



NEWSLETTER

Boone County Drug Prevention Coalition

A Message From Youth Leadership Student, Matalin Wallace



Hello! My name is Matalin Wallace and I am a newly graduated student from Belvidere High School. I have been part of the youth council since 2020. Being part of the the youth council has allowed me to challenge the social norms and be my own individual. I have learned to hold my beliefs strong and to never be swayed because of another person's opinion. I have taken part in various community events and helped host prevention days at school. I also took a leadership role in working with law enforcement to create alcohol compliance checks and participated in tobacco compliance. Prevention is important in my life because I have grown up learning the impacts that drug and alcohol have on others, and if I had followed into the pat of using these substances, I would be at a very different spot in my life. I have just recently committed to my dream college, The University of Tennessee Chattanooga, to study Business Management and I have also been accepted into their honors program. I am very excited to continue my dedication to a life of opportunity and success.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Unplug Illinois Day 2023**
 - Belvidere Park District is hosting their 5th annual Unplug Illinois Day on Saturday July 15th. The BCDPC will be hosting events. Please read on for more details.
- **Boone County Fair**
 - The BCDPC will be present at the Boone County Fair which will be held August 8th-13th.
- **Stroll on Buchanan**
 - Support local this summer during Buchanan Street Strolls
 - Sunday, June 4 from 1-5 pm
 - Sunday, July 23 from 1-5 pm
 - Sunday, August 20 from 1-5 pm

BCDPC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT- MYKAELA WEBER



Mykaela Weber, a 2023 graduate from Belvidere High School, received our first BCDPC Scholarship in the amount of \$500. Mykaela will be attending Arizona State in the fall as a direct admit in the nursing program. She aspires to become a Nurse Practitioner. Mykaela was very involved in school also completed the Running Start Program. Her passion to help those struggling with illness include substance use was very evident in her Essay and we are happy to have her win our Scholarship this year!

ADVOCACY DAY

BCDPC attended Advocacy Day in Springfield on April 18-19th along with other youth substance prevention coalitions who partner with the Illinois Prevention Network (IPN). Advocacy Day was an opportunity to meet with elected officials throughout Illinois and discuss the importance of funding primary prevention especially in local communities. 60 appointments were scheduled and the BCDPC completed 9 of them. Discussions were centered around recreational marijuana issues, Kratom ban in Illinois, and coalition goals. Advocacy Day was funded in part by Drug Free America and in part by the Drug Free Communities Grant through the Centers for Disease Control. The BCDPC will continue to participate in these events in the future with youth from our future leadership team through ILHPP.



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YOUTH COUNCIL CORNER

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WITH THE QR CODE BELOW!



OPIOID OVERDOSE AWARENESS-EXPOSE BY ALICYN DAEHLER

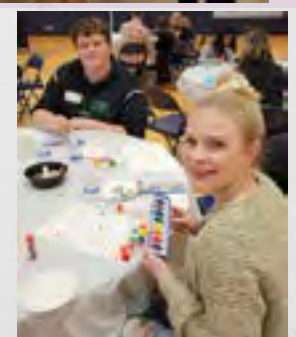
Opioid Awareness needs to start with education. Opioids are different than recreational drugs. For example, recreational drugs can be alcohol or nicotine versus opioids are prescription drugs that are prescribed from one's physician. Unfortunately, opioids can be addictive and just as dangerous as recreational drugs. Parents are a child's first teacher. If you have teens, I'd encourage parents to begin talking to them about drug use. This discussion can start with family history of drug use. Discuss this topic with explicit details to help your teens understand the dangers and lifelong consequences of drugs use. Be open to your teens questions and give them honest responses. While this topic can be controversial for most families, it can also be a lifesaving resource or even life changing. 15 years ago, my oldest brother, Jordan McCully, lost his life to an overdose of methadone. Jordan was funny, smart, and full of life that lost his life at just 19 years old and left behind 2 children. Jordan was also a resident of Boone County and lived in Belvidere most of his life. My family and I hope that his story can serve as a resources for teen drug prevention. During my childhood, their weren't many resources available for families whose loved ones were struggling with drug use. One of the many resources that are available in Boone County is a support group for families with loved ones struggling with drug use. A lifesaving resource that is available throughout many community events is Narcan training. Narcan can prevent the individual from overdosing between 30-90 minutes, it's easy to administer and lifesaving! By Alicyn Daehler



- The BCDPC held their first scholarship opportunity for seniors in Boone County. This scholarship required participants to write an essay in response to one of 5 prompts in regards to substance use, peer use and social pressure or developing your own program. The winner would receive \$500. Pictured right is Mykaela Weber of Belvidere High School receiving her award at our June coalition meeting. She is pictured with our Director, Alyssa Rothmaler and our Chair, Ellen Genrich. The BCDPC will be doing scholarships in the future and will look at expanding our awards.
- In July, members from the coalition will be attending the CADCA Mid-Year Conference to experience valuable training opportunities for the field of prevention as well learning and expanding knowledge on drug trends.



Youth Council Corner



- Youth Leadership Council congratulates Matalin Wallace, Lory Lopez and Sutton Gaines on their graduations from Belvidere High School!
- We are looking for students who need service hours or who are willing to get involved in big and small community events and projects. If you know one who is interested, please have them contact the Program Director at bcdpc@boonehealth.org
- Youth Council is will be hosting a Tie-Dye Station at Unplugged Day at Belvidere Park on Saturday July 15th! We look forward to seeing you!

How to get involved:

- Register and become a member at bcdpc.org or ask a current member how to get involved.
- Attend monthly meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 3:30-5pm at Sips and Sprinkles in Belvidere across from the YMCA.
- Volunteer during our events.
- Send us your feedback and suggestions.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

WE INVITE COMMENTS, FEEDBACK OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE INFORMATION SHARED HERE. KINDLY LEAVE YOUR COMMENT ON OUR WEBSITE AT BCDPC.ORG OR YOU CAN WRITE OR CALL US AT:

BCDPC@BOONEHEALTH.ORG

PHONE: 815-547-8388

