

Webb County Community Coalition Drug Prevention Bulletin

Veronica Jimenez, Program Director

Coalition Update

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September-December 2014 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, September 27, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There were 4 locations in Laredo, Texas where medication could be dropped off for proper disposal. DEA Agents were at the Laredo Fire Department Administration Center, UISD Police Department, M.S. Ryan Elementary School, and Cigarroa High School.

This is the 4th year that the WCCC has been able to help the DEA with the recovery of unused or expired prescription as well as over-the-counter medication for proper disposal to avoid drug abuse in our community. During this event, 1,521 lbs. of unused/expired medication was collected for proper disposal! This was the last DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Pill Initiative scheduled due to federal budget cuts. If you would like to learn how to dispose of your unused/expired medication properly, please visit

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/ppcp/upload/ppcpflyer.pdf> or call the WCCC at (956) 724-3177 for more information.



Coalition Member Spotlight



Pastor Paul Frey has been a WCCC Member for more than three years.

Pastor Paul Frey has been a dedicated member of the Webb County Community Coalition (WCCC) for over 4 years. He has been Rector of Christ Church Episcopal in Laredo, Texas since October of 2004. Pastor Frey has been married to Anne Rooney for 34 years and has two adult children.

Pastor Frey serves as president of the board of the Casa Misericordia Domestic Violence Shelter, is a member of the Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club, and a member of the LISD School Health Advisory Committee.

Pastor Frey is committed to drug and alcohol recovery because of his own journey of recovery. His favorite prayer is the serenity prayer: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” He hopes to live his life one day at a time, trusting God with the details. On behalf of the WCCC, we would like to thank Pastor Paul Frey for his commitment and dedication to the community and to SCAN. He has always opened up his door to help us host drug prevention events at his church.

Red Ribbon Parade/Rally



In October 2014, the WCCC celebrated Red Ribbon Month by coordinating the annual Red Ribbon Parade and Rally. This event took place on October 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Laredo Civic Center grounds. For more than seven years, the theme colors used to commemorate this event have been red, white, and black. Red signifies the unwavering commitment to actively take on drug prevention, white represents the hope for peace and a future in which there is no drug-related violence and drug trafficking has ended, and black serves to honor all law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty fighting for a drug free nation.

The master of ceremony was Luis G. “Bird” Rodriguez, and the Guest Speaker was Laredo Police Officer Albert “Tiger” Escobedo from the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Unit. We would like to congratulate Victor M. Oliveros, Jr., for being the recipient of the individual award, and Christ Church Episcopal, for agency/organization award, both recipients of this year’s Enrique “Kiki” Camarena Memorial Award for their dedication toward drug prevention in our community. At this year’s event, the Webb County Community Coalition also recognized by name each Laredo Police Department Officer and Webb County Sheriff’s Deputy that has lost their life while serving in the line of duty. The law enforcement officers recognized were Assistant City Marshal A. A. Johnson, Officer Pedro Ayala, Officer Juan Novoa, Officer Eugenio Luna, Officer Susano Castillo, Officer Pablo Albidrez, Jr., Officer Victor Pablo Serna, Deputy Juan Gilberto Guerrero, Jr., and Deputy Jose Gerardo Herrera. Over 20 organizations participated in this grand event. We would like to thank all the coalition members and participants that helped make this event a great success.



Dangers of Prescription Drug Abuse



Although many teens are turning away from street drugs, now there's a new threat and it's from the family medicine cabinet: The abuse of prescription (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs.

Parents and caregivers are the first line of defense in addressing this troubling trend.

What's the problem?

Teens are abusing some prescription and over-the-counter drugs to get high. This includes painkillers, such as those drugs prescribed after surgery; depressants, such as sleeping pills or anti-anxiety drugs; and stimulants, such as those drugs prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Teens are also abusing over-the-counter drugs, such as cough and cold remedies.

Every day 2,500 youth age 12 to 17 abuse a pain reliever for the very first time. More teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana. In 2008, more than 2.1 million teens ages 12 to 17 reported abusing prescription drugs.¹ Among 12- and 13-year-olds, prescription drugs are the drug of choice.²

Because these drugs are so readily available, and many teens believe they are a safe way to get high, teens that wouldn't otherwise touch illicit drugs might abuse prescription drugs. And not many parents are talking to them about it, even though teens report that parental disapproval is a powerful way to keep them away from drugs.

What are the dangers?

There are serious health risks related to abuse of prescription drugs. A single large dose of prescription or over-the-counter painkillers or depressants can cause breathing difficulty that can lead to death. Stimulant abuse can lead to hostility or paranoia, or the potential for heart system failure or fatal seizures. Even in small doses, depressants and painkillers have subtle effects on motor skills, judgment, and ability to learn.

The abuse of OTC cough and cold remedies can cause blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, coma, and even death. Many teens report mixing prescription drugs, OTC drugs, and alcohol. Using these drugs in combination can cause respiratory failure and death.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

As coalition members, we have a responsibility to educate the public on the dangers of substance abuse. The reduction of availability and access to prescription drugs is essential to be able to reduce its use. As coalition members, we also have a responsibility to help those around us that abuse or are dependent on prescription medication to access the treatment services that they need.

If you or anyone you know has a substance abuse problem, we are here to help. Please reach out to us at SCAN (956) 724-3177.

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. 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. As always, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. David L. Gibson from Gibson Chiropractic, Laredo ISD Early College High School, and all the WCCC Members for their generous donations of toys.

Underage Drinking: A Serious Problem in Webb County



In 2009, the Webb County Community Coalition (WCCC) worked with the City Council of Laredo to pass a Parental Responsibility Ordinance. According to this ordinance, a person who is responsible for a minor commits an offense if he/she recklessly fails to supervise a minor by 1) allowing the minor to possess any tobacco product; 2) allowing the minor to possess any controlled substance except as may be prescribed for the minor by a physician; 3) allowing the minor to possess stolen property; 4) allowing his/her property, or property under his/her control, to be used by a gathering of minors where alcohol is served to or consumed by any minors, 5) allowing the minor to vandalize public or private property; and 6) allowing the minor to violate the City of Laredo’s curfew provisions. The ordinance permits fines of up to \$500 for parents/guardians.

The Webb County Community Coalition urges all parents to refrain from hosting parties for minors where alcohol is served. This is a dangerous and harmful practice. More importantly, it is against the law and carries significant penalties. The WCCC also encourages concerned citizens to get involved by reporting situations where minors are observed or suspected of purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol. Reports can be made to the Laredo Police Department at (956) 795-2800. Working Together - We Can Prevent Underage Drinking.



Our Passion is Helping People

Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN
2387 E. Saunders, #2
Laredo, TX 78041

Phone:
(956) 724-3177

Fax:
(956) 724-4861

E-mail:
veronica.jimenez@scan-inc.org

Working Together for a Drug-Free Community!

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

Events

- In the months of February through July, 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 meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at the meeting hall at the 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!