Georgia [Office of Health Strategy and Coordination](#) concerning the Opioid Settlement Agreements-

Opioid Settlement Agreements

National Distributors and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson Settlement

In January 2022, Georgia opted into opioid litigation brought by states and local subdivisions against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors - McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen - manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and its parent company, Johnson & Johnson. Georgia will receive a combined \$636 million from these settlements, known as the National Distributor Settlement and Janssen/J&J Settlement, respectively. The National Distributor Settlement funds will be disbursed on an 18-year plan, while the Janssen/J&J Settlement funds will be disbursed on a 9-year plan.

On May 18, 2022, Governor Kemp established the Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

On May 18, 2023, Governor Kemp established the Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (GOSAC) via [Executive Order](#) that will consult with, and provide recommendations to, the Trustee of the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust regarding the allocation of funds received by the State pursuant to the National Distributors and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson settlements. GOSAC will consist of eight members and one non-voting chairperson. The Governor appoints four members, while the remaining four are set by the State's local governments, including one representative appointed by the Community Service Boards.

State Appointed Members:

- David Dove, Chairman
- Xavier Crockett
- Cassandra Price
- Gary Sisk
- Grant Thomas

Local Government Appointed Members:

- Not yet appointed

In February 2021, Georgia joined in on a settlement with McKinsey & Company, which resulted in an award of \$13 million to the State. Governor Brian P. Kemp [allocated](#) these funds to the Department of Law, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the Department of Public Health to combat opioid misuse in the State. The funds will be utilized to expand Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) availability, increase detoxification service capacity, promote stigma reduction, increase access to naloxone for emergency service providers, and expand training on naloxone for community providers.

Breakdown of Recommendations:

- Expand investment into MAT providers. \$4,750,000 will allow DBHDD to expand funding for MAT service providers, including providers not currently contracted with DBHDD that already have the training, staff capacity, and ability to offer MAT. DBHDD also intends to utilize funding to ensure the sustainability of MAT programs over a three-to-four-year period.
- Enhance capacity for detoxification services.
- Implement statewide stigma reduction and opioid abuse public awareness campaign. Provide naloxone kits to Emergency Medical Service providers.
- Expand naloxone training and education to service providers.
- Provide naloxone kits to Law Enforcement Officers.

[Click Here for more details.](#)

YOUTH COMMITTEE - SCHOOL NEWS



Emily
Ennis,
Substance

"I am pumped to go into my second year at North!" says Emily Ennis, North Forsyth's Substance Prevention Coach. "I want to reach more students and continue to expand our collaboration with FCDAC, Gabby Breiten at Gateway, and Forsyth Academy. On day one, I will

- reach out to returning students whom I met with last year
- form new small groups
- collaborate with FCDAC and other Substance Prevention Coaches
- speak to parent organizations to inform them about the trends in our community.

"I am looking forward to a year of greater awareness of drug dangers and entrapment and students' progress in understanding and desire for sobriety," she said.

Police Sector Report

by Deputy Kevin Ferraro



The Latest STATS for CIRT (Crisis Intervention Response Team)

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. The CIRT is a law enforcement team member and a Peer Specialist trained by Avita Community Partners.

The 1993 Georgia State Legislature formed Avita Community Partners to serve persons experiencing the disabling effects of mental illness, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases. Various services and programs are aimed at helping individuals, families, and communities minimize barriers and achieve their dreams.

Here are the stats from January through June 2023.

Co-Response Team Activities	TOTAL
CIRT Co-Response with other unit	158
CIRT Follow-up	30
Client Face/Phone contact	173
Family/Caregiver Engagement	331
Juvenile Client	37

Peer Specialist Activities	TOTAL
Client Face/Phone contact	152
Family/Caregiver Engagement	81
Jail Discharge Plan Mtg	23
MH/AODA Appt Scheduled	22
Transported to community resource	30

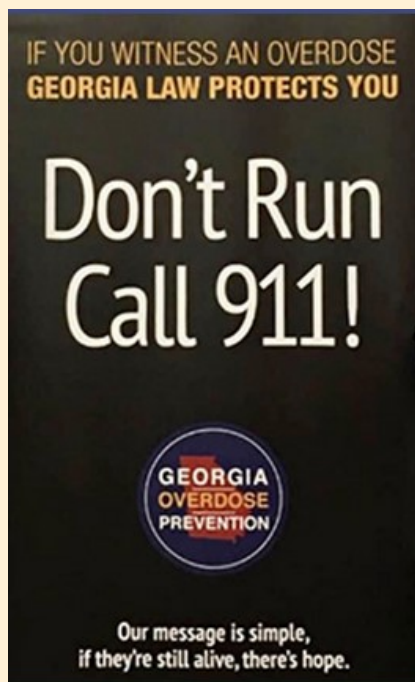
CIRT School Response	16
Assessed by MH Professional	145
Left/Resolved on Scene	115
MH-Related Persons Arrested	4
10-13/20-13 by CIRT * Deputy Initiated Involuntary Comm.	40
Voluntary Transport to Facility	19
Assistance connecting to resource	6

Food given	20
Clothing given	10
Assistance connecting to other resource	36
Assistance connecting to housing	2

*The licensed clinician signs a 10-13 form to have a person involuntarily taken for a medical evaluation due to factors observed during an encounter.

A 20-13 form is also signed by the licensed clinician to have a person involuntarily taken for medical evaluation but includes the basis of substance abuse/disorder.

Member teaching Members



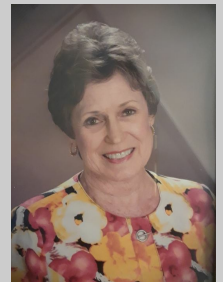
August is Overdose Awareness Month

My daughter died from a heroin overdose two weeks before her 16th birthday. She had run away to California and was in an abandoned house with people she did not know. She did not care about them, and they did not care about her. The only thing they had in common was that they all used drugs. On a Friday night, Lauren took heroin and soon became unconscious. Everyone knew she had taken heroin and knew she was unconscious. They also knew that if they got medical help soon enough for her, the doctors might be able to save her life. However, they were also aware that if they got help for her, their drug use would be

obvious, and they would probably face legal trouble. As a result, they let my daughter lay on the floor unconscious for three days. Periodically, someone

would say, "That girl is still unconscious. Do you think we should get her to a hospital?" Immediately, others would say, "We can't do that because they will know we're using drugs, and we will get in trouble." That went on from Friday night until Sunday night, when my daughter's heart stopped beating. A girl named Elvie Jo felt Lauren's last heartbeat and screamed, "We have to take her to the hospital," but even then, everyone else said, "We can't get help for her because we will get in trouble."

The nightmare I describe might have been prevented if the people Lauren was with had sought help soon after she became unconscious. That is why I want to make everyone aware of Georgia's 911 Medical Amnesty and



Dana Bryan

Dana is a retired middle school teacher and member of FCDAC. Through her personal loss of her daughter to drug experimentation, Dana devotes her time reaching out to youth through

presentations about the real consequences and high risk of experimenting with addictive substances and how it affects them, their futures, and their families. She contributes her insights monthly to the Georgia

Expanded Naloxone Access Law. These laws are designed to save lives, but they can only save lives if people are aware of the law, alert enough to remember the law, and call for help when they are with an overdose victim and have greater access to Naloxone.

According to the law, "The caller and the victim cannot be arrested, charged or prosecuted when you call 911 for medical assistance at the scene of a suspected drug overdose if law enforcement arrives and finds personal use amounts of drugs and drug paraphernalia." The same is true in the case of an alcohol overdose, even if the victim or the person calling is underage. This law includes more detail for clarification. For more information, [Click Here](#) or [Click Here](#).

the *Strategizer*.
Thanks, Dana!

OUR PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Our Friends from the Connection

The poster features a light blue background with a white sun. On the left is a circular logo for 'GEORGIA OVERDOSE PREVENTION' with a red map of Georgia. Below it is the 'FORSYTH COUNTY DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL' logo. The central text reads: 'Overdose Prevention: Public NARCAN Training and Free Kits', 'August 16, 2023, 11:00 am', 'The Connection', '608 Veterans Memorial Blvd.', and 'Cumming, GA'. On the right is an image of a 'NARCAN (naloxone HCl) NASAL SPRAY 4 mg' box and a spray device. A white line connects the logos to the event details.

In cooperation with FCDAC and Georgia Overdose Prevention, the Connection will host a Narcan Training on Wednesday, August 16, at 11 a.m. Invited speakers are the Board of Commissioner and FCDAC Founder Cindy Mills, Jennifer Hodge, founder of Realty4Recovery, and members of the Warrior Moms.

JOIN US FOR PART 3 OF OUR
LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES
with Guest Speaker
DAVID CLEOPE
August 15th from 11:30a-1p

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER...

LUNCH AND LEARN with
David Cleope

TUESDAY
AUGUST 15TH
11:30A-1P

 **LEARN MORE**

 **CONTACT US**
678-456-5544 EXT: 2



Hopelinc Lunch and Learn Series

Features David Cleope

August 15th

11:30a-1p

429 Canton Rd, Cumming, GA 30040



A message from our partner in prevention,
John Bringuel, MA, RBF, TPNPC, ICPS, Prevention / Intervention Program Manager The
Council on Alcohol and Drugs

How to Plan a NARCAN Training for First Responders & General Community Groups

Dear Collaborative Members and Stakeholders,
Below is a detailed message regarding FREE NARCAN TRAINING for 1st Responders, nonprofit agencies, community groups, and the general community. Below are several points of contact/resources that will assist in **scheduling community naloxone training for civic groups and the public going forward**. I recommend emailing and copying all contacts when you request training for your group.

Prior to scheduling a community training, you should determine and provide several pieces of information, some include:

1. Name of Organization Sponsoring Event
2. Venue/Address training will be performed
3. Number of persons being trained
4. Number of Naloxone Kits requested for distribution after training
5. A list of several days/times training may be scheduled for

Vonshurii S. Wrighten
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities
Division of Behavioral Health
Office of Addictive Diseases
Coordinator of Addictive Diseases Initiatives
State Opioid Treatment Authority
404-416-5225 Work Cell
Vonshurii.Wrighten@dbhdd.ga.gov

Lisa Anderson-Akine
Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities
Opioid Settlement Coordinator
lisa.anderson-akine@dbhdd.ga.gov
(404) 657-2333

NEWS FOR YOU

LOCAL NEWS

Congratulations Vinayak Menon! Former FCDAC Youth Council and Recent Lambert High Grad Honored for Drug Prevention in DC



Last month, **Vinayak Menon** was recognized for his contributions to drug prevention by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in Washington, DC. Menon toured the White House, met office staff, and received a plaque commending him for his presence and work as the sole U.S. youth representative at the 66th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Menon was chosen as the U.S. representative to attend the 2023 Youth Forum at the session held in Vienna, Austria, earlier this year in March.

The forum gave Menon, along with 33 other youth participants from 28 countries, the opportunity to enhance their knowledge in substance use prevention, engage in interactive discussions with youth leaders and learn best practices used in other countries.

Menon said, "Substance abuse is an issue that disproportionately affects the youth of our country, and we need more youth voices and activism to create a lasting impact. Forsyth County is at the forefront of prevention efforts through our Drug Awareness Council and the support of the Board of Commissioners.

As past president of the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council Youth Sector, other national organizations, including the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), previously recognized Menon for his leadership in drug prevention. Locally, he led a program using **Deterra Drug Deactivation Pouches** to safely dispose of unused prescription medication in homes. By partnering with **Safe Project**, a national nonprofit initiative tackling drug addiction, he distributed 10,000 kits across Georgia with the help of partnering nonprofits.

This fall, Menon will attend Princeton University and continue his efforts in substance use prevention among youth. Congrats to





STATE NEWS

Georgia Recovers*



Discrimination against people with addiction has directly contributed to the addiction crisis in Georgia. More than 51% of Georgians know someone with addiction, but still, negative attitudes from peers and society can fuel challenges to accessing and receiving treatment.

But we're gaining momentum in Georgia. People impacted by addiction are sharing their stories as a part of **Georgia Recovers**, a community-driven digital public health campaign. Each story told helps spread the message that addiction can affect anyone and that addiction is not an individual choice or

moral failing — it's a treatable medical condition.

By showing the faces and sharing the experiences of people impacted by addiction, we can reduce discrimination and build empathy and compassion. When #GARecoversTogether, more people can and do recover.

**Georgia Recovers is a campaign brought to you by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) with support from the Georgia Council for Recovery (GCAR) in partnership with Shatterproof.*

NATIONAL NEWS

NCAA Medical Panel Recommends Removing Marijuana from Banned Drugs List



WHY?

If the NCAA accepts the medical panel's recommendation to drop **marijuana** from the banned substance list, it would mark a significant change. Testing for marijuana THC levels at championship events has existed since 1986.

A final decision may be announced in the fall if legislation is introduced and approved unanimously by the three NCAA divisions to take effect.

As more [states move to allow medical and recreational use of marijuana](#), the committee suggested that testing should be limited to performance-enhancing substances. Earlier this year, the THC threshold was increased from 35 to 150 nanograms per milliliter, matching that of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

For more information about NCAA and Marijuana, [Click Here](#).

Washington Doctors Detail Pros, Cons of Fentanyl Addiction Treatment Methods

Nina Shapiro, The Seattle Times

There was a time, not long ago, when doctors had national protocols for using a leading opioid

There was a time, not long ago, when doctors had national protocols for using a leading opioid treatment drug. Heroin was the opioid king then, and it was fairly smooth to transition patients onto the medication buprenorphine, usually given as Suboxone, which reduces cravings for illicit opioids. Far trickier has been starting the medication with patients using fentanyl. Fentanyl's unique properties can send those starting buprenorphine into an agonizing state of sudden, or "precipitous," withdrawal, leaving providers scrambling to devise new approaches. But no universally adopted treatment protocols have taken hold so far.

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

FYI



Be a part of CADCA's screening of the third part of the Screenagers series on August 15 from 2–3:15 PM

Screenagers – Under the Influence: Addressing Vaping, Drugs & Alcohol in the Digital Age

This movie examines the impact of our digital age on teens' decision-making concerning substances such as vaping, alcohol, and drugs.

Exploring the latest research and learning more about the personal experiences of teens and families, the film highlights the changing landscape of the substances themselves, offering solutions for how we can best empower teens as they face decisions about what they will and will not be influenced by.

[Watch the trailer HERE.](#)



Happy Anniversary 988! It's been a year since the three-digit dialing code 988 was launched to connect callers directly to trained counselors at the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline \(or 988 Lifeline\)](#). Since then, it has **served 5 million people**– 2 million more than in the previous 12 months in suicidal crisis or emotional distress with free and confidential emotional support and crisis counseling. When people call, text, or chat with the **988 Lifeline**, they are connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing 988 Lifeline network, comprised of over 200 local crisis centers nationwide. Numerous studies have shown that callers feel less suicidal, less depressed, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking with a 988 Lifeline counselor.

According to Rev. Dr. Que English, Director of Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Intergovernmental, and External Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who traveled the country the past year sharing and promoting the use of the hotline, "many either still didn't know about its availability or that some expressed reluctance to dial 988, fearing that by sharing they are in crisis may expose themselves to the stigma that can be associated with mental health." If you or someone you know is in crisis, help is available. Speak with someone today by dialing 988.

Lanierland Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Join our county in the opening of **Lanierland Park** and ribbon cutting ceremony on **August 19 at 9 a.m.**

Lanierland Park will include a pickleball and tennis complex, three miles of walking trails, an accessible playground, and five baseball/softball fields—a new field house for the Lions football and lacrosse programs and lots more parking within the park.

At one time known as **Lanierland Music Park**, it was known for the joy it brought people's lives when the facility showcased the best in country music. The new park will continue the tradition of bringing joy.

On the Calendar



August

- Back to School, August 3.
- Narcan Training August 16, at 11 a.m. at The Connection.
- Teacup Memorial, August 27, 2-4 pm Century 21.
- International Overdose Awareness Day, August 31.

September

- Patriot Day, September 11, Never Forget!
- Mobilize Recovery Across GA Bus Tour September 23rd Final Event Center City Cumming.
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.
- National Recovery Month.
- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.



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

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