



SAVING LIVES TASK FORCE

The Initiative is a quarterly newsletter presented by the Saving Lives Task Force, the goal of this publication is to educate, inform and engage residents of Dare County.

- Our Task Force is a team of professionals and community members working toward the prevention of substance use disorders and the availability of effective treatment for all Dare county citizens in need of help.
- **Join us for our In-Person Meetings** on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 2:00 pm.
- **For More Information** please contact Roxana Ballinger, Saving Lives Task Force Co-Chair, at 252.475.5619 or roxana.ballinger@darenc.gov.

savinglivesobx.com

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What is the FEND Off Act?

Like money, illegal drugs don't grow on trees. Okay, so heroin derives from the poppy seed, cocaine from the coca plant and marijuana is a bush, not a tree. But there are various chemical processes involved to transform flowers and bushes into the end product of cocaine or heroin. And then there are drugs, like fentanyl, that are made in labs using the same chemical structure as "natural" opiates but which are, in fact, completely synthetic.

The eradication of poppy fields and coca fields is oft-practiced strategy to help curb the production of illegal drugs, but what does one do to nip the source of the synthetics at the source? That is what the FEND OFF Act (Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence Off Fentanyl) hopes to accomplish.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid with legitimate medical uses that is approximately 100 times more powerful than morphine. A 2 mg dose of Fentanyl is potentially lethal. It is considered more addictive than most opioid derivatives and considerably less expensive to manufacture and purchase. These two factors are why it is now more popular and more widely used than heroin in the United States

Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia is the author of the FEND OFF act and had this to say about his legislation: "Combatting the devastating drug epidemic that continues to ravage our communities starts with cutting off the deadly flow of fentanyl at the source. West Virginia has the highest drug overdose rate in the country and we must target the criminal organizations that supply and transport it into our country."

The FEND OFF Fentanyl Act targets individuals and international drug trafficking organizations that are linked to trading illicit fentanyl and fentanyl precursors with financial and property sanctions. President Biden imposed several such sanctions in December 2021 by Executive Order. The FEND OFF Fentanyl Act makes those sanctions permanent. It adds additional sanctions against individuals and organizations engaged in buying, selling, or laundering money attached to the trade in illicit fentanyl and its precursors.

For many years, China has been the main exporter of Fentanyl and Fentanyl precursor chemicals. A large percentage of the precursor export goes to Mexico and the United State where they are used to make Fentanyl in clandestine labs. From there, the Fentanyl makes its way down to consumers in communities all over the United States. In 2023, the DEA seized more than 77 million Fentanyl pills and 12,000 pounds of Fentanyl power, the most seized by the DEA in a single year. And that doesn't include the millions of pills and pounds of Fentanyl also seized by local and state law enforcement.

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SAVING LIVES FAITH COMMITTEE

The Saving Lives Faith Committee is a Subcommittee of the The Saving Lives Task Force. It is a team of professionals and community members working toward the prevention of substance use disorders, increasing access and the availability of effective treatment for all Dare County residents that are in need of help.

We are charged with bringing the Faith Community to full participation in identifying individuals and families struggling with mental health and or substance use issues, as well as providing useful information on how they can provide guidance, love, support and prayer to those affected.

For More information on the Saving Lives Faith Committee please contact Bonnie Bennett at: beachbonnie292@gmail.com



THE INITIATIVE Resources:

savinglivesobx.com

PORT/New Horizons
2808 S Croatan Hwy,
Nags Head, NC 27959
252.441.2324

Trillium Health Resources
www.trilliumncaccesspoint.org
877.685.2415 – 24 Hours a Day

Mobile Crisis Team
24 Hours a Day / 7 Days a Week
866.437.1821

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
988lifeline.org
or call or text 988

Syringe Services Program
Community Care Clinic of Dare
M-Th | 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
252.261.3041

Contact your insurance company to find out more information on local providers and your plan's benefits.



EVENTS & RESOURCES

- Recovery & Overdose Support Services (ROSS)**
 Recovery and Overdose Support Services (ROSS) provides support groups, harm reduction education and resources, overdose response, and assistance with recovery planning.
Katy Haslar, PSS, 252.473.7861
or Jesse Ruby PSS, 475-7923
RecoveryServices@DareNC.gov
- SMART Recovery OBX Addiction Support Group**
 When: Mondays, 6-7 pm for 60 minutes
 Where: The Studio at 3022 S. Croatan Hwy., Nags Head, NC
Facilitators: Scott and Katy Haslar,
smartrecoveryobx@gmail.com
- Alcoholics Anonymous: Meetings 7 days a week.**
Visit the website AAOBX.com for current virtual meeting schedule. Outer Banks AA Hotline 252-256-0850 and <https://aobx.com/>
- Outer Banks Alateen, Outer Banks Alateen Meeting, Saturdays, 10-11 am, Kitty Hawk Baptist Church, email alateen@alanonobx.com for information.**
 Alateen is a fellowship of young people whose lives have been affected by alcoholism in a family member or friend.
- OBX Nar-anon** is a means of coping with the insanity brought about from having a family member or friend struggling with addiction.
For more details, please contact Holly Henry West at 252-489-7778.
- Women of Worth**
 Groups are being held virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am-12:00 pm. The groups will focus on recovery from the evidence-based curriculum, "Helping Women Recover."
Please contact Catisha Bryant at catisha.bryant@darenc.gov for more information or if you would like to join.
- Breaking Through Task Force, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 8:30 am**
 The Breaking Through Task Force is composed of community members who wish to address communication and stigma concerns about mental health conditions and substance use disorders.
Contact Kelly.Nettin@darenc.gov
www.breakthestigmaobx.com
- Dare Community Collaborative, 2nd Tuesday every other month, 2-3 pm virtually.**
 A partnership among providers and families of youth and adults with mental health issues and/or substance use issues.
Contact Susan Hall at: Susan.Hall@trilliumnc.org
- Weekly Recovery Group**
Thursdays, Starting May 25th from 2:30-3:45 pm
 The meetings will be facilitated by our Peer Support Specialists and will include the SMART Recovery program combined with Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP).
 These groups are free and open to participants of the **Syringe Services Program**, Community Care Clinic of Dare clinic patients, and community members.
For more information, email us at RecoveryServices@darenc.gov
- Crossroads OBX**
 Crossroads OBX is Christ-centered outreach offering discernment, guidance and objective planning for those who desire to change the course of their lives and help those who have been thrown off course by homelessness, addiction, incarceration or other events.
For more information contact 252.455.2510, crossroadsobx.org or crossroadsobx@gmail.com

What is the FEND Off Act?

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But will the FEND OFF Act actually work to slow the importation and distribution of Fentanyl?

It is certainly a useful tool in the law enforcement tool box to help combat the production of Fentanyl. But such useful tools have been created over the years to counter the threats of other harmful illegal drugs and yet the importation of illegal drugs remains astronomical and addiction problems continue to grow. Combating addiction has always involved a three-pronged approach, with seizures and arrests being one prong, prevention messaging the second and treatment of addiction the third. Hopefully the FEND OFF act will help stem the flow of Fentanyl, but it will still take dedicated work in the other two areas to prevent future addiction cases and help those who have already fallen victim to addiction.



It was a cold Saturday in January; temps had fallen below 40 and with the wind chill it felt more like the mid-twenties. When the temperature is below 40 degrees, we allow our guests to stay in during the day instead of going to the intake center each day at 8am and then departing from there at 10am. They return to intake each day at 4pm for testing before coming back to the shelter at 6pm each evening.

One of our guests who was employed left the shelter that day for a regularly scheduled shift. At 3pm his shift was completed, and he called to see if he could come back to the shelter vs. walking to the intake center for normal intake at 4pm. The peer counselor called and asked if that was acceptable. Replying it was fine if they tested him at the shelter, both drug and alcohol. He failed the testing and became combative. As 911 was dialed, he passed out, struggled to breathe, and stopped breathing. Narcan was administered. He was taken to the hospital, treated, and has spent the last few months in detox and rehab.

OBX Room in the Inn provides food, clothing, and shelter to homeless adults in the Outer Banks November 1 to April 30 and maintain our intake center May to October to provide services year around. We connect those in need to potential resources to break the cycle of homelessness through our many partners, including the Department of Social Services, Beach Food Pantry, Crossroads, Dare Community Care Clinic, Interfaith, Saving Lives Taskforce, and more. Because of the partnership with the Saving Lives Task Force, we have Narcan at the intake center, at the shelter, in the transport van, and I carry it in my car.

With over 90% of our funding coming from donations purchasing testing supplies has been a struggle, but this past year the Saving Lives Task Force helped us with funding for testing supplies through the opioid settlement funds. These items have saved at least three lives this season and helped us to ensure safety and security for all involved. Our sincere thanks for the difference this is making in the lives of those less fortunate and those who work and give so generously of their time to invest in the homeless in Dare Co.

We are the only nonprofit whose mission is to directly serve the homeless. No other organization provides regular bed-stays, food, and clothing to those in need on the Outer Banks or Dare Co. We are the final safety-net for many who have fallen on hard-times and were unable to find security through other service providers on their own.

For more information about the OBX Room In the Inn please visit our website: www.obxroomintheinn.org or call 252-255-1133.

