



THE HOPE DEALER

Newsletter of the Faith-Based Initiative

By Chris Hodges and Lydia Price

Fed Up with Fentanyl

Hannah Matzkiw, "'Fed Up with Fentanyl' Meeting Held." *Herald Chronicle*, 4 July 2022

To cast light on the rising opioid-and-fentanyl epidemic, the Franklin County Prevention Coalition held a community meeting at the local high school.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. In its intended use, fentanyl is administered safely to patients under the care of a physician during specific surgeries or during cancer treatment. However, due to its powerful effects, illicit fentanyl is smuggled and combined with other illegal or prescription drugs.

One reason fentanyl is such a dangerous drug for a consumer is largely due to the inconsistency when each pill is made.

In the US alone there were over 100,000 overdose deaths in 2021, about two-thirds of those deaths involved fentanyl. Those numbers have only continued to increase since last reported. Overdoses occur when too many opioids attach to receptors in the brain and cause a person to stop breathing. However, there are means of combating fentanyl overdoses.

A major life saver when it comes to an opioid overdose is a medication called Naloxone, also referred to as Narcan under its trade name. This medication works by blocking the effects of opiates on the brain and by restoring breathing.

Franklin County Sheriff Tim Fuller addressed the audience regarding drug and alcohol addiction in Franklin County. He said that fentanyl is the most dangerous drug he has encountered in his career, reporting 350 opioid-related overdoses in 2021 alone.

As a community, we should all be fed up with fentanyl. It is destroying and deteriorating our communities, one overdose at a time.



Allen Burnette - Region 5 South Lifeline Peer Project Coordinator

Faith-Based Initiative Goals:

- Connect individuals struggling with mental health issues and/or substance use to treatment.
- Facilitate understanding of what treatment and recovery are.
- Increase knowledge of what mental health issues and substance use are.
- Spread awareness of the Faith-Based Initiative certification and its requirements.
- Understand the continuum of care and collaborate with it.
- Help groups understand and implement the best practice model.
- Promote and improve effectiveness of the faith-based initiative and how it connects the community with recovery and support services.

Macon Recovery Possible

The Macon County Prevention Coalition held its third annual Macon Recovery Possible on June 25, 2022 at Key Park in Lafayette, TN.

The opposite of addiction is connection. Over 300 people came out in support of the recovery community in Macon County. It was a day packed full of guest speakers, live music, testimonies, resources, and the Sober Olympics.



What is the Sober Olympics? Well, let me just share a few of the games from the day. "Toss It", "Find My Stash", "Field Sobriety Test", "Drunk Driver" and "Pie Your/My Sponsor". The fun wasn't just limited to those in recovery, they also had bounces house, slides, and a ball pit for the kids. The community also donated free food and water for the event.

Macon Recovery Possible has not only helped educate the community to help break the stigma surrounding substance use disorders, it has brought families together and shown others that recovery is possible.

Macon Recovery Possible, a place to come judgment-free to connect and celebrate all things recovery. After all, we are all in recovery from something.

TN
REDLINE 
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT 

STATEWIDE
CRISIS LINE
HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS
855-CRISIS-1 [TN.gov/CrisisLine](https://www.tn.gov/CrisisLine)
855-274-7471 

Monty Burks, Ph.D., CPRS Director
of Faith-Based Initiatives
monty.burks@tn.gov
(615)770-1783

Jaime Harper, MS, NCC, CPRS
Assistant Director of
Faith-Based Initiatives
james.a.harper@tn.gov
(615)651-2773

Upcoming Events

First Ever Drug Free WilCo Hope & Recovery Fest

9/3/22, 10am-2pm

Cumberland University
Alumni Hall 408 S Maple St
Lebanon, TN

6th Annual Rutherford Recovery Fest

9/17/22

10am-2pm

Family Worship Center

3045 Memorial Blvd
Murfreesboro, TN

Training Opportunities from TAADAS

Recovery Language Matters

July 29th

1PM-3PM CDT

Online Event

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recovery-language-matters-tickets-379848566287>

2-Day Motivational Interviewing Training

August 29th-30th

United Way of Greater
Knoxville

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2-day-motivational-interviewing-training-tickets-335446408237>