

Webb County Community Coalition Drug Prevention Bulletin

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Coalition Update

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October 2016-March 2017 Activities



National Prescription Drug Take-Back Pill Initiative



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The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative, led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in conjunction with the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN, took place on Saturday, October 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There were various locations in Laredo, Texas where medication could be dropped off for proper disposal.

This was the 6th year that the WCCC has been able to help the DEA with the collection of unwanted and expired prescription drugs as well as over-the-counter medication for proper disposal to avoid drug abuse in our community. During this event, about 1,000 lbs. of unwanted/expired medication was collected for proper disposal!

If you would like to learn how to dispose of your unwanted/expired medication properly, please visit the following link <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/ppcp/upload/ppcpflyer.pdf> or call the WCCC at (956) 724-3177 for more information.

Prescription Medication Drop Box

WCCC and Sheriff Martin Cuellar of the Webb County Sheriff's Office encourage the residents of Webb County to dispose of unwanted and unused medication to reduce prescription drug abuse in our community. The medication drop box is located at the WCSO at 902 Victoria St. For additional information, please call 956-523-4500.



Coalition Member Spotlight



Blanca Treviño-Castro has been a WCCC Member for more than three years.

Blanca Treviño-Castro is a 17-year employee of the Texas Department of Transportation. She serves as traffic safety specialist for the eight-county Laredo District and is responsible for overseeing the Traffic Safety Program within her district. She administers state and federal transportation-funded programs locally, and oversees project grants and traffic safety campaigns to include Don't Drink and Drive, Talk. Text. Crash., Click It or Ticket, Be Safe. Drive Smart., Look Twice for Motorcycles and others. She is no stranger to media interviews on the topics of which she conducts many.

Her aim is to fulfill the goal of the Texas Traffic Safety Program, which is to identify traffic safety problem areas and implement programs to reduce the number and severity of motor vehicle related crashes, injuries and fatalities in Texas. She works tirelessly to collaborate and network with community partners to bring traffic safety to the forefront within the Laredo District and within her sphere of influence.

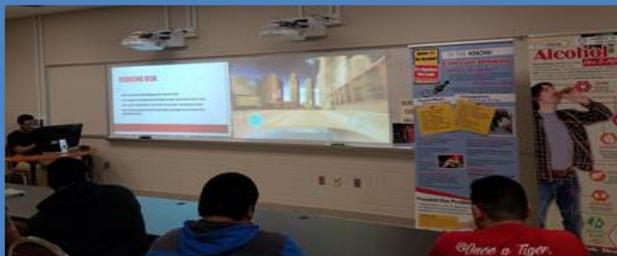
Blanca's enthusiasm to make a difference in people's lives is contagious as is her vision, determination, and motivation to save lives. Her traffic safety mantra is "losing one life is one too many," and "At every car seat and seat belt safety event, we make sure children and parents leave safer than they arrived." She leads TxDOT's Child Passenger Safety/Parent Education PILOT Program named "What Happens After Click It or Ticket."

She is a proud member of the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN serving as chairperson this year. On behalf of the WCCC, we would like to thank Blanca for her commitment and dedication to the community and to SCAN.

Creating Awareness on Alcohol and Prescription Drug Abuse

We have been very actively working in trying to keep our community informed about the dangers of underage drinking, prescription drug abuse, and marijuana use in youth through media campaigns, and drug prevention presentations to youth and adults in Webb County. Our local Sheriff Martin Cuellar has been helping us promote the medication drop box located at his office at 902 Victoria St. to help reduce prescription drug abuse in our county.

We were recently able to get a donation of some impairment goggles from the South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The goggles simulate a BAC level of .08-.15 and are used to help educate students about the dangers of drunk driving. The desktop simulator was borrowed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to teach youth and young adults about the dangers of drunk driving as well. Presentations were conducted throughout the fiscal year, with a special focus before Christmas and Spring Break.



Smoking Alcohol



'Smoking' alcohol is a highly dangerous trend among the calorie-conscious

In an effort to lose weight, Broderic Allen stopped drinking. The North Texas man lost 80 pounds - but was unwilling to give up his buzz entirely.

Instead, Allen turned to a disturbing technique: inhaling alcohol, which he says provides all of the flavor and intoxication of chugging a mixed drink with none of the sugars and calories.

Allen, who achieves his high by pouring liquor over dry ice and "smoking" the vapors, called the tactic a way to "have my cake and eat it, too."

"I am inhaling it. It just looks like I'm drinking it," Allen told Fox's KCTV-5 as he downed his concoction. "If you do it too much at one time it kind of overwhelms you."

Allen isn't the only one inhaling his drink. A smattering of YouTube videos depicts the trend mostly among young men, some of whom boast about the extreme nature of the high.

In January, Chicago bar Red Kiva hosted a "freebasing alcohol" event featuring a device called the Vaportini, which retails for \$30 plus shipping. Users heat a small amount of alcohol in a glass ball over a tea light, then suck the resulting vapors through a straw.

Inhaling alcohol is an insidious trend, particularly among college students who may be looking for more extreme ways to get high, said Dr. Harris Stratyner, regional clinical vice president of Caron Treatment Centers in New York. He has also seen it gain popularity among college-age men and women who may restrict calories before a night of partying - what's popularly known as "drunkorexia."

Whether it's "smoked" using dry ice or inhaled as a vapor, consuming alcohol in this way is "unbelievably dangerous," Stratyner said.

"When you inhale alcohol, it goes directly into the lungs and circumnavigates the liver," he told the Daily News. "The liver is what metabolizes alcohol, but when you inhale it, it goes directly from the lungs to the brain."

The lungs and mucous membranes are extremely sensitive to alcohol, Stratyner said, and inhaling alcoholic vapor may dry out the nasal passages and mouth, leaving users more vulnerable to infection.

Additionally, inhaling alcohol can lead to deadly alcohol poisoning more readily than sipping your drink.

"One of the things that prevents alcohol poisoning is that you usually vomit," Stratyner said. "When you circumvent the stomach and go straight to the lungs, you don't have that ability."

Stratyner first saw the trend pop up in 2004 and said it has escalated in the past year and a half.

"This is a stupid, highly dangerous thing to do," he said. "The fact that youngsters in particular can purchase the equipment for a relatively cheap price...this has to be made illegal."

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/smoking-alcohol-highly-dangerous-new-trend-experts-article-1.1357657>

**Webb County Community Youth Coalition
Annual Toy Drive**



The Webb County Community Youth Coalition of SCAN, Inc. held its Annual Christmas Toy Drive during the month of December 2016. The toys collected were for children 1-18 years of age. All gifts were distributed to children in need from various SCAN programs and youth in the Laredo area. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. David L. Gibson from Gibson Chiropractic, FedEx, and all the WCCC Members for their generous donations of toys.



Our Passion is Helping People

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Working Together for a
Drug-Free Community!

We are on the Web!
www.scan-inc.org
Find us on Facebook, Instagram
& Twitter at WCCC-Drug-Free

Upcoming Events

- In the months of March through August 2017, the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN will be working to accomplish different Social/Environmental Strategies to help reduce underage drinking, marijuana use, and prescription drug abuse among minors.
- The next Webb County Community Coalition meetings will take place on Tuesday, April 4th and May 2nd inside the meeting hall at San Martin De Porres Catholic Church located at 1704 Sandman St. from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend.

Ordinance Violations



**PLEASE REPORT ANY NO SMOKING
ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS!
REMEMBER NO SMOKING IS
ALLOWED IN PUBLIC PLACES.
Call the City of Laredo Health
Department
956-795-4935 (phone)
956-344-1571 (pager)**

***Keep all Public Places in Laredo
Smoke-Free!***