



DVD 10 min, 20 sec

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## Thought: Drugs Destroy Dreams!

What are the drugs that destroy those dreams---any substance that robs our children from their potential possibilities.

#1 – Marijuana, #2 – Prescription Drugs, #3 – Alcohol

Methamphetamine – parents will neglect, abuse, and kill their own children.

So how do we combat such a deadly force against our communities?

Taxpayers can't fund enough police officers, cars, and drug agents to combat

Adolescents are going to experiment and try new boundaries

EDUCATION is primary avenue to slow down the drug abuse.

\*of course, we must continue judicial, law enforcement, & narcotics efforts

How do you approach Drug Education so that kids listen?

Can't just tell them NO-----gives impression that nobody cares about how they feel or that they can not reason for themselves

INSTEAD, let's approach drug education the same way as driving safety

Ex. Instead of banning automobiles, which kills far more teenagers than do drugs, we enforce traffic laws, prohibit driving while intoxicated, and insist that drivers wear seat belts

Ex. Teach young adults how to use alcohol responsibly with the campaign "know when to say when"

Overall: we must develop an attitude change so that there are consequences for drug use among the users & the impact on the community is minimized.

This approach is called: HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

We need to approach drug education much the same way we deal with other dangerous situations.

First, let's categorize "DRUGS" broadly. What do I mean by this?

Drugs include all intoxicating substances that alter the body functions, including those drugs, which are legal, such as prescription drugs, tobacco products, and alcohol.

Why? Children see right thru the inconsistencies of legal and illegal products  
Ex. Smoking marijuana vs. cigarettes

\*Incorporate children's experiences, expertise, and intelligence in the drug curriculum. Kids often know more than we credit them about drugs with their experience, family, and media.

\*Kids are also more thoughtful, intelligent, & concerned about their own well-being than we adults acknowledge.

Key: use Positive Role Models to deliver the drug program

Individuals should not endorse use but convey the methods they themselves use to avoid abuse or accidents.

Educate kids on drug abuse and its consequences. Hold them accountable for their choices. We have a better chance of growing more responsible adults for the next generation.

In Conclusion, here are the 3 areas that we would like a bigger spotlight for drug education in North Carolina.

----→pass out paper

First part of this handout summarizes what I just covered.

Bottom half provides you with 3 areas I want to cover briefly

1. Promote Red Ribbon Week – last week of Oct & thru Nov  
Largest most visible national substance abuse awareness and prevention program (also used to remember DEA Agent Camarena –murdered Mexico
2. Improved Education in Schools with existing staff  
PE/Health, Science, Character Education classes, Guidance Counselors

\*\*\*\*\*Positive Role Models only

### 3. Community Education and Awareness

Suggestion: use something similar to the “Crystal Darkness” program as you saw on the DVD

\*statewide 30 minute documentary on all tv channels

Efforts to slow drug abuse are greatly needed all over our state. Somehow, some way, we must find a way to work together, work efficiently, and use the resources we currently have.

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The MAMA organization appreciates this opportunity to address this committee. Perhaps, we have brought some value to the table on the drug discussion.

MAMA is in the SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, & COMMUNITIES.  
We ask you to support these efforts.

If you have questions or comments for anyone on the MAMA board, we will be happy to answer them at this time or at the conclusion of the meeting.  
Thank You