The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative, led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in conjunction with the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN, took place on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There were various locations in Laredo, Texas where medication could be dropped off for proper disposal.

This was the 6th year that the WCCC has been able to help the DEA with the collection of unwanted and expired prescription drugs as well as over-the-counter medication for proper disposal to avoid drug abuse in our community. During this event, about 700 lbs. of unwanted/expired medication was collected for proper disposal!

If you would like to learn how to dispose of your unwanted/expired medication properly, please visit the following link https://www.fda.gov/downloads/drugs/resourcesforyou/consumers/buyingusingmedicinesafely/understandingover-the-countermedicines/ucm107163.pdf or call the WCCC at (956) 724-3177 for more information.
Sonia Lara is a 5-year employee of the South Texas Behavioral Health Center located in Edinburg, Texas, and she is stationed in Laredo. She serves as the Executive Representative for three counties: Webb, Jim Hogg, and Zapata and is responsible for overseeing the business development of these counties while providing outreach services for its citizens. She is responsible for facilitating a higher caliber of mental health care for the mental health community suffering a crisis in conjunction with the referral sources. She oversees all local and incipient projects in her area. Sonia has worked in the area of mental health for the past 10 years and has made it her priority to bring awareness and “break the stigma one family at a time.”

She has been a WCCC member for more than 4 years and has served as Chairperson, and Vice-Chairperson. She has previously served as a board member/stakeholder for organizations such as the Women’s City Club, Laredo Crime Stoppers, Webb County District Attorney’s Office, CPS Family Drug Treatment Court, Webb County Domestic Violence Coalition, City of Laredo Health Department’s Youth And Adult Council, SCAN’s Red Ribbon Committee, SCAN’s Mujeres Sanas Program, HHSC-OBA Mental Health and Substance Abuse Awareness Symposium Planning Committee, and is Blessed Sacrament School’s PTO President-Elect for 2017-2018. She is a graduate of the City of Laredo Police Department’s first citizen’s police academy, a past president of Texas A&M International University’s Criminal Justice Club, a past vice-president for Laredo Community College’s Criminal Justice Club, and was a catechism teacher for 16 years at her parish San Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Sonia shares that her personal and professional goals are parallel: to make an impact in the community she so dearly loves and works for. Sonia is a person who “emanates from Laredo and works for Laredo” and most recently in 2016 was inducted into the United Independent School District’s League of Legends as a United South Panther Legend. She shares that without the support of her bosses, colleagues, the community, and her family she would not be able to do all she does. While she has accommodated the community in several capacities and has been awarded many accolades, she shares that her favorite title by far is “MOM.” Sonia is a mother to a son, Roberto Castillo II, who fuels her and keeps her moving forward while keeping her two feet on the ground.

Creating Awareness on Prescription Drug Abuse

We have been very actively working in trying to keep our community informed about the dangers of prescription drug abuse in youth through media campaigns and the implementation of medication disposal boxes. Our local Sheriff Martin Cuellar has been helping us promote the medication drop box located at his office at 902 Victoria St. and local Constable Mike Villarreal from Pct. 2 located at 901 S. Milmo has recently implemented a medication disposal box to help reduce prescription drug abuse in our county.
Prescription Drug Abuse occurs when someone takes a medication that was prescribed for someone else or takes their own prescription medication in a way not intended by a doctor or for a different reason—like to get high.

Prescription drug abuse has become a big health issue due in large part to the danger of abusing prescription pain medications. For teens, it is a growing problem.

- After marijuana and alcohol, prescription drugs are the most commonly abused substances by Americans age 14 and older.
- Teens abuse prescription drugs for a number of reasons, such as to get high, to stop pain, or because they think it will help them with school work.
- Most teens get prescription drugs they abuse from friends and relatives, sometimes without the person knowing.
- Boys and girls tend to abuse some types of prescription drugs for different reasons. For example, boys are more likely to abuse prescription stimulants to get high, while girls tend to abuse them to stay alert or to lose weight.

When prescription drugs are taken as directed, they are usually safe. It requires a trained health care clinician, such as a doctor or nurse, to determine if the benefits of taking the medication outweigh any risks for side effects. But when abused and taken in different amounts or for different purposes than as prescribed, they affect the brain and body in ways very similar to illicit drugs. (Source: NIDA www.drugabuse.gov)
Our Passion is Helping People
Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN
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Laredo, TX 78041
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Upcoming Events ....

- In the months of September through December 2017, the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN will be working to accomplish different Social/Environmental Strategies to help reduce underage drinking, marijuana use, and prescription drug abuse among minors.

- The next Webb County Community Coalition meetings will take place on Tuesday, September 5th and October 3rd inside the meeting hall at San Martin De Porres Catholic Church located at 1704 Sandman St. from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend.

Ordinance Violations

PLEASE REPORT ANY NO SMOKING ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS!
REMEMBER NO SMOKING IS ALLOWED IN PUBLIC PLACES.
Call the City of Laredo Health Department
956-795-4935 (phone)
956-344-1571 (pager)

Keep all Public Places in Laredo Smoke-Free!

Nuestro Orgullo “Our Pride” Awards

The WCCC Nuestro Orgullo Awards took place on July 5, 2017. These awards are given to recognize those individuals in the community who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of drug prevention, intervention, treatment, and/or aftercare during the past year.

The award was given to Judge Danny Dominguez for being a professional in the community that works to prevent/reduce drug use as Justice of the Peace for Webb County.

The volunteer/supporter award was given to Blanca Trevino-Castro for actively participating in the reduction of alcohol and substance abuse in the community.

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Working Together for a Drug-Free Community!

We are on the Web!
www.scan-inc.org
Find us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter at WCCC-Drug-Free