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**A grassroots coalition dedicated to helping our communities address and combat underage use of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and other drugs in Napa County.**

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use of Facebook as a  
community awareness  
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DECEMBER, 2011

A program of the Napa  
County Office of  
Education

#### YOUTH MARIJUANA PREVENTION INITIATIVE

### Marijuana "Edibles"

Cookies, cakes, brownies, lollipops, muffins...pizza delivery anyone? The use of edible marijuana is on the rise among teens, who say access to marijuana in general is "easier to get than gum", as one Napa teen puts it.

Packaged for fun, the appeal is undeniable, yet if most parents understood that the THC content in marijuana is 10 times stronger than in the 1970's and 80's, they might realize that the damaging effects on the teen brain are quite real and should be taken seriously.

Julie Lovie, a teacher at Valley Oak High School in Napa and a Friday Night Live Advisor, says, "Marijuana has become a very important part of many teens lives, a sort of culture. Many teens use marijuana to self-medicate because the drugs they were put on when they were younger made them feel like zombies. Edible marijuana seems to be a way to 'use' before school and not be caught because there is no real smell."



## CATALYST TEAM LEADERS & MEETING SCHEDULE

### Napa

#### City Team Leader:

**Jennifer Stewart**

707.259.5949

[jstewart@ncoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:jstewart@ncoe.k12.ca.us)

#### Next Meeting

1/18/2012

3rd Tuesday of the Month

**Time:** 3:00-4:00

**Location:** NVUSD Admin

Bldg, Rm 207

2425 Jefferson St.

Napa

#### Equipo Latino

#### Team Leaders

**Belinda Ruiz**

[bruiz@ncoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:bruiz@ncoe.k12.ca.us)

707.265.2781

#### Celeste Fuller

[cfuller@ncoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:cfuller@ncoe.k12.ca.us)

#### Next Meeting

Friday 12/9/11

**Time:** 11am

**Location:** Napa Park

Homes' Community Center

790 Lincoln Ave.

Napa

### American Canyon

#### City Team Leaders:

**George Vasquez**

naparbs@

beverageconsulting

network.com

**Steve Perry**

[sperry@nvusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:sperry@nvusd.k12.ca.us)

#### Next Meeting

Friday, 1/27/2012

**Time:** 7:30am

**Location:** Bldg A,

American Canyon High

School

Signs to look for: Dilated pupils and bloodshot eyes

For more information, please visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse at [www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)

**Important Note:** Recent studies have shown that marijuana "normalization", such as attempts to legalize marijuana or allow medical marijuana, are linked to a decrease of the perception of harm and an increase in marijuana use among youth. The Catalyst Coalition recently produced a [Position Paper](#) outlining research about the issue and the Coalition's stance. The Coalition is concerned that the presence of any medical marijuana dispensaries in Napa County will be detrimental to youth.

## CATALYST UPDATES

### Get to know this sticker...

As part of the Social Host Awareness Campaign, Catalyst will be sending these static cling stickers to all middle school families in Napa County. In addition, Friday Night Live and Mariposa students will be contacting stores to post these stickers near their alcohol displays during the holiday season. This is a community-wide effort to raise awareness of Napa County's social host law. If you would like one to put on your window or refrigerator, please let us know. They also make great party favors! =)



Please contact Stevi Dalbey at [sdalbey@ncoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:sdalbey@ncoe.k12.ca.us) or call 265-2794. They're free and you'll be glad you did.

### Catalyst reaches out to local health providers

Thank you to all of the health offices throughout Napa County who have agreed to participate in this initiative to start screening kids for drug and alcohol use, starting in middle school. *27% of Napa 7th graders report taking one full drink of alcohol at the age of 12 or younger* (California Healthy Kids Survey, Napa County 2009-2010).



"The younger people are when they start drinking, the more likely they are to have significant alcohol problems as adults, including abuse and addiction," says pediatrician Dr. Janet Williams, a professor of pediatrics in San Antonio, and chairwoman of the Academy's committee on substance abuse. Health is one of the top reasons that kids' choose not to drink

## St. Helena

### City Team Leader:

**Lisa Toller**

707.253.6838

[ltoller@ncoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:ltoller@ncoe.k12.ca.us)

### Next Meeting

December 14th

**Time:** 5:30-6:30pm

**Location:** First  
Presbyterian Church,  
1428 Spring St.  
St. Helena

## Calistoga

### City Team Leaders:

**Anne Williams**

**707.942.6278 x154**

[awilliams@calistoga.k12.ca.us](mailto:awilliams@calistoga.k12.ca.us)

### Chief Jonathan Mills

707.942.2810

[jmills@ci.calistoga.ca.us](mailto:jmills@ci.calistoga.ca.us)

### Monthly Meetings

2nd Tues. of the month

**Time:** 3-4pm

**Location:** Staff Lounge at  
Calistoga High School  
1608 Lake St., Calistoga

### Quick Links

## Great Websites!

### For Teens

[Above the Influence](#)

[Asklistenlearn.com](#)

[Alcohol and the Teen Brain](#)

[nodrugs.info](#)

[GirlTalk](#)

### For Everybody

[The Power of Parents](#)

[Blood-Alcohol Concentration](#)

[Alcohol & Parenting](#)

alcohol ([centurycouncil.org](http://centurycouncil.org)).

**Reach the kids *before they start.***

### CATALYST VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Frances Ortiz-Chavez is a star!

Frances is the Director of Puertas Abiertas, a Napa resource center that works in the Latino community. She has been instrumental in helping to form a new Catalyst team among spanish speakers.



In her words, "By forming a Latino Catalyst Coalition, the Latino community will have important drug and alcohol prevention information. Members can provide input that is relevant to their culture and life experiences. This will allow more Latinos to become active partners in promoting a community that nurtures education and health living as the best alternative to risky youth behavior such as underage drinking and drug abuse."

**We greatly appreciate Frances' time and expertise in supporting underage drinking prevention in Napa County ~ and a huge thanks to ALL of our volunteers for your continuing support!**

### CITY TEAM NEWS

## St. Helena Prevention Partnership

The St. Helena city team has completed its Marijuana Prevention Logic Model (a type of strategic plan used by the Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America) to reduce underage marijuana use in St. Helena. Projects for 2012: advocating for a drug-sniffing dog on the high school campus, providing lighting and signage in known areas of marijuana use, and educating parents and students about the effects of the drug. If you are interested in being involved in these projects, please contact Lisa Toller at [ltoller@ncoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:ltoller@ncoe.k12.ca.us).



## Napa City Team

We are working on Alcohol and Marijuana 5-year plans right now. The Friday Night Live teens were valuable contributors to the plans at our November meeting, and we appreciate their honest and insightful contributions. One student said,

[Marijuana Prevention Project](#)  
[Common Sense Media](#)

[The Marin Institute: Alcohol Industry Watchdog](#)

[Montana Meth Project](#)  
[Alcohol & Health](#)

[National Center on Addiction at Columbia University](#)

[Building Drug-Free Communities](#)

## In Spanish

[hablacontushijos.org](http://hablacontushijos.org)

"Marijuana is easier to get than gum," and all agreed that "marijuana is more accepted than alcohol." These important comments help the adults in the room understand what is going on and how we can all work together with youth to reduce use and access.

## Napa Equipo Latino

The Catalyst Coalition's new Equipo Latino will hold its first meeting on Friday, December 9th. The group will meet at 11am at the Napa Park Homes' Community Center, located at 790 Lincoln Ave. The Spanish-speaking community of Napa is invited to come and learn about the Coalition, its initiatives, and to discuss any issues related to the prevention of alcohol and substance use in minors. Anyone with questions can contact Belinda at 707-265-2781.

## Calistoga Safe Kids Committee

The Calistoga Jr. High Leadership class went on a "Natural High" field trip to a circus school in Oakland, and is creating posters with prevention messages. The Calistoga Catalyst Coalition is also working on the marijuana initiative.



### CATALYST STAFF

**Napa County Office of Education:**

**Jennifer Stewart**  
**Julie de Polo**  
**Stevi Dalbey**  
**Lisa Toller**  
**Johana Guzman**  
**Belinda Ruiz**  
**Celeste Fuller**

**2121 Imola Avenue**  
**Napa, CA 94559**  
**(707) 253-6800**

## D.A.R.E. / SAFE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

### DARE "Fiesta Night" Fundraiser a Huge Hit!

The 2nd annual event brought in donations totaling more than \$11K to support DARE programs in Napa County. It was a great night of music provided by the Davies Duke Band and hearty appetizers from Compadres. More than 100 supporters were in attendance and next year is already booked for November 8th! Thank you very much to all donors and volunteers for helping this valuable program thrive and succeed.



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