



Merry Christmas, May your
Holiday be blessed!!

The FCDAC STRATEGIZER

Leading the way to a healthier
Forsyth County

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December 2021 Volume 1 Issue 8



Major General Barrye L. Price, Part 2



Last month, **Major General Barrye L. Price, President, and CEO of CADCA**, addressed FDCAC Council Meeting on November 3. He covered many important topics, his concerns, and where he is leading CADCA. Our meeting was well represented by not only our Council members but many other state Drug-free Communities and many of our Partners in Prevention. In **this part two** of Major General Price's remarks, he will field questions and give his comments.



**Rx Drug Abuse
& Heroin Summit**
April 18-21 | Atlanta

**Overdoses are rising. Learn best
strategies for addressing this crisis.**

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Interested in attending this NATIONAL event hosted in Atlanta?

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Major General Price continued last month's address by speaking about his conversation with DEA Administrator Ann Millgram. They discussed ways of



confronting the problem of counterfeit pills being manufactured with presses to resemble prescription medication. These pills laced with fentanyl are killers. The DEA is increasing public awareness through the [One Pill Kills](#) (click for information) campaign. "We discussed ways to prevent these drug traffickers from selling these counterfeit pills through social media sites like Snap Chat and Facebook. This campaign will increase the public's awareness of these fake drugs and encourage purchasing medications only through reputable pharmacies. CADCA is working with the CDC on a practical theorist on fentanyl.



As a follow-up question to Major General Price, **Drew Hayes, Principal of the Academies of Creative Education for Forsyth County Schools**, asked what might be the first thing Major General Price asks the Drug Czar, Rahul Gupta, to do? In response, he said, "I will call on him to set up a task force/ commission with leaders in government, public and private sectors collaborating to look holistically at the overdose challenge." "We have been looking at the opioid crisis, but it is a bigger problem. It is Mental Health and Adverse Childhood Experience crisis. I am asking the Drug Czar to step into a leadership role as a **UNIFIER**. Washington and the agencies charged with working to solve this crisis are fractured, and they don't communicate with each other. "The fact is we lost 93,000 to alcohol abuse, and 450,000 to tobacco use last year. I will ask the Drug Czar to look at death holistically and be that agent who courageously unifies all our organizations and federal agencies efforts," he said.

Dan Francis, Cumming Home Ministries, asked what we at the local level can do to assist CADCA as you try to facilitate and inspire collaboration among agencies to work together. Does CADCA have ways to help, like making phone calls or letter-writing campaigns with talking points that we can use to assist your organization? Major General Price said, "CADCA does have an arm that can reach out to our membership with those types of campaigns, so if you hold CADCA membership, we can contact you, initiate a campaign to legislators who serve on committees. We know that the coalitions we train experience population-level changes within about six months of that training," he said. The methods work to make a change. We want coalitions to keep government leaders accountable and make those in office aware of your existence. Media also needs to be a part of the coalition. "For the first time at **Forum in January 31-February 3, 2022 Meeting**, we will recognize a media figure that will be our 'Newsmaker of the Year,' **Craig Melvin** of the *Today Show*. He wrote a book about his experience with his father's alcoholism and how that affected him. ACES comes out in adulthood, and these deficits experienced in childhood must be dealt with," Major General Price said.

A banner with a blue background. On the left, there is a circular graphic with a yellow background containing a tree and two acorns. The text on the right is white and yellow.

Every Day
★ CADCA Trains:
PREVENTION TODAY FOR
A SAFER TOMORROW

32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
F O R U M
& SAMHSA'S 18TH PREVENTION DAY

January 31 – February 3, 2022
Gaylord National | National Harbor, MD

[Contact Mitch Durdle HERE](#)

Cindy Jones Mills, Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, and founder of FCDAC said she sees a need for housing assistance for those coming out of drug court or the **RSAT** (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment) program. "Unfortunately, the stigma attached to addiction is still very present in the communities," she said. Major General Price said, "As an ordained deacon since age 18, I believe the best way to overcome stigma in a community is to engage the help of clergy." We need clergy to participate in our coalitions. The church can put real faces on people in recovery. We need to see that recovery is possible, and we need to see and hear from those who live in recovery. Once addiction is recognized as a

disease, not a moral failing, and there is recovery from the illness of Substance Abuse Disorder, we can make a change. We know recovery is possible, change is possible, and we can work to increase knowledge and awareness to make community population-level changes in how we view this.

Dan Francis said, "I am a face of recovery." He pointed to the statistic: 80 percent of people with Substance Abuse Disorder have a relapse. "BUT we must see it as an opportunity for victory, not failure," he said. Dan said in his experience, "A relapse is a defining moment in recovery because it brings about the greatest suffering. That intense suffering is often the greatest motivator of change because it convicts the person that sobriety is where their true freedom is. At **Cumming Home Ministries**, we find professional help because Substance Abuse Disorder is a complex disease and can involve both mental health issues as well biological problems," he said. Dan concluded by saying, "There is hope, and we DO RECOVER. People can stand up out of the darkness of addiction and go on to lead highly productive lives."

Jenn Kramer, Atlanta Carolina HIDTA (High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), said they work to develop partnerships between federal, state, and local drug control agencies in the designated regions. She remarked, "I greatly appreciate and applaud the call by Major General Price for inter-agency collaboration and unity. I believe this is such a huge step forward! HIDTA has prevention and digital outreach program called GPS for Success.

THANK YOU MAJOR GENERAL PRICE!

DECEMBER 1 COUNCIL MEETING

Interim Director Mitch's Update



Mitch Durdel, the new Interim Director and Commissioner Cindy Jones Mills and founder of FCDAC facilitated the December 1 monthly meeting.

- Our monthly meeting is formatted for 1-hour, in-person round table discussion gatherings. Future meetings will not always be at the United Way building. We are going on the road! The aim is to acquaint ourselves better with who our members are and what our members and their organizations do. **We will be meeting next month at FullCircle.**

- **COUNCIL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE: FORSYTH FIGHTS BACK!** Detera Drug Deactivation System pouches will be made available to civic groups and businesses throughout the county. All Council members and our partners are invited to seek out locations willing to make the Drug Deactivation Systems available to the public. It has been reported over **100,000 deaths** (See National News below) have occurred from opioid OD last year. Let's fight back!

- We will increase public recognition of FCDAC and our educational, and community efforts by becoming more visible in the community through the Forsyth Fights Back initiative, by setting up booths at local road races and other Community Events. Sarah Pedarre is working on this for a future race. Susan Tanner will contact all race directors in the area and pursue this idea.
- **Track-It Forward** is our council's way of tracking all volunteer hours. Council members and partners' attendance at our monthly meetings count as well as anytime you participate in the action plans of the council. For compliance with our Grant, we must show the volunteer hours on the Track-it Forward log. Please contact Mitch if you need help setting up your Track-it Forward account and start consistently using it.

- **RX DRUG AND HEROIN SUMMIT APRIL 18-21 ATLANTA** With drug overdoses at an all-

RX DRUG AND OVERDOSE DEATHS ARE AT AN ALL TIME HIGH, we must come together as a community to develop lasting and impactful solutions. The Rx Summit's agenda has just been announced, featuring 90 breakout sessions across 9 focused tracks.

The Agenda by Track:

- Advocacy
- Clinical
- Illicit Drugs
- Prevention - Overdose
- Prevention - Primary
- Public Safety
- Technology
- Treatment & Recovery
- Trending Topics

Your participation in the Summit is needed now more than ever.

Contact Mitch Here

- Please send Committee and Partner updates, news, program highlights, and events, or any research or articles of interest for the *STRATEGIZER* e-newsletter to our Communication Manager, Janice Neyer. The deadline for Newsletter is the Monday following each Council Meeting.
- JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING GOES ON THE ROAD! FCDAC COUNCIL MEETING IS ON JANUARY 19 4:30 PM AT FULLCIRCLE.

Council Committee Member and Partners in Prevention Updates

COUNCIL SPONSORED INITIATIVE: FORSYTH FIGHTS BACK!



With over 100,000 deaths in America due to opioids in the last 12 months, the Council strongly agreed on a new initiative called, **Forsyth Fights Back.**

Over the next several weeks, we will make Deterra Drug Deactivation Systems available to businesses around the county. Council members will reach out to businesses and supply them with a kit to display the drug deactivation pouches. We hope to get

unused/expired prescriptions, especially opioids, safely out of medicine cabinets and closets in our community. By working together, we can come one step closer to being a community that is part of the solution to the opioid crisis.

Wellness for Forsyth Families in Recovery

The first **Wellness for Families in Recovery 2-day workshop** was held November 6-7, 2021. The event was sponsored by **The Connection Forsyth, RCFF** (The Recovery Community Foundation of Forsyth), **Corner Farms, Southern Live Oak Wellness, and Special Equestrians of Georgia**. The pilot forum focused on how the abuse of substances impacts the families' dynamics. This initiative opened doors to improved communication within families through creative mindfulness and equine therapy for parents and children.

Thirty-five participants took part in this weekend event. Over the two days, they made connections with one another, learned about the impact of substance misuse on family communication dynamics. Attendees included families from FullCircle, Parent Recovery Network and SMART Recovery for Families and Friends. Additionally, the presentation was followed by a discussion on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to educate parents on the impact of traumatic events during childhood. An enlightening session on communication and temperaments provided help to families' understanding of the natural temperaments and fostered better communication.

Speakers included Jeff Mogan of Corner Farms, Annemarie Rich of Southern Live Oak Wellness, Catherine Rosborough, M.Ed., Founder and Director, RCFF-The Connection. Additionally, LouAnn Altshuler, LPC, Forsyth Drug Awareness Council, Edvique Shaver, SHIFT Happens, Kimberly Scales, M.Ed., Investing Lives of the Next Generation, Kim Michell, LMSW, Pathways2Life, Stacey Edwards, PATH International, Equine Therapy, and Mike Cowan, FullCircle.



Over 35 participant too advantage of this first Wellness For Families in Recovery!





Jeff Morgan, Corner Farms, presenting on the weekend.



by Kayla Bergeron

Marine Corps TOYS FOR TOTS Christmas Toy Drive



DROP OFF UNWRAPPED TOYS AT:

THE CONNECTION FORSYTH
608 VETERANS MEMORIAL BLVD.
CUMMING, GA



THE CONNECTION

Marine Corps Toys For Tots Christmas Toy Drive!

The Connection is hosting a Marine Corps Toys for Tots drop-off site and is seeking **unwrapped, new toys**.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE CHRISTMAS A LITTLE BRIGHTER FOR A CHILD THIS YEAR by dropping off one or more toys at The Connection office in the designated box.

GIFT CARDS CAN BE SENT TO THE OFFICE ADDRESS: 608 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Cumming, GA

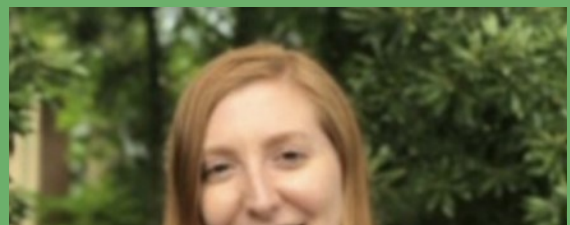
The deadline is December 14, 2021.

Any help you can provide will bring joy to a family in need. Thank you so much!



Michael Cowan is the new Program Director at FullCircle Georgia as of November 1.

FullCircle is centered around the **Enthusiastic Sobriety Philosophy**: the idea that young people will stop their self-destructive behavior only if offered an alternative that is both fun and fulfilling. **FullCircle Program**, a non-profit program, serves families in crisis and



profit program, serves families in crisis and young people struggling with mental health and addiction issues.

Cowan previously was the Head Counselor for **FullCircle Georgia**. In fact, Mike has been a part of **FullCircle** since the beginning of his long-term recovery journey in 2017. After losing everything and facing homelessness, he has turned his life around and devotes his life to helping other young people so that they, too, can embrace their recovery. He is currently finishing his certification as a Certified Addiction Counselor.

Welcome, Mike!



HEAD DRUG COUNSELOR GATEWAY ACADEMY AND FORSYTH ACADEMY

Meet Gabrielle Breiten! Gabby attended her first FCDCA Meeting on November 3. She started working at Gateway and Forsyth Academies on October 15, replacing Mitch Durdle as the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor.

Gabby received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. "I have worked with adolescents in recovery for the past two years, and my background is in a treatment setting. I worked as an outpatient counselor for adolescents at Insight in Peachtree City for a year and a half," she said.

Gabby knows first hand about addiction and the bondage it can be for people, especially young people. A face of recovery, Gabby has been living joyful sobriety for four years.

"I am super excited to continue to work at Gateway and be an active participant in FCDAC!" she said.

Gateway Academy provides an alternative learning environment for students while holding high expectations for both behavior and performance. Gateway Academy offers a blended learning environment, similar to the **Forsyth Academy**, where middle and high school students are engaged with online learning while receiving instruction from classroom teachers. Gateway Academy serves grades 6-12. Gateway is located at 1130 Dahlonega Hwy, Cumming.

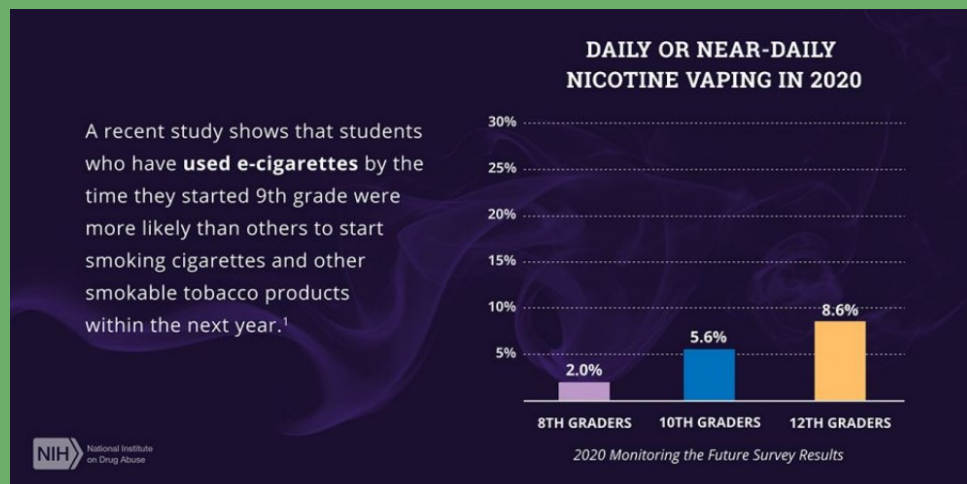
Youth Council Plans Collaborative Community Youth Training Event



Saesha Kapoor, FCDAC Youth Council President, is planning a Collaborative Community Youth Training Event with GA Prevention Project and GA Public Health District 2

FCDAC Youth Council will host a Youth Training event in January 2022. Working with Erica Lopez-Gil from Public Health and Rachel Matton from GA Prevention Project, this 2.5-hour workshop's goal will be youth education on the dangers of e-cigarettes and equipping these students to take the message back to their peers. The youth have been sold lots of misinformation on vaping, and Saesha, leading the Youth Council, wants to change that.

Graciously, Public Health is sponsoring this event and will provide materials, T-shirts, and a catered lunch. Three program segments are being developed: A Youth Forum with questions, answers, and discussion, a presentation by Erica Lopez-Gil, and a Poster Campaign Design Session where youth will put their knowledge to work, creating a poster to take back to their peers. Approximately 40 young people will take part in the training event.



VAPING

Research shows that many teens and young adults don't realize that the flavors they use actually can contain **nicotine, an addictive compound found in tobacco**. Many vapes also contain propylene glycol, glycerin, chemical flavorings, and other compounds with unknown health effects. As a result, people who vape—even just flavoring—may inhale and ingest potentially harmful

chemicals.

We know that cigarette smoking is a leading cause of cancer and other illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cigarettes cause more than 480,000 premature deaths in the United States each year—from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke.

Source: Teens for NIDA, "Start A Conversation: 10 Questions Teens Ask About Drugs and Health"

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



What Teens think about VAPING

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Source: NIDA Teens, "Start A Conversation: 10 Questions Teens Ask About Drugs and Health"

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE](#)

More Children Exposed to Second- and Thirdhand Smoke During Lockdown

Two-thirds of parents smoked at least the same amount if not more during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving children forced to stay at home due to school closures at increased risk of second-and thirdhand smoke exposure, suggests research conducted in London.

Cara Bossley, consultant in pediatric respiratory medicine, King's College Hospital, London, and colleagues interviewed 50 parents or caregivers who had previously attended a smoking cessation program. Around a third of parents smoked as much during the lockdown as before, while another third smoked more, leaving an average of 2.5 children per household exposed to parental smoke. Dr. Bossley said the reasons for increased smoking: anxiety, depression, and uncertainty."

Consequently, the national lockdown "increased children's secondhand and thirdhand smoke exposure in families that smoke."

Previously children would have "spent much more time at school and outside," Dr. Bossley said, while family members "who used to smoke at their workplace were now smoking at home."

Source: Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center, September 29, 2021


Read the entire article [HERE](#).

MEMBERS TEACHING MEMBERS



MATURITY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

by Dana Bryan



There is a strong relationship between maturity and avoiding substance abuse. **Maturity** does not appear just because someone is the age to be considered an adult. There are characteristics of maturity that can be present at almost any age. We show maturity whenever we use self-discipline and choose to do what is best for us. In most situations, we know what is best for us, but having the willpower to do or not do something we know is right isn't as simple as it sounds. Unfortunately, those choices are often not what we **want** to do, which explains why those decisions require the maturity to use self-discipline and understand the concept of delayed gratification.

Many decisions which require **self-discipline** involve how we choose to **prioritize and use our time**. Whenever we have an important test or meeting the next day, we know what we should do (AKA how we should use our time). We know that we will benefit from studying and preparing for our meeting or test, and we know that we will profit most if we do. For people striving to grow in maturity, **making a list of the costs and the benefits** can help make a better choice. It is easier to see it in black and white and see those pleasurable distractions are not lost, just **delayed**. It is not always easy to do what's best for us, but we will always benefit when we do.

If we show the maturity to do what is best for us, our choices will include specific characteristics.

(1) A mature person **will understand and weigh the risks versus benefits** of their behaviors. Mature persons are aware that they are not immune to the consequences of risky behavior. They will NOT try nicotine, alcohol, or an addictive or mind-altering substance to experiment or find out how it will make them feel.

(2) A mature person **will seek healthy outlets and solutions to problems** rather than turning to unhealthy and hazardous substances. They will remember that escapism through drugs, alcohol, and other mind-altering substances will never make a problem disappear.

(3) A mature person **will surround themselves with others who also choose to live in healthy ways** and support them in their decision to live the same. Are people who require substance use or encourage risky behavior to prove friendship acting as friends? A real friend will never promote something that they know might kill you. A mature person chooses their friends wisely and remembers the definition of a true friend.

(4) A mature person **will take positive steps to avoid falling into peer pressure**. Once I thought peer pressure only existed in middle school, high school, and possibly college. After college, I realized that peer pressure had not gone away. There is always pressure to conform to the ideas and behaviors of others in our society. At every stage of life, we can experience peer pressure. When we learn to stand up to a peer for what we believe, it will become easier. Beginning to do this at the youngest age possible reaps the best outcomes.

I wish you the confidence, courage, and maturity to make the choices that will positively affect your future.

DANA BRYAN, CHAIR OF PARENTS SECTOR

Dana 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 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. Dana is a regular contributor to the *Strategizer*. Thanks, Dana!



LOCAL NEWS

Otwell Middle School Medical Lockdown October 29 Eleven students were taken to the hospital after ingesting "gummies"

On Friday, October 29, Otwell Middle School went into a medical lockdown. As reported in *Forsyth County News* by staff reporter Sabrina Kerns, several students had reactions to "gummies" that one student brought to campus from home. According to Forsyth County Schools spokeswoman, Jennifer Caracciolo the gummies "were not candy."

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, Cumming Police Department, and Forsyth County Fire Department all responded to the situation to assist the school. Nine students were initially transported to a local hospital, followed by two other students who also ingested and had a reaction from the gummies. Although students were stable when the first responders arrived, the students went to the hospital as a precautionary measure. According to Forsyth County Schools officials, all 11 Otwell Middle School students were treated and discharged from the hospital in the late afternoon.

By Friday evening, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office officials said the gummies taken by students earlier in the day were 5-milligram melatonin gummies, and nothing else was in the students' systems.

The lockdown lasted for approximately an hour. Otwell Principal Steve Miller informed the parents through email of the lockdown situation.

"We greatly appreciate the quick response from our first responders to keep our students and staff safe," Caracciolo said.



Photo by Jim Dean

STATE NEWS

ATLANTA DRUG TRAFFICKING HUB OF THE SOUTHEAST

The Southeast United States, Atlanta being its capital, remains one of the largest transportation hubs of the US. While the interstates system, railways, waterways, and busiest

international airport in the United States (Hartsfield Jackson Intl. Airport) make for the economic success of the region, these are the same reasons for the success of the illegal drug infiltration. According to a December 16, 2019 High Intensity Drug Traffic Area Threat Accessment, fully 25% of the population of the United States reside within an eight-hour drive and 80% within a two-hour flight of Atlanta, Georgia. These reasons also make the region a primary distribution



point for Transnational Criminal and Drug Trafficking

Organizations (DTOs). DTOs must move large quantities of illegal drugs from origin locations in Mexico, Central and South America to the major east coast population centers in the United States. Many DTOs are sophisticated organizations that maintain strict controls over the manufacturing, transportation, and distribution of their products. DTOs are ever-evolving entities – adapting to a modern poly-drug, profit-based crime and money laundering business model.

Violence is part of the DTO culture, both domestically and abroad. Mexican DTOs and their sub-groups operate in the AC-HIDTA AOR. The most prominent include: Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG), Sinaloa Cartel, Juarez Cartel, Gulf Cartel, Cartel Del Noreste (CDN), La Familia Michoacana, Knights Templars, Guerreros Unidos and Los Zetas.

The most significant drug threat in the AC-HIDTA AOR remains methamphetamine produced in Mexico.

The opioid family of drugs (heroin, prescription pain medicines and synthetic fentanyl) is at epidemic proportions across the nation. Overdose deaths in the AC-HIDTA AOR continue to increase. DTOs continue to smuggle fentanyl in greater quantities and suppliers are mixing it with other drugs to increase potency and creating fake look-alike products substituting fentanyl for other active ingredients. Marijuana and fentanyl drug seizures remain consistent with the previous year's rates. Methamphetamine and heroin availability increased.

The Atlanta region continues to be inundated with illegal drugs that are primarily originating outside of the United States. **Poly-drug DTOs based in Mexico continue to dominate the illegal drug trade in the United States.** These DTOs use every method available to smuggle their illegal drugs into the AC-HIDTA AOR. This can include the human body carry, vehicles, airplanes, railroads, commercial transport and waterborne cargo shipping.

However, the **preferred method of smuggling continues to be using the vast network of interstate highway systems** that pass through the AC-HIDTA AOR. As with any legal distribution network, the illegal network brings **bulk loads into a central depository, where the loads are broken down into smaller loads that are then redistributed across the region.**

AC-HIDTA Mission Statement: Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA Program is to achieve measurable success in improving public safety and well-being by disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking and money laundering organizations through intelligence-driven multi-jurisdictional operations; to enhance the safety and effectiveness of law enforcement operations through training; and to improve communication and information sharing among criminal justice, drug prevention, and drug treatment professionals in support of the objectives of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

NATIONAL NEWS

Mexican National Extradited from Brazil to Face International Cocaine Trafficking Charge

WASHINGTON – A Mexican national was extradited from Brazil to the United States on Nov. 10 to face international drug trafficking charges. **Jose Gonzalez-Valencia**, aka Jafett Arias-Becerra, aka La Chepa, aka Camaron, and aka Santy, 46, arrived in the United States on Wednesday and made his initial court appearance yesterday in Washington, D.C. Superior Court. He is detained pending his appearance on Friday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robin M. Meriweather in D.C. District Court.

According to court documents, beginning in as early as 2006, Gonzalez-Valencia conspired with others to import more than five kilograms of cocaine into the United States from a foreign country. **According to court documents, Gonzalez-Valencia is alleged to be a high-ranking leader of the Los Cuinis drug-trafficking organization (DTO), which is based in Jalisco State in Mexico. Los Cuinis is closely aligned with the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG). Together, Los Cuinis and CJNG form one of the largest, most dangerous, and prolific drug cartels in Mexico. They have been and continue to be responsible for trafficking ton quantities of illegal drugs into the United States and employing extreme violence to further that objective.**

"Today's extradition of Jose Gonzalez-Valencia showcases the commitment of Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) agents and prosecutors to bring alleged international drug traffickers to justice," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. "Gonzalez-Valencia will face a jury in the United States after allegedly trafficking cocaine for more than a decade."

"The United States will continue to work with global partners to pursue those who seek to import illegal drugs into our country," said Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite Jr. of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "U.S. law enforcement can, and will, target individuals who are responsible for funneling large quantities of illegal and dangerous drugs into our communities here at home."

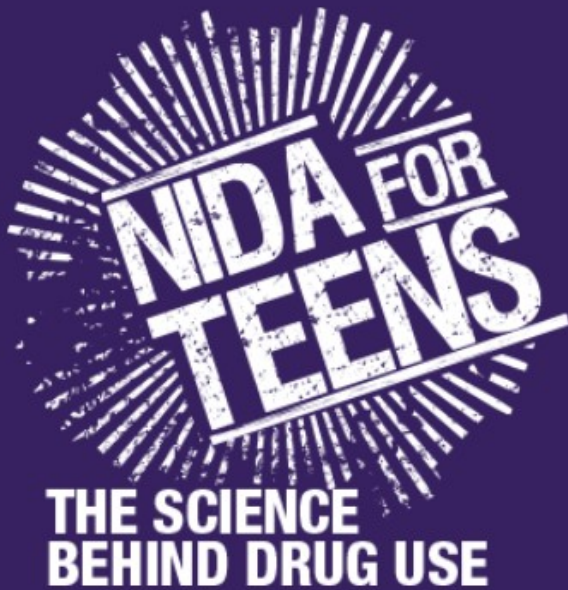
In December 2017, Gonzalez-Valencia was arrested by Brazilian police in Fortaleza, Brazil, at the request of the United States, where he remained detained pending his extradition. Gonzalez-Valencia is charged with conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, knowing and intending that it will be unlawfully imported to the United States. If convicted, Gonzalez-Valencia faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison and a statutory maximum sentence of life imprisonment. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. This case is part of "Operation Stir the Pot," which was supported by the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). The DEA's Los Angeles Field Division is investigating with the assistance of DEA Brasilia.

Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
Fri 11/12/2021 11:27 AM
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: DEA Public Affairs

100,000 for the first time



FYI



NIDA for Teens

The trusted source for science-based information on teen drug use and its effects.

WHO IS NIDA?

NIDA, National Institute on Drug Abuse is a federal agency supporting scientific research on drug use and its consequences.

The mission of NIDA is to advance science on the **causes and consequences of drug use and addiction** and to apply that knowledge to improve individual and public health.

Test your knowledge about drugs and drug use by taking the interactive 2021 National Drug & Alcohol IQ Challenge quiz!

[GET STARTED](#)

There are 10 questions and 3 Brainiac questions. The quiz will take approximately 10 minutes.

Good luck!

Note: If you do not complete the quiz, you will need to start from the beginning.

What is Substance Abuse Disorder ?

- Repeated drug use can lead to changes in the brain
- The brain change makes it hard to stop using drugs, **even when people want to stop.**
- When this happens, the person is experiencing a medical problem known as **substance use disorder.**

All addictive drugs cause the brain to release the chemical dopamine. Dopamine is usually released after pleasurable and satisfying activities. Dopamine causes the brain to remember rewards, like food and sex, reinforcing the desire to seek them again. Repeatedly using a drug floods the brain with more dopamine, changing the way the brain responds to that drug.

A greater quantity of drugs is needed to produce the same pleasurable effect with repeated use. When the drug is not available, people may experience the negative symptoms of withdrawal, including stress, anxiety, depression, and sometimes physical symptoms such as sweating, vomiting, and pain. Repeated cycles of drug use and withdrawal can disrupt brain function to the extent that people may have difficulty experiencing pleasure in their daily lives. At this point, many people continue drug use to avoid the lows caused by withdrawal rather than seek the highs they once experienced.

Fortunately, treatment can help people with a substance use disorder counteract these disruptive effects and lead healthier lives. The sooner a person receives treatment, the better the chance of recovering.

WORK WITH TEENS? CHECK INTO THESE RESOURCES AND CREATE A WEEK YOUR TEENS WON'T FORGET!



Linking Teens to Facts that SHATTER THE MYTHS® about drugs and drug use.

National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week® will be held
March 21-27, 2022.

Registration opens November 1, 2021.

Share facts about drugs, alcohol, and addiction in your community.

- Step 1: Learn about NDAFW
- Step 2: Plan Your NDAFW Event
- Step 3: Register Your Event
- Step 4: Add Your Science
- Step 5: Promote Your Event
- Step 6: Hold Your Event

[Get Activity Ideas Here](#)

ON THE CALENDAR

DECEMBER

JANUARY 2022

FUTURE DATES

DECEMBER

- National Safe Toys and Gifts Month
- National Handwashing Awareness Week, December 5-11
- St. Nicholas Day, December 6
- National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance, December 7 [Read Day of Infamy Address Here](#)
- U.S. National Guard Birthday, December 13
- National Cocoa Day, December 13
- Birth of Jesus Christ, December 25



JANUARY 2022

- FCDAC MEETING
January 5 2022 8 am
- National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, January 11
- National Blood Donor Month
- Bath Safety Month
National Bubble Bath Day, January 8
- National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, January 9
- Make Your Dream Come True Day, January 13
Dreams are the wings upon which we all soar through life!
- Martin Luther King Birthday January 15
- Celebration of Life Day, January 22
- CADCA National Leadership Forum
January 31-February 3
Baltimore, MD



FUTURE DATES

- National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week
March 21-27
- Rx Drug and Heroin Summit April 18-21
Atlanta, GA

