



# BOONE COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION

# NEWSLETTER

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERN: IAN VIDAL



Young adulthood is often a time of experimentation and self-discovery, particularly for college students. Unfortunately, for some, this experimentation can lead to substance misuse and its detrimental consequences. As a senior in college, I have seen firsthand how substance misuse can derail academic pursuits and endanger one's well-being. That's why I'm eager to participate in this internship with the Boone County Drug Prevention Coalition (BCDPC). I'm looking forward to expanding my knowledge and skills on prevention as well as advocating against drug misuse. I'm excited about upcoming projects like the Advocacy Day in Springfield, where I'll be able to directly implement advocacy practices. Through the BCDPC, I know I will directly see how community-level change is possible.

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### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

After the success of our first scholarship award last year, we have decided to expand our scholarship program to offer \$500 awards to one high school senior at each Boone County high school. Awards will be based on their essay responses to prompts relating to substance misuse. Students may inquire on applying by contacting their schools, and the deadline for applications is on February 22nd, 2024. The scholarship aims to support the education of youth, and alleviate financial burdens. For additional questions, students may contact the BCDPC by email at [BCDPC@boonehealth.org](mailto:BCDPC@boonehealth.org). We believe that investing in the education of our youth is crucial for the growth and development of our community. We wish the best of luck to our applicants.

### BCDPC SPONSORS ICEHOGS GAME

We are thrilled to announce our collaboration with the Rockford IceHogs hockey team this spring season! On April 19th, 2024, they will play against the Chicago Wolves and we will be selling and distributing tickets for the game. Tickets are available for only \$20, and 25% of the ticket sales revenue will be donated directly to the BCDPC.

Virtual tickets are available by scanning the code located at the bottom left of this page. You may also purchase physical tickets at the Boone County Health Department by contacting [BCDPC@boonehealth.org](mailto:BCDPC@boonehealth.org) or by calling (815) 547-8388. Don't miss out on the chance to learn more about our organization and win cool prizes by visiting our informational table at the game.

Our goal is to raise awareness of youth substance misuse and gain support for our prevention efforts through this partnership. We hope to see many familiar faces at the game!

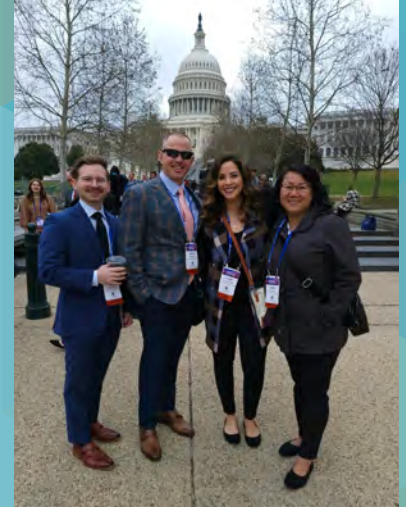
**LEARN MORE ABOUT US BY  
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## COALITION UPDATES

### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

The CADCA's National Leadership Forum is an annual training event that brings together prevention professionals, experts, community leaders, and advocates to share insights and collaborate on innovative strategies aimed at driving lasting and impactful community change. The BCDPC again had the privilege of attending the 34th edition of this forum held in Maryland. Capitol Hill Day, one of the most critical events during the forum, gives attendees a unique opportunity to interact with Congress members and discuss national substance use prevention policy priorities. We spent our day on Capitol Hill meeting with our state representatives Bill Foster of the 11th District, and Darin LaHood of the 16th District's staff. We also met with our state's senior Senator Dick Durbin and state Senator Tammy Duckworth's staff. Moreover, it's a chance for us to bring attention to the substance misuse concerns prevalent in our local community.



### NATIONAL COALITION ACADEMY

As a coalition, we have a responsibility to maintain an effective and pertinent plan of action. To ensure we remain at the forefront of our field, select members are attending the National Coalition Academy (NCA). Specifically catering to coalition staff and volunteer leadership, the NCA is a comprehensive training program developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute. Attendees will learn the core competencies and essential processes necessary to maintain a highly effective anti-drug coalition.



*Building drug-free communities.*

## WEBSITE UPDATES DESIGN REFRESH

We are finalizing the complete redesign of our website. Our team has been working diligently to ensure that the new design is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also user-friendly. To improve accessibility, we have incorporated a feature to switch between English and Spanish. We have taken into consideration the feedback received from our users and have incorporated their suggestions to improve the overall experience. In addition, we are also revamping the content to ensure that it is up-to-date and relevant. We want our users to have access to the most current information and resources available. We are excited to unveil the new design and hope that it will enhance the user experience for all our visitors. Stay tuned for the official launch!



Prevention \* Advocacy \* Leadership \* Strategies

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- ✔ Register and become a member at [bcdpc.org](http://bcdpc.org) or ask a current member how to get involved.
- ✔ Attend monthly meetings held the 2nd Thursday of every month at local high schools. (locations change monthly)
- ✔ 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](http://bcdpc.org) OR YOU CAN WRITE OR CALL US AT:

[BCDPC@BOONEHEALTH.ORG](mailto:BCDPC@BOONEHEALTH.ORG)

PHONE: 815-547-8388

