



# Together *for* Families



## **News & Updates from Together for Families**

Thank you for being a part of the [Together for Families](#) network!

Our goal is to bring you helpful and informative updates from the Drug Enforcement Administration and our partners. Send your feedback to help us.

### **The Network is Growing!**

The Together for Families network now includes listings from more than 50 non-profit organizations, federal agencies, and all states and territories. Explore the network to find resources that can be helpful to you. If you know of an organization that has information or services that would be helpful to families concerned about,

or affected by substance use, encourage them to email [togetherforfamilies@dea.gov](mailto:togetherforfamilies@dea.gov) to learn how they can join.

[Check Us Out](#)



### **Four Seasons of “Awkward Conversations” Podcast Now Available**

More than 60 episodes of the video podcast “Awkward Conversations” are now available at the DEA’s [Get Smart About Drugs website](#).

Awkward Conversations is hosted by actor, author and activist Jodie Sweetin, best known for her role as Stephanie Tanner on Full House and Fuller House, but most proud of her current title “mom.” Jodie, who also is a former drug counselor, is joined by Amy McCarthy, Director of Clinical Social Work, Adolescent Substance Use and Addiction Program at Boston Children’s Hospital.

Every week, Jodie and Amy talk with celebrity parents like Mayim Bialik (Blossom, Big Bang Theory, Jeopardy), comedian Alec Mapa, and guest experts such as Dr. Cooper Lawrence (CBS) and Dr. Jean Kilbourne (creator of the "Killing Us Softly" series), about a wide array of subjects to help parents empower their kids with the tools needed to stay safe, remain drug free, and make smart decisions.

The podcast is made possible by the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks’ Drug Awareness Program in partnership with the DEA.

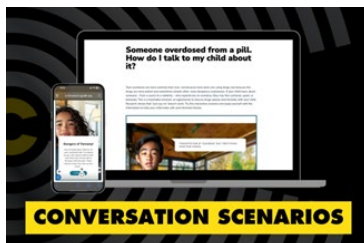
[Watch Now](#)

## “Walk for Lives” Makes Plans for 2025

Walks for Lives is a grassroots movement led by survivors—parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends—united by urgency to confront the fentanyl crisis. On **Saturday, September 20, 2025**, communities across the nation, from New York City to Los Angeles, will come together to address one of the most devastating public health crises in history. These events are focused on raising awareness, providing education, and equipping neighborhoods with lifesaving resources. Walks for Lives connects communities with vital tools and opportunities for collaboration, reaching hundreds of cities and towns across the nation impacted by fentanyl. Through remembrance, education, advocacy, and action, Walks for Lives honors those lost to fentanyl while empowering families and communities to prevent future tragedies. To learn how you can participate or bring Walks for Lives to your community, visit [WalkForLives.org](https://WalkForLives.org).



[Take Me There](https://WalkForLives.org)



## The New Drug Talk

A Guide for Family Conversations: Having tough conversations about drugs with young people can be daunting. That's why The New Drug Talk—developed by leading fentanyl education nonprofit Song for Charlie—offers [interactive scenarios](#) that help parents and caregivers practice these crucial discussions in a safe, practical way. Rather than just suggesting what to say, these role-playing tools let you work through real-life situations and find language that feels natural. Each scenario presents a common situation—from basic questions about fentanyl and other illicit drugs to concerns about friends' behaviors—and guides you through potential responses. The interactive format helps you explore different approaches and their outcomes, building confidence for actual conversations. Every scenario includes downloadable tip sheets with key phrases

and facts you can reference later. These practical tools reflect real challenges families face and provide specific facts and approaches that work. By practicing these conversations in advance, parents and caregivers feel more prepared to have open, effective discussions about the realities of today's drug landscape with their children.

[Try It Out](#)

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