




Every Brain Matters Community Newsletter May 2023

The **Every Brain Matters** community educates about the health and environmental dangers of marijuana and the drug culture expansion by providing [support for families](#) and [advocacy](#), all based on science, including lived experiences.

The public is being deceived regarding marijuana products and their effects, including [cannabis use disorder](#), [cannabis-induced psychosis](#), and [cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome](#), which has led to a public health crisis. No matter how much the drug culture expands, we will "Keep On Keepin On" because we wholeheartedly know that Every Brain Matters.

Spotlight



Our society is normalizing marijuana use, and as a result, families are paying a heavy price. While we can never keep our children completely safe from marijuana, here are a few recommendations to help effectively respond as a parent through this cultural crisis.

Learn more & download the infographic to share with families.

Hope for Recovery

The **Every Brain Matters Support Advisory Committee** are valuable leaders with lived experiences that pave a path for families to find clarity, truth, and hope. They connect with families affected by marijuana and provide essential resources. They want families to know they are not alone in a world that is, unfortunately, embracing marijuana and promoting false information about its effects. This month we feature Chan Mcneill. [Learn more.](#)



Chan Mcneill

Chan (Shawn) Mcneill is a Gulf War Veteran, breast cancer survivor, actor, wife, and mother from Houston, Texas.

For most of her life, she had been aware of some form of addiction in her family, but in 2019 it hit closer to home. She has spent the last few years working with counselors and advisors to learn more about addiction to marijuana and other substances. Since 2020 she has been learning and helping others with Parent-Driven Recovery principles. She currently serves on the Parent Committee at Cornerstone Team Counseling and Alternative Peer Group in Houston, Texas, and she volunteers with Mar-anon Family Groups. She draws on her life experiences to remind her of the strength we all possess.

Her goal is to share her experience in order to help others gain strength and know that there is hope in this journey of recovery.



Monthly Speakers Meeting

Join us on the first Friday of every month for messages of hope and healing from the impacts of marijuana.

Pam Lanhart is the founder and executive director of Three Family Recovery Resources. Join us to hear how Pam thrives through her personal loss and continues giving hope to others.

Date: June 2, 2023
Time: 6 pm Central time

[EveryBrainMatters.org](#)





Family Support Clubs Meeting

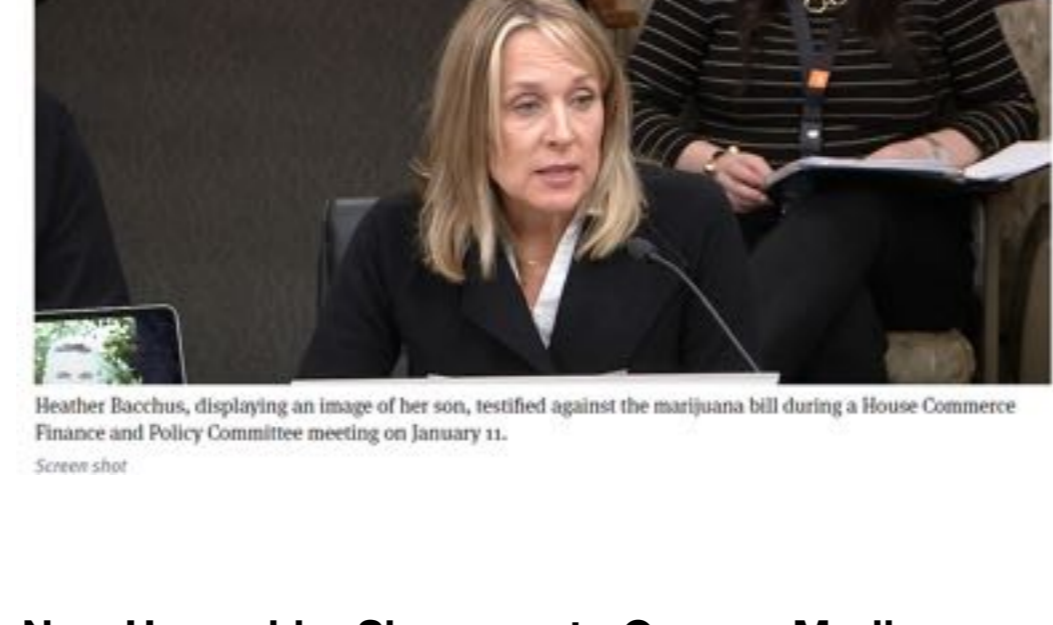
An interactive educational group for family members affected by another person's marijuana use (addiction, psychosis, sickness/omitting to bring issues, questions, or concerns) and receive direct feedback from a trained volunteer and other parents to help you and your family.

Every Wednesday, 7 pm Central Time



Advocacy Action

The tough, lonely job of being a marijuana legalization opponent in Minnesota: "Every guardrail they had in place didn't work," said Heather Bacchus after describing the cannabis-induced psychosis and suicide of her "forever 21" year-old son Randy.



Bacchus testified at the first hearing on House File 100 that her son had moved to Colorado because of its recreational marijuana law. "What you are putting in place is not safe," she said.

New Hampshire Shows up to Oppose Marijuana Legalization. Including youth, people in recovery (Anne Hassel), scientist (Dr. Amy Turncliff) and doctors, drug prevention specialists, families.

Dear Aubree, On behalf of everyone at **CADY**, I wish to express our deep appreciation for your powerful testimony in front of the NH Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday.

Your presence, lived experience, and subject matter expertise provided significant evidence to the harms of marijuana to children. We believe you raised a level of awareness that will make a profound difference in preventing legalization and protecting our children and families from the harms of high-potency THC.

With deep gratitude,
Deb Naro, M.Ed., Executive Director
CADY, Inc. (Communities for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth)



Sign up for this free webinar: **The Low-Down on High-Potency THC and the Associated Mental Health Risks**
Families suffering the consequences of marijuana-induced psychosis are turning their tragedies into learning experiences so that others might not have to face what they have. This important webinar will feature Dr. Libby Stuyt, and two warrior moms — Laura Stack, founder of Johnny's Ambassadors, and Donna Thomas, founder of James's Warriors, as they share their tragic stories about how marijuana contributed to the death of their sons by suicide and how they are lifting the mask on these high-potency marijuana products.



Webinar Series

The Lowdown on High Potency THC and the Associated Mental Health Risks
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
7:00pm Eastern Time

Featuring:
Laura Stack, Johnny's Ambassadors
Donna Thomas, James's Warriors
Dr. Libby Stuyt, MD



You Spoke, We Listened

Educate Enlighten Empower Engage
and [www.parentdrivenrecovery.com](#)

Attention: New Time for Advocacy Meeting, starting in June 2023!
Regular scheduled Advocacy meeting for Friday, May 12 at 1:00 pm Central



Every Brain Matters Advocacy Meeting

This group consists of people and committees that understand the impact of this substance and the dangers of marijuana and the drug culture expansion. Join us to drive a cultural change.

First Wednesday of every month
1pm Central Time
[info@everybrainmatters.org](#)



Every Brain Matters in The News


Driven to suicide by weed: Three families share how highly-potent weed tore their lives apart: "The parents work with Every Brain Matters, an advocacy organization dedicated to educating people about the dangers that come with frequent cannabis use..."



Aubree Adams, Director of Every Brain Matters was featured on Minnesota NPR and KRDO in Colorado Springs, Colorado along with Dr. Libby Stuyt from the International Academy on the Science and Impacts of Cannabis.

PERSPECTIVE: Colorado after legalized marijuana
Ken Finn, M.D. Apr 16, 2023
contributors Aubree Adams, Karen Randall, M.D., Libby Stuyt, M.D.

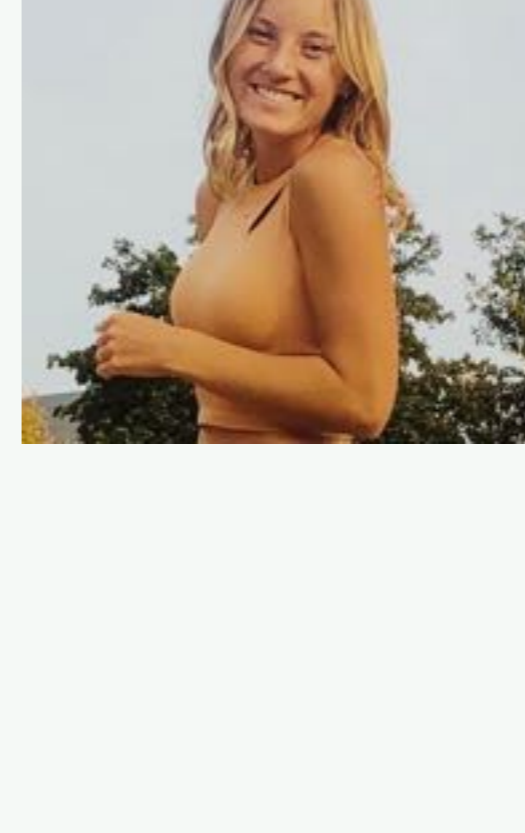
GUEST COLUMN:
Standing up to the threat of marijuana: Aubree Adams- Apr 30, 2023
contributors Ken Finn, M.D., Karen Randall, M.D., Libby Stuyt, M.D.



Truth From Youth

College Students and Marijuana Culture
Marijuana is everywhere. The drug has become much more prevalent since it has been promoted and deemed safe by society. I have a handful of friends who use it on a daily basis, and honestly, this has become a collegiate norm. Having to hit a vape or dab pen regularly is just something people do. It is like the elephant in the room. Everyone knows they shouldn't. Everyone sees the toll it takes on their body. But no one wants to address it. Recently I have had two friends completely stop dabbing. Both of them look back and wish they had quit sooner. In their words, they said it made them more stupid, slow, and lazy. Since quitting, they saw improvements in their mental and physical health. It is baffling to me how many people struggle with using and recognize a decline in their overall well-being, yet no one talks about it. I am grateful some friends are seeing what life looks like drug-free, but they only represent a small minority. If we want to see more lives changed, we need everyone on board. Whether you've never used, currently use, or quit using, your voice is so important.

Hannah Palmer, Youth Coordinator & Social Media Administrator



A Moment of Science

- 2023, May 4 - **Young men at highest risk of schizophrenia linked with cannabis use disorder** -30% of cases of schizophrenia among men aged 21-30 might have been prevented by averting cannabis use disorder.
- 2023, March 7 - **Development of cannabis use disorder in medical cannabis users: A 9-month follow-up of a randomized clinical trial testing effects of medical cannabis card ownership** - Frequency of cannabis use was not associated with improved pain, anxiety, or depression symptoms but was associated with new-onset cannabis use disorder in a significant minority of participants.
- 2023, March 1 - **State Cannabis Legalization and Cannabis Use Disorder in the US Veterans Health Administration, 2005 to 2019** - Veterans Health Administration patients' medical cannabis laws and recreational cannabis laws enactment played a significant role in the overall increases in CUD prevalence, particularly in older patients.
- 2023, Feb 14 - **Vaping Dose, Device Type, and E-Liquid Flavor are Determinants of DNA Damage in Electronic Cigarette Users** - Vape users had 2.6x more DNA damage than non-smokers
- 2023, Jan 1 - **Prenatal cannabis use disorder and infant hospitalization and death in the first year of life** - Prenatal cannabis use disorder was associated with higher infant mortality.
- 2023, Aug - **The association between cannabis use and risk of non-medical pain reliever misuse onset among young adults in a legal cannabis context** - Despite claims that cannabis use may reduce opioid use and related harms, findings suggest that cannabis use, including medical use, may not be protective, but instead may increase risk for non-medical pain reliever misuse.

A Moment of Silence

Remembering and honoring the people that we have lost due to the effects of marijuana.

- May Marijuana related impaired-driving deaths:**
- May 1, 2020 [Kevin Patterson](#), 42, Minnesota
 - May 3, 2011 [Jeremy Webb](#), 18, Wyoming
 - May 4, 2019 [Brent and Elizabeth Tinsley's unborn child](#), Illinois.
 - May 13, 2017 [Ellie Goldenberg](#), 22, Florida. Everglades tour boat crash.
 - May 15, 2018 [Christy Limas](#), 14, [Brooke Limas](#), 9, [Noelle Johnson](#), 39, California.
 - May 16, 2015 [Aaron Dunigan](#), 18, Indiana.
 - [Juan Rivera](#), 56, Illinois.
 - May 16, 2021 [Gwan Inglis](#), 46, Colorado
 - May 17, 2017 [Chaylyn Collinsworth](#), 18, Washington.
 - May 20, 2016 [Peyton Knowlton](#), 8, Colorado.
 - May 21, 2017 [Lindsey Rotundo](#), 17, Ohio.
 - May 21, 2012 [Carter Vo](#), 8, Illinois.
 - May 26, 2020 [Roussy A. Cabrera Fuentes](#), 4, New York.
 - May 29, 2014 [Chase Rodgers](#), 20, North Carolina

- May Remembrance:**
Ben Shealy, May 19, 2020
Katee Gene Ferguson, May 28, 2020
- May Heavenly Birthdays:**
Nathaniel Starkel, May 5, 1996
Dillon Andrew Blodgett, May 25, 1992

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