

Insights in Prevention

June 2024

FROM THE DESK OF... LIANNE FORMAN



Since we began our work in 2018, the pervasiveness of marijuana in our community has skyrocketed. We can smell marijuana almost everywhere, edibles are displayed in smoke shop storefronts, and - as they are legal for adult consumption in many states - cannabis edibles, vapes, and other products can be found in the homes our children visit. This prevalence, along with increased potency of THC (the psychoactive and addictive element of cannabis) and shifting legal status of marijuana (see updates below), has resulted in a rise of use and sharp decline in the perception of harm amongst our teens and young adults.

This is why we do what we do. Prevention education has to be comprehensive, adaptable, and focused on equipping children and their parents and educators to understand this rapidly changing landscape and to create safe spaces for discussion so that children can ask questions and receive accurate information and support. By bringing in young people, who themselves struggled with addiction, and teaching about the risks of using substances, particularly at young ages, we can reduce the likelihood of developing substance use disorders later in life.

Joining the Ohel Board



Pam Ennis is a Nonprofit Consultant and Founder of PEN Consulting. She has over 20 years' experience working within the Jewish nonprofit world in numerous capacities, including strategic planning, program development, fundraising, marketing, and board development. For many years, Pam advised CCSA in their fundraising and marketing efforts, which made her a natural choice to fill the board seat offered to CCSA as a result of CCSA joining Ohel in July 2023.

Pam also serves as a volunteer mentor for the OU's Impact Accelerator program, and much of her consulting practice revolves around helping young nonprofits develop their fundraising and marketing infrastructures to become established community organizations, providing maximum impact on the communities they serve. She can be reached at Pam@PENConsulting.net

Substances in the News!

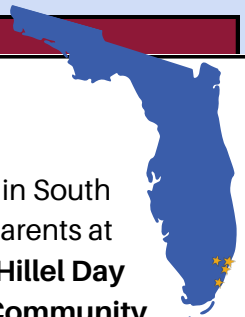
Redefining "hemp": In May, the House Agriculture Committee voted in favor of a 2024 Farm Bill amendment that would exclude semi-synthetic cannabinoids from the definition of "hemp", closing a major loophole created by the 2018 Farm Bill that allowed the sale of some cannabis products (such as Delta-8, Delta-10, THC-0). While it is a long process until the 2024 Farm Bill becomes law, this move hopefully raises awareness around the issue.

Reclassification of Marijuana: In April, the DEA announced it would propose to reclassify marijuana. Currently, it is a Schedule I controlled drug, in the same category as heroin and LSD; the DEA wants to move it to Schedule III, the same category as steroids and Tylenol with codeine, based on the premise that cannabis has medicinal properties. While that may be true in some limited cases, this shift could mark a tremendous decrease in harm perception surrounding marijuana, especially among our young adults and teenagers.

Where We Have Been This Year...



CCSA Spotlight On... South Florida



This past school year, CCSA expanded its programming into more schools and communities in South Florida. Over several trips during the academic year, we spoke with students, teachers, and parents at **Beis Chana Girls HS, Brauser Maimonides Academy, Jewish Leadership Academy, Katz Hillel Day School, Lubavitch Educational Center, Lubavitch Hebrew Academy, and Scheck Hillel Community School**. They join our other Florida schools, **Bais Chaya HS, Katz Yeshiva HS, and Ohr HaTorah HS**, in partnering with CCSA to provide prevention education to their communities.

Our presenters' stories and the information we share made a tremendous impact on both students and the adults in their lives. Leah Spalter, General Studies Principal at LEC, said "It was perfect. I love that it was tailored to all the students, that it really reached every child. The program was phenomenal." Theresa Nidosik, Guidance Counselor at JLA, added "Thank you for the meaningful presentations provided for our students. Eli, Rivky, and Aliza are amazing speakers, and I received great feedback from our students and faculty. We look forward to having CCSA again next year."

As we enter the summer months, we are already planning our Florida trips for the 2024-25 school year, including new schools and communities.



64 Partner Schools



265 School Programs

*** 125 Middle School * 140 High School**



8,838 Students Impacted

New Support Group
siblings
Meeting for siblings* of those struggling with substance use or addiction



Monthly Meetings on Zoom
To participate please email us at:
info@jewishccsa.org

*Must be 16 years of age or older

You Are Not Alone
Support Group for loved ones of those struggling with substance use or addiction



Meetings every other Wednesday
8:15 p.m. (ET) via Zoom

For more information, email us at:
info@jewishccsa.org

Click below to support our efforts in educating our youth, parents, educators, and community members



Follow us on...

