

1. What do you do if your child says that they will smoke weed again even after you have spoken to them and given them consequences? What if they tell you that they don't think it is a big deal??

-Parents can't be afraid to "play hard ball". It is very important to stand strong when it comes to your children and do whatever it takes to help them. Drug testing them regularly is an option. You should set up clear consequences and follow through on them.

While it is true that not all people who smoke pot will end up using hard drugs like heroin, it is true that everyone who is using hard drugs like heroin started by smoking pot. Cannabis addiction was the primary cause for inpatient rehab among adolescents two years ago. The pot that is out there today has a much higher THC level than the pot that was out there in the 70's. It is addictive.

2. Where do you turn if you think your child is dealing drugs and you don't want the law involved?

-When we as SACS are faced with a situation that involves possible drug dealing,, the parameters for handling the situation become very "case specific"

because we are not only looking at the life of the student but the potential danger to those he/she is selling to and we have an obligation to protect them. This is a situation which should be dealt with as quickly as possible by contacting your school SAC.

There are situations when the law *should* be involved. The parents of a dealer, if it is proven that the parents knew can face serious legal consequences if they do not stop this illegal activity from occurring from their home. The young person who is dealing is probably also using. Usually young people deal to support their own habits. Additionally, the people that are dealing drugs at the source level, are often dangerous criminals, and there is a great deal of violence associated with dealing drugs.

3. How can I decipher code words used on facebook/my

Space?? What does “candy” mean?

-Kids are very savvy on the computer and usually

begin to change their codes just as we can decipher

them. **Urbandictionary.com** is a website than may be helpful. Check your child's cell phone. If they are using codes when they are texting, they may be talking about drugs. "Candy" generally refers to drugs. It is used to describe many different types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine and prescription pills. Be aware that if your child feels the need to speak in code, they are trying to hide something. ("Nose Candy" is a term used to describe cocaine.)

4. What if a child feels like everyone around him or her is using but they aren't?? How do you help them deal with that??

-The hardest thing to do is ask kids to change friends and it really isn't realistic. But, it's important to be truthful with your kids about your insight and how you feel about the friends they are spending time with. Share your feelings with them. Be open and honest. You can advise them to choose to spend time with them in situations that are more structured and avoid settings they know are unsafe. Remember, kids tend to hang out with kids that are doing what they are (i.e. smokers hang around smokers)

so their involvement with children who are using drugs may be a red flag.

5. How do you get your kids to not perceive therapeutic interventions and police involvement as punishment??

-When a child is in crisis, it is important to do what is needed to get them help and it needs to be OK that they may be angry with you. It may be easier at the time to do nothing and protect the parent/child relationship but the long-term consequences are very severe. You need to work with professionals to determine what is causing the crisis and what possible treatment options are. It will be hard in the moment for these children to understand that you are doing what is best for them but it is important to get them help.

6. How easy is it for kids to get drugs?

-It's very easy. Unfortunately, drugs are everywhere.

7. How do you explain to kids that have taken medication all their life to be healthy that drugs can be bad??

-All teenagers who take medications need to understand that it is only helpful when taken as prescribed. It is not to be shared to overused or else it can be lethal. As a parent, you should have a very serious conversation with your child about this even if they tell you that they know already. Tell them again and again!! Also, reach out to us if we need us. We are here to help.

8. Are kids ever relieved to get caught and get help??

-Yes, eventually, but it's a long process.

9. What do you do with information you have about another child who may be engaging in dangerous behavior?

-Call the school and ask to talk to the SAC. The source of any information will be kept confidential. The SAC can then reach out to that child and their family and get them help they may need. If the information is deemed reliable the SAC can then reach out to that child and their family and get them help they may need.

10. Is there anything in school that helps the children understand the differentiation between tobacco and heroin??
- Yes, students are educated about each drug and the severity through the health curriculum as well as lessons the SACS do in the classrooms.
11. Will there be information for the students regarding the upcoming 911 law (if passed it will protect anyone who calls to get help for a alcohol/drug related incident), especially pre-prom??
- Though the law has not been passed yet, all prom goers are educated about the procedures and responsibilities for getting a child help when there is a drug related incident. Most children who don't call for help do so because they are worried about getting in trouble. We explain to them the potential and very severe trouble that can occur if they DON'T reach out for help. Parents can reinforce with their children, that the responsible thing to do is to call for help. The consequences of failing to get help

for someone who has overdoses on any drug, including alcohol can be fatal.