



FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

DRUG PREVENTION WORK
IN FORSYTH COUNTY

EDUCATE.
ADVOCATE.
EMPOWER.

Strategizer

Leading the way to a
healthier Forsyth County

FORSYTH COUNTY
DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

**DONATE
TODAY!**

SCAN ME

November 2024 Volume 4 Issue 6

[Donate Here](#)





Begin the Season of Gratitude by Thanking a Veteran for their Service. Monday, November 11, was Veterans Day, but let's thank them every day in November!

FCDAC Council Meeting, Work and Programs Round-up

Kayden's Korner



November and Thanksgiving Celebrations are marked by our awareness of just how blessed we are! I feel blessed to be part of the FCDAC Community, and I want to **thank you all** for your commitment and support. We are making a difference!

GIVINGTUESDAY

GivingTuesday is Tuesday, December 3. GivingTuesday is an opportunity to ask our friends and family to consider joining FCDAC and donating to our Council. Research data from GivingTuesday 2023 shows that many people don't recall being asked to give, and many of them would give if asked. GivingTuesday, 2022 Global Awareness Survey showed that 86% of people who were aware of GivingTuesday reported that the initiative inspired them to be more generous.

Volunteerism is a non-monetary way to contribute, and we know how vital our

Council members are when we set up our events. It is also a way for our younger members to feel more connected and be significant contributors. Please contribute to our Council using our donation QR code above and ask others to contribute and volunteer.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Our next FCDAC Council Meeting is on
Wednesday, December 4
8 a.m.
United Way Offices

Council Meeting Highlights

Director Rachel Kayden opened the 8 a.m. monthly council meeting by thanking **No Longer Bound** for hosting our meeting and welcoming everyone, introducing attendees, and making announcements.

Announcements:

- Rachel introduced FCDAC's new Project Coordinator, **Alycea Vega**. (See below)
- Rachel welcomed a new Youth Member, **Keertana Uppal** (See below)
- **Forsyth Central High School Thrifting Extravaganza**- Please donate coats, jackets, hoodies, and other winter apparel and water to those recovering from recent hurricanes Helene and Milton (see

flyer below).

- A Narcan Training for teachers and counselors was held on October 22. It received positive feedback.
- Funding ending in September, looking for funding options
- A new Drug Summit Location is Needed! We are planning for FCDAC's 2025 Drug Summit and need a location that can handle 100+ participants and volunteers!
- A new home for The Connection is needed. Their current building needs to be vacated this month.
- Community Connection hosts the Jingle Jog on November 15 (see flyer below)

Rachel introduced our host and speaker, **Matthew Adams**. **Matthew** is the **Program Director for No Longer Bound** and brings over five years of hands-on experience in substance use recovery. With a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of North Georgia and a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Richmond Graduate University, Matthew is deeply committed to guiding individuals through the challenges of addiction. His passion for fostering hope, resilience, and lasting transformation in his clients defines his work.

Outside his professional role, Matthew is an avid CrossFit enthusiast and enjoys various outdoor activities. Grounded in his faith and community, he actively participates in a men's small group, fostering personal growth, connection, and fellowship.

No Longer Bound (NLB) is a faith-based 12-month residential center for men 18 years and older dealing with drug and alcohol addiction. It has been around for 34 years. Their mission is to rescue addicts, regenerate men, and reconcile families. Their motto is "**Transforming lives beyond sobriety.**"

Our program is built around **Cognitive Behavior Therapy**. It recognizes negative thoughts and beliefs that lead to destructive behaviors, challenges those negative thoughts with truths, and replaces them with positive thoughts and beliefs.

How the program works:

- **Intake:** The candidate must be willing to seek help, and then there is the interview process. The candidates must be off alcohol and drugs. If they test positive for drugs, they must detox off campus. They often go through a "Pink Cloud" phase, not wanting to open up. "Everything is fine."
- **Orientation:** Learn the rules and form relationships in groups of 6-8 men. Most have had shallow relationships in the past.
- **Curriculum:** Why here? The man identifies his core beliefs. So many struggle with shame.
- **Revelation Phase:** "Where was God?" is a common question. They use scripture to help them. A new way of looking at life helps them move forward.
- **Therapy:** There is both individual and family therapy.
- **Vocational Training:** The "Transition Phase" is from months 8 to 12. During this time, the men can work off campus (at a job) and live here.

As the men progress through the program, they learn a trade, work with a team, learn how to be a manager and/or be managed, build their resumes, do mock interviews, and focus on "WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?" When the men reach graduation, they are encouraged not to return to dysfunctional family situations or friends who have not been on the journey to sobriety with them.

The types of issues NLB DOES NOT TREAT are conditions requiring medicine management, those in clinical depression, and those with Bipolar diagnosis, for example.

The cost of the program is around \$15,000. There are scholarship opportunities available. The Forsyth County community helps financially along with the No Longer Bound Thrift Stores.*

*Council Member Susan Tanner sent this report. Thank you, Susan! She shared, "My stenson attended

Council Member Susan Ramler sent this report: "Thank you, Susan! She shared, 'My stepson attended No Longer Bound in 2019, and we were pleased with the entire program. We felt a 30 or even 60-day rehab facility was not enough to make changes in his life. Addiction is so very deep and needs extreme attention and therapy over an extended period. The staff and curriculum were outstanding, and we highly recommend NLB.'"

Community Outreach, Youth, Members, and Partners

Parent Partners Corner

by Ashley Dickerson and Marti Roveda



Marti Roveda

Marti's only child began his recovery journey at the age of 16, igniting Marti's passion for educating and supporting parents of youth struggling with substance use disorders. Driven by this commitment, she founded **Equanimity Parent Coaching** to help parents find peace and serenity during the challenging times of their parenting journey. Marti is also an active member of FCDAC and volunteers as a parent advisor for an under-18 recovery program in Nashville.

The **Parent Partners program** is committed to educating parents and promoting prevention. In October, Ashley and Marti shared their personal journeys at the **Gateway Parent Night**, emphasizing the critical role of recovery for both parents and youth. On November 19th, Marti will be joined by a new Parent Partner, Forsyth County resident **Roshan Thomas-Ramlal**, who will also share her journey.

Additionally, Marti was invited by Michael Mumper of Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy (GRMP) to speak with the Conservative Republican Women of North Atlanta. Michael's presentation highlighted the importance of education, prevention, and advancing Georgia's policies around marijuana and high-potency THC products. Approximately 20 attendees engaged in this impactful session. This marks the third occasion Michael invited Marti to share her story, with more collaborative opportunities planned.

We welcome every opportunity to connect with the community and support families facing similar challenges. If you or someone you know could benefit from our program, please reach out to us

[Here.](#)



Ashley Dickerson

Ashley currently holds the role of Revenue Accounting Director at AT&T

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

Youth Outreach

Youth Council- Meet New Youth Member, Keertana Uppal

The World According to Rolly,

a short film by Most High Media by Keertana Uppala



Keertana Uppala welcoming a movie goer.



Keertana Uppala and Charles Wilgus who was featured in the movie with Rolly.



Left to right, Leslie and Christian Janson, Most High Media and Keertana Uppala.

The World According to Rolly, a short film by Most High Media, premiered on October 24 in Roswell, GA. **Most High Media** specializes in the power of therapeutic storytelling. The film tells the story of Rolly, Charles, and the rag-tag crew, documenting these adults with exceptionalities, learning that they can do much more than their diagnoses and ascribed limitations.

In addition to producing therapeutic stories, Most High Media empowers individuals in recovery with hands-on training in many aspects of the entertainment industry, like one of the camera operators in this film, Joseph Hicks. Hicks says in the movie, "Somebody sees something in me that I was unable to see in myself. Now, I am blessed to be a part of something greater than myself and thereby find the greatest part of myself."

Keertana Uppala, an FCDAC Youth Member, volunteered at the premiere of **The World According to Rolly**. Keertana said, "I greeted people at the door, gave them their wristbands, checked their RSVPs for their ticket of entry, aided in handing out the free concessions offered, and gave directions to the theatre."

"My impression of the short film was that **The World According to Rolly** is a wondrous and beautiful world; every experience is a moment we have in this life that should be cherished!" Keertana said.

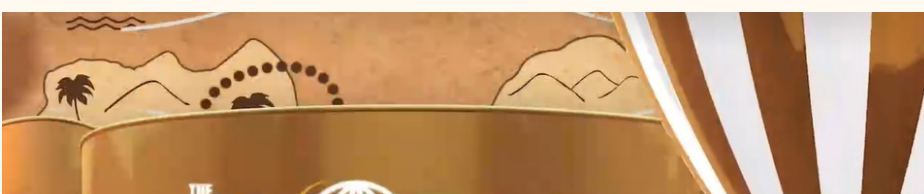
[Click Here to Watch the Movie](#)

MEET Keertana Uppala



I attend West Forsyth High School and I'm currently a freshman. I discovered FCDAC while researching ways to build up our community. I was disturbed after hearing a story about students from my old middle school who had become involved with drug misuse. I want to find ways to help discourage misuse and increase awareness among teens who are susceptible to being sucked into it. I share the same values of education and empowering people to make good choices to strengthen our community.

Some of my interests include listening to music, debating, writing (my poems were published in magazines), traveling with my mom and family, and volunteering in my local community and at school events. I look forward to helping with the events FCDAC





with the events' PEDAC sponsors.

Sharmada Venkataramani Panelist at Georgians For Responsible Marijuana Policy Summit

by Sharmada Venkataramani

On Wednesday, November 6th, I participated in a **Marijuana Policy Summit** panel presentation hosted by **Georgians For Responsible Marijuana Policy**. For my part, I reported the data I have gathered about youth consumption and perceptions of Marijuana I have collected. Matt Meyers, a pharmacology specialist, treatment counselor Britt Paramore, Dr. Gregg Raduka, and Senator Kay Kirkpatrick were also speaking on the panel.



I spoke alongside Matt Meyers, a pharmacology specialist; treatment counselor Britt Paramore; Dr. Gregg Raduka, founder and board member of Let's Be Clear and Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy; and Senator Kay Kirkpatrick.

It was a fantastic experience, and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

School News

Introducing Ainsley Miller, the New Prevention Coach at North Forsyth High School

My name is **Ainsley Miller**. I am from Peachtree City, Georgia, where I began my journey to recovery at age 16. I graduated from **The Meehan Institute** for Counselor Training in August 2022. I initially sought out being a Substance Abuse Counselor because of my personal history with substances, and this desire has grown into a desire to reach young people who struggle. I am currently working towards obtaining hours for certification in alcohol and drug counseling.



I am very excited to be a part of Forsyth County's prevention efforts, especially at North Forsyth High School. I am very grateful for this opportunity to work with students and look forward to my involvement with the Forsyth County Awareness Council. I want to help as much as I can!

A fun fact about myself: I have traveled to five different continents!



Ainsley Miller and Emily Ennis had a little trick-or-treat fun at the annual Trunk or Treat Festival in





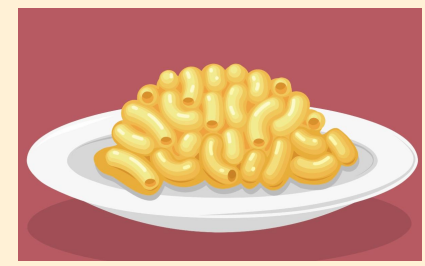
October! While giving out candy, they also increased community awareness about prevention and addiction resources in Forsyth by handing out 18 FCDAC Resource Guides.



Emily Ennis, New Gateway and Forsyth Academy Prevention Coach, as of November 1.

This next week we are making the switch where I am transitioning to the academies full time as the substance prevention coach and Ainsley Miller will be taking over at North Forsyth High.

The Mac and Cheese Cook-off competition took place in October at North Forsyth High School and was a hit with the participants. The kids love cooking! Our various "Cook-off Events" are a school favorite for social activities. It is true: Kids like to eat! According to the judges, all Mac and Cheese entries were good, but one stood out in flavor! The winning group of students got gift cards of their choosing.



The 2024-25 school year is off to a great start, and I'm excited to continue serving the community and being part of such a special recovery movement.

Gabby Breiten

The Academies for Creative Education (ACE), Gateway, and Forsyth Academy are going strong. I have three small group meetings weekly to provide encouragement, support, and accountability and learn coping skills through role-playing activities. In October, we held a Family Freud-styled Game social event. Eight students participated in the event.

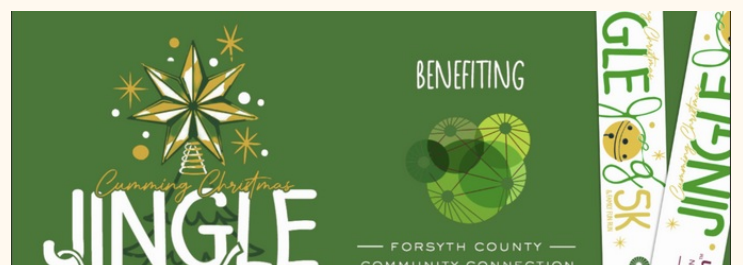


As of November 1, I will work in the Insight Program office. Emily Ennis will transfer to the ACE schools and continue working with the students. It will be an easy transition because Emily and I have worked closely on many activities. I have enjoyed my work in the ACE schools and with FCDAC.

Thank you, Gabby, for all you have done to serve our Youth and assist at FCDAC. We wish you much success!

Our Partners in Prevention

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



608 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Cumming, GA 30040

Contact erin@theconnectionforsyth.org

(470) 253-8564



October-
November
2024

New/Gently Used Coats & Blankets. Thank you!!

COMMUNITY CONNECTION family connection

Jingle Jog 5K
& FAMILY FUN RUN

AT CITY CENTER

DECEMBER 15TH

BIG BEACH
RUN - WALK - HIKE
CUMMING & DAWSONVILLE

COMMUNITY CONNECTION family connection

FORSYTH COUNTY COMMUNITY CONNECTION family connection

More than a Jingle Jog!
Help support children in care and their foster, adoptive, kinship and bio families! Help improve our county's child & family wellbeing! Support our NEW resource center for youth facing homelessness!



Forsyth County Community Connection
Director: Sarah Pedarre'
404-985-7796
sarah@forsythconnection.org
tax id: 58-2099754
CummingJingleJog.info

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

Sponsorship Opportunities



Stocking Stuffer \$250
*table at event
*name on shirt
*1 runner (w/t-shirt)
*Listed on race site

Mistletoe \$500
*Table at event & bag stuffer
*logo on shirt/banner
*2 runners (w/t-shirt)
*Yard sign on course
* listed on race site



Reindeer \$1000
*Table at event & bag stuffer
*logo on shirt/banner
*4 runners (w/t-shirt)
*Yard sign on course
*announced at event
*logo on website and FB post

Santa's Sleigh \$2500
*Table at event & bag stuffer
*logo on shirt & banner
*Yard sign on course & by water
*announced during event
*link on website and FB post
*6 runners (w/t-shirt)
*thank-you plaque



Star OR Bow on top! \$3000-only 1 each!!
Santa's Sleigh PLUS star gets logo on sleeve and bow gets logo on finishing medal ribbon! (commit by 11/4)

Name of Organization: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Contact email: _____
 Contact phone: _____
 Sponsor Level: _____
 T-shirt Sizes: ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL

[Send check or pay via Paypal.me/FCFC or Venmo](#)



FORSYTH COUNTY COMMUNITY CONNECTION family connection

Free Thrifting Extravaganza!

FCHS GRAND CENTRAL PRESENTS 4TH ANNUAL THRIFTING EXTRAVAGANZA

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING: COATS, HOODIES, JACKETS OF ALL SIZES AND WINTER ACCESSORIES

& BOTTLED WATER FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON

DONATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH DECEMBER 5TH AT THE FCHS FRONT OFFICE

LAST YEAR, OVER 1300 ITEMS WERE DONATED

CARTA

CHRISTIAN ALCOHOLICS RECOVERING TOGETHER ANONYMOUSLY

Christian-based 12 Step Recovery Meetings

AboutFace-USA
THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS
Presents

21+


Stand-Up for VETERANS

Tickets: \$40
Veterans: \$25

Headliner:

PEACHTREE CITY

JOIN US → **Live or Zoom**



7 PM
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89543750407>
Meeting ID: 895 4375 0407

CARTA... It's Smart!

We use the *NIV Recovery Devotional Bible Zondervan 2015*



Buy one for \$19 on Amazon or come to a live mtg and we will give you one!

Live!
in Peachtree City

SUNDAYS @ 4:00 PM
@ the "Abandoned Gazebo"
110 Kelly Dr, Peachtree City
back of the parking lot across from PTC Dam *weather permitting*
otherwise we meet at LifeSwitch
DUI School located at
420 Dividend Dr, Peachtree City

For text notification of location email your cell# and name to CARTAsouthside@gmail.com

Veterans: \$25
After Oct. 15: \$50
VIP Tickets: \$100




With Dave Landau

At The American Legion Post 201
201 Wills Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30009

Dave Landau

4 SHOWS
NOV. 29th & 30th
6:30 & 9:30
each night

A Thanksgiving Stand-Up Comedy Show Benefiting Veterans and their Families

Sean Larkins
Def Comedy Jam



Host
Richie Satori



Carlos Rodriguez
Dry Bar Comedy



For info visit AboutFace-USA.org

Community Connection's New Brochure is Here!

Serving Youth 18-24 Years of Age Facing Homelessness

- Literal Homelessness**
Living in an emergency shelter, hotel or motel paid by the government OR an institution (jail, hospital) that the youth is exiting and where the youth was a resident for 90 days or less. (place not meant for human habitation)
- Imminent Risk of Homelessness**
In own housing but being evicted within 14 days, living with family and friends and can not stay longer than 14 days, living with family and friends but asked to leave within 14 days
- Fleeing Violence**
Youth fleeing or attempting to flee their housing due to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or other anger or life threatening conditions that have taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house including: trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, active drug use in youth's current home



Mission

Our mission is to help every individual succeed in life. We pursue that goal by addressing the root causes of problems, building on cultural and other strengths, pooling resources, engaging an extraordinary diversity of community members, and committing to a long-term process of planning, implementation, and evaluation. Using a family-centered approach, schools, health and human service agencies, business, the faith community, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, civic clubs, and others work together with families, focusing on academics, physical and mental health, nurturing parenting, economic success, and community services. We tap existing resources, streamline systems to be more efficient and effective, and initiate new projects.

Supportive Services Provided:

- Referral for transitional housing and emergency shelter, and food
- Case Management including referrals for counseling, coordinating services, developing an individualized service plan
- Child Care Assistance for children under the age of 13
- GED and Consumer Education training
- Employment Assistance, Costs of Job Training Programs, Life Skills training
- Payment assistance for Mental Health Care

Reach out!



SCAN TO REFER

HOUSING RESOURCES & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AT OUR NEW DROP-IN CENTER!

WE ARE A COORDINATED POINT OF ENTRY, MEANING WE HAVE ACCESS TO 152 COUNTIES IN GEORGIA AND THEIR RESOURCES. WE USE THE HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) TO CONNECT YOU WITH RESOURCES AS FAST AS POSSIBLE

Contact Us

+470-795-4986
theDROP@forsythconnection.org
<https://forsyth.gafcp.org>
133 Samaritan Dr
Cumming Georgia 30040

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: By appointment only
- Tuesday: 10 am - 6 pm
- Wednesday: 8 am - 3 pm
- Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
- Friday: By appointment only
- 1st & 3rd Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm

THE D.R.O.P. Resource Center

Dedicated Resources Opening Possibilities



FORSYTH COUNTY
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
family connection



Georgia Council for Recovery
Freedom from Addiction



CARES
CERTIFIED ADDICTION RECOVERY EMPOWERMENT SPECIALIST

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

GC4R is currently accepting applications for CARES 68!

Upon completion of the CARES Academy, peers can:

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

[Click Here for Application*](#)

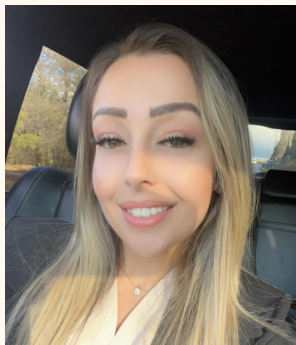
*Application Deadline Friday, November 8th, 2024 @ 4PM [Contact Phone CARES Team Here](#)
Group Interviews will take place on Tuesday, November 26th, 2024.
Academy Dates January 6th - 10th, 2025

*****This will be an in-person training*****

News for You

Local News

Welcome FCDAC's New Project Coordinator



Alycea Vega

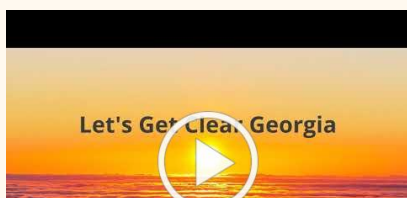
I'm **Alycea Vega** from Forsyth County, GA. I am excited to be FCDAC's **Project Coordinator**. I moved to Georgia nine years ago from North Carolina to get sober. My family is in North Carolina, and I visit them a few times a year. There is such an amazing recovery community here in Georgia; it feels like family. I honestly don't see myself ever leaving Georgia.

I have been in recovery for seven and a half years and have worked as a substance abuse counselor for a few years. I worked at the Insight Program and now work in a different field. I am active in the AA community and my recovery. I am excited to join the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council and help the community. Rachel helped me with past events, which sparked my interest in the Council. You all do such important work, and I look forward to working with Rachel and meeting everyone on the Council.

Welcome, Alycea!

State News

Opt-Out Toolkit: Find out how to keep a dispensary or a marijuana greenhouse out of your town!



Want to keep a marijuana greenhouse or medical marijuana shop out of your hometown? Watch **Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy Opt Out Webinar** with Dana Stevens, Director of Local Affairs, Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM), and Dr. George B. Baker, Executive Director of SAM. Policy



Gregg Raduka, Former Executive Director of GA MJ Policy.

Just because it is now legal in Georgia to cultivate marijuana and manufacture and sell "medical" 5% THC Oil

products does not necessarily mean these have to operate in and be located in your hometown, city, or county.

Opting out is still necessary even though your city or county may not have opted in.

[Click Here to Read the OPT-OUT Toolkit](#)

National News



Liam Payne Autopsy Finds a Mixture of Drugs

Singer of **One Direction**, **Liam Payne**, fell to his death from the third-floor balcony of a hotel room in Argentina in October. The autopsy shows multiple drugs in his system, including cocaine, benzodiazepine, crack, and a mixture of drugs known as "**pink cocaine**." While Pink Cocaine contains no cocaine, it does include a mix of powdered drugs like ecstasy, ketamine, caffeine, and a psychedelic drug known as 2-CB. A color dye and strawberry flavoring account for the pink color of the powder. The cocktail of drugs typically produces mind-altering, hallucinogenic effects.

[Click Here for the DEA Pink Cocaine Fact Sheet](#)

Frontline expert sees 'parallels' between medicinal marijuana and opioid epidemic

James H. Berry, DO, associate professor and chair of the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry at West Virginia University School of Medicine's Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, said, "Sadly, I see a number of the same parallels that are occurring today with claims that are being made regarding cannabis and the access centered around cannabis is very similar to what I saw unfold around the pain pill epidemic."

"Much of the discussion of the potential benefits regarding the medicinal use of cannabis is being driven by commercial entities while neglecting to acknowledge the risks associated with chronic use of the drug," Berry told **Healio** reporter **Drew Amorosi**. "The potential risks, especially among younger users, include increases in suicides, major depression, and psychosis," he noted.

[Read or Watch this Report Here](#)

Lawmakers urge overhaul of duty-free customs program that ships fentanyl chemicals to traffickers

After a **Reuters** news report, lawmakers called on the Biden administration to crack down on a popular duty-free customs program that drug traffickers use to streamline entry of Chinese-made fentanyl

chemicals into the US. The duty-free program, known as de minimis exemption, allows merchandise valued under \$800 to come into the U.S. with minimal paperwork and inspections.

[Read the Reuter's article by Laura Gottesdiener Here.](#)

FYI

Cigarette smoking kills nearly 500,000 Americans Yearly

According to the NIH, "Cigarette smoking kills nearly 500,000 Americans each year, and over 28 million adults currently smoke in the United States. Though most adults who smoke report that they want to quit, only 31% of those interested in quitting receive counseling and/or medications, and less than 8% effectively quit each year." In an October 15, 2024 News Release, leaders at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) call for innovation in developing smoking cessation treatments.

Read the entire News Release [HERE](#).

[Get Tips from Great American Smokeout 2024 Here.](#)

The Campaign starts on November 21

Scholastic Magazine, Choices Educates on Dangers of THC



Johnny Stack's story, for whom Johnny's Ambassadors gets its name, appeared to 25 MILLION students in the October 2024 SCHOLASTIC Magazine called CHOICES that goes to middle and high school students across the U.S. Johnny's story is educating and impacting students and saving lives!

The article entitled "The Truth About THC and Mental Health" featured the story about Johnny Stack's addiction to THC and his eventual psychosis, leading to his death after jumping from the top of a building.

[Click Here](#) to read the story on Scholastic.

Talk They Hear You



Talk They Hear You ® campaign's new "What Parents Are Saying—Prevention Wisdom, Authenticity, and Empowerment" podcast. This podcast provides a platform where parents and caregivers can get informed, be prepared, and take action by having open and honest conversations with their kids about substance use and mental health. Join us for the third and final episode of brain-based parenting with Dr. Crystal Collier, psychotherapist and author of The NeuroWhereAbouts Guide. The first two episodes covered how a brain is formed and how to protect

it. In episode three, we discuss many tips, and techniques to help parents in these efforts.

On the Calendar



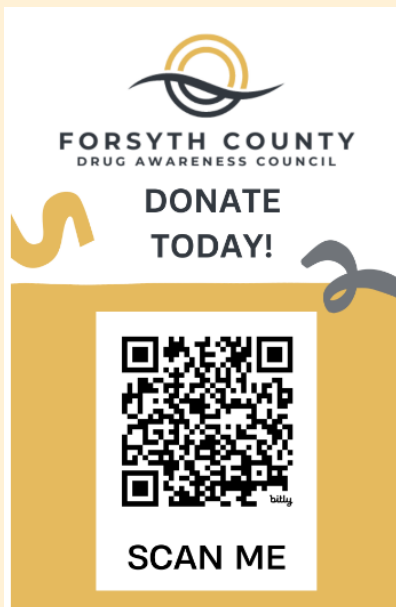
November

- Fall Back 1 hour, Sunday

November 3

- Great American Smokeout, November 21, 2024
- Thanksgiving November 28, 2024

GIVING TUESDAY



December



- GivingTuesday, Tuesday, December 3
- FCDAC Council Meeting, December 4, 8 a.m. United Way.
- Jingle Jog 5K, December 15 City Center
- Christmas December 25

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

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