

NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC TRIANGLE DRUG PREVENTION COALITION



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

November is National Homelessness Awareness Month and National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Recovery support services are vital in addressing homelessness, especially for those facing mental health and substance use challenges. Homelessness and substance use are often linked. Addressing both issues requires prevention, treatment and recovery support services. Homelessness, mental, and behavioral health problems are often connected.

Providing support and resources is essential for helping these individuals improve their well-being, recover, and thrive. About one-third of people who are homeless in the United States are chronically homeless, meaning the person has been homeless for at least a year and also has a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability. A substantial proportion of people who are homeless in the United States are unsheltered, or living in cars or parks, on sidewalks, or in abandoned buildings.

[Click Here](#) for
The National
Child Traumatic
Stress Network's
(NCTSN)
compilation of
homeless youth
and family
resources!

NOVEMBER IS HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Hiding in Plain Sight: 7-OH Products

A synthetic opioid, marketed as a mood-enhancer and derived from the Kratom plant, is being sold online and in vape shops and gas stations. Though advertised as natural, the product is chemically altered to be up to 500% more potent, with its active compound, 7-OH, reportedly 13 times stronger than morphine.

As a reminder, any item labeled a health food supplement or mood enhancer should be suspect for your clients, students, relatives, and friends. Prevention remains our best option. To learn more about 7-OH, [click here](#).

To schedule a free presentation on the dangers of synthetic drugs contact [Jack Fitzpatrick](#).

POLICY & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA) is conducting a short, important survey to assess awareness and needs related to its education and outreach efforts. Input from Virginia's public health and safety stakeholders will directly help the CCA enhance its public health and safety initiatives. This brief survey seeks input to help identify gaps and priorities in cannabis education and outreach initiatives. All responses are anonymous and will be used solely to improve the CCA's educational efforts. [Click Here](#) to complete the survey. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact CCA at data@cca.virginia.gov.

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

As many as 2.5 million youth per year experience homelessness. Along with losing their home, community, friends, and routines as well as their sense of stability and safety, many homeless youth are also victims of trauma. While trying to survive on the streets, youth are exposed to countless dangers, with an increased likelihood of substance abuse, early parenthood, impulsivity, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and a vulnerability to being trafficked.

To learn about the age-related reactions to a traumatic event, [click here](#).

[The National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(NCTSN\)](#)

TRAUMA & RESILIENCY

The Trauma & Resiliency Committee met virtually on Thursday, October 30. The meeting focused on:

- 1) Shared ways they've supported someone, or been supported, through a difficult time.
- 2) What helps members stay resilient when work or life gets stressful?
- 3) What does trauma and resilience mean in our community context?

Please contact Committee Chairs, [Lynette Diaz](#) or [Michelle Justiniano](#) for more information about this committee.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Thank you to our volunteer agencies and members for assisting with distributing HTDPC materials and locking medication pouches during National Drug Take Back Day! We appreciate you volunteering your time to help with this annual event. Collectively over 568 lbs. and 6 (unweighed) bags of medication were collected – 240 lbs. in James City County, 6 bags in Poquoson, 155 lbs. - inclusive of sharps in Williamsburg; and 173 lbs in York County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you're interested in becoming an officer or a member of the Leadership Team for the Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition, please contact **Joi Tramuel**, HTDPC Coordinator at (757)713-9670 or jtramuel@colonialbh.org.

If you missed the October Problem Gambling (PG) Prevention monthly meeting you can see it here https://youtu.be/tHZbuX_YuKw.

During this meeting there was information on a possible PG Bootcamp (or combined PG and Coalition Bootcamp), the PGP curriculum and the LMS system, the upcoming PGTSAC meeting, Region 4 combined Suicide/PG collaboration, PG events in the coming year and more.



HISTORIC TRIANGLE DRUG PREVENTION COALITION

Upcoming Events

Full Coalition Meeting

November 17, 2025 | 11a - 1:30p
Brookdale Chambrel - Williamsburg
3800 Treyburn Drive, 23185

Prevention & Education Committee Meeting

November 18, 2025 | 9 - 10a (Virtual)

Trauma & Resiliency Committee Meeting

December 11, 2025 | 1 - 2p (Virtual)

Leadership Team Meeting

December 15, 2025 | 1 - 3p (Virtual)

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