

Dear Parent of Lake Travis High School Student,

My name is Stefanie Turner, and I am the founder of Texas Against Fentanyl (www.txaf.org). I live in Leander, and I lost my son, Tucker Roe, at the age of 19 to fentanyl poisoning. Tucker was a bright young man that was well-liked by the entire community around him and loved immensely within our family. I had the privilege of speaking to the students of Lake Travis High School this past week to provide awareness and education on fentanyl and the war it is raging in every community across our nation.

Our goal at TXAF is to increase awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and support those experiencing its devastating effects. This communication is to provide you with information and resources to aid in increasing your awareness as well and working together to support our children and local communities in fighting this epidemic.

The topics discussed during the presentation were as follows:

1. During the 2023 Texas legislative session, TXAF along with several of our “Angel Families” (families who have lost children to fentanyl poisoning) and Jennifer Stevens (TXAF’s Educational and Political Consultant) lobbied for the implementation of a bill requiring all Texas public schools to provide fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness education. This bill (HB3908) was passed and named “Tucker’s Law” after my son, and this presentation was just a start to providing that education.
2. We also shared information regarding House Bill 6 (HB6) which was also passed during this legislative session and increases penalties related to the sale and production of fentanyl by classifying the distribution of fentanyl as felony with a minimum sentencing of 10 years along with a 5 year minimum sentencing for the possession of paraphernalia.
 - We shared that if they find themselves in a situation where someone is showing signs of an overdose to not hesitate in calling 911. According to HB6, an individual will not be charged with crime if they are under the influence because they are attempting to save a life.
3. Statistics shared from law enforcement officials present included:
 - There are approximately 275-300 deaths daily resulting from fentanyl-related incidents.
 - This can be compared to having a plane crash daily.
 - Fentanyl is the #1 killer of individuals aged 18-45.
 - Fentanyl does not discriminate on geography, age, or race!
 - 99% of pills seized by the DEA in 2022 contained fentanyl and 60% contained a fatal dosage.
 - In 2021, 70,000 people died from fentanyl-related deaths; we are already at 120,000 in 2023.
 - Since 2018, teen drug deaths have grown the fastest up 152% driven by fentanyl 356%
 - Three times faster than the U.S. all ages growth rates
 - The Department of Public Safety has reported that this year there have been enough seizures of fentanyl laced products to kill almost every American.
 - Travis County is the leading county in the state of Texas in the number of fentanyl-related deaths in 2023, 127 since January...THIS IS ALARMING!
4. We did an exercise with the students that demonstrated how fentanyl reacts to Naloxone when administered. I encourage you to inquire with your student and learn more about this process.
 - Despite Naloxone’s ability to reverse the effects of fentanyl poisoning, it’s important to always request the presence of first responders at the scene as fentanyl could still be present in the body 15-30 minutes after administration causing the body to revert back to a poisoned state.
5. A few miscellaneous points and GREAT questions posed from students included:
 - Naloxone can be purchased without a prescription at your local pharmacy (HEB, Randall’s, etc.)
 - Medical insurance may be utilized to purchase Naloxone
 - A federally funded, state executed grant supplies individuals and organizations with Naloxone (Narcan) free of charge. A request may be submitted via www.morenarcanplease.com
 - Law enforcement officials have reported that Xylazine (animal tranquilizer) is now being seized and found in victims independently and in combination with fentanyl. This drug can’t be reversed by Naloxone. However, it’s recommended that Naloxone is still used if a poisoning is suspected since both

Xylazine and fentanyl have been found to be present in combination, and Naloxone doesn't possess any harmful effects if fentanyl is not present.

- Xylazine is highly deadly and can cause open wounds to form across your body.
 - Why are cartels killing their clients? Fentanyl is extremely addictive and cheap to produce. Cartels financially capitalize on the resulting demand of users who become addicted. They couldn't care less about you, their dealers, the victims, or their families...ITS ABOUT MONEY!
6. Carilu Bell, Deputy Johnson and JoAnne Crownover of your community, shared their personal experiences on navigating the front lines of this horrible war.

Speakers and Participants

Stefanie Turner – mother of four. Her 19 year-old son, Tucker, was poisoned with fentanyl after taking a pill purchased through social media that he thought was Xanax. She founded Texas Against Fentanyl (www.txaf.org), a 501c3 non-profit organization focused on providing education and awareness in communities across the state of Texas and our nation. With the passing of Tucker's Law, TXAF is focused on bringing educational material to all schools and communities. Curriculum developed to state standards for grades 6-8 is now complete, and we are seeking to raise funds for grades 9-12.

Carilu Bell – A mother of three. Her 44 year-old son, Casey, was poisoned with fentanyl when he took a pill that he thought was Valium in his attempt to obtain rest in preparation for an upcoming busy work schedule. During the pandemic, Casey battled with depression and anxiety, but was committed to healthy living and turned to journaling to help him through tough times. Casey was well known across the Lake Travis area for being a standout football player at Lake Travis High School and working in the community throughout the years. All three of her children attended LTISD.

JoAnne Crownover – A mother of two. Her 18 year-old daughter, Savannah, was poisoned by fentanyl when she took a pill that she thought was Xanax in her attempt to obtain rest one week before graduation from Lake Travis High School. Savannah, like many students, was working through information overload, expectations, social media and the uncertainties of the next chapter of her life. She found an advocate in her therapist, and made great strides in facing her anxiety. She was accepted to the University of Texas at Austin where her younger sister, Marina, attends classes and plays volleyball.

Deputy Noel Johnson – A father of a 16 year-old son and a 20 year-old daughter. Deputy Johnson served the Lakeway community as a police officer for 11 years and is now working with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office.

Sgt. Heather Vargas – Sgt. Vargas along with Deputy Johnson has been pivotal in the development and implementation of Tucker's Law. Sgt. Vargas leads the Organized Crime Unit at Williamson County SO.

Resources and Information

- Downloadable fact sheets (updated at the end of each year) - [Factsheets – TXAF: Texas Against Fentanyl](#)
- If you student is interested in becoming a peer advocate through social media and speaking at middle schools, please contact Stefanie Turner through our website - TXAF Ambassador - [Contact TXAF – TXAF: Texas Against Fentanyl](#)
- If you would like to have TXAF at an event near you, please submit a request here for consideration - [Schedule an Event – TXAF: Texas Against Fentanyl](#)
- If you are interested in supporting the fight against fentanyl and helping us fund the development of 9-12th grade curriculum, please contact: Stefanie Turner (see link above) or donate at - [TXAF-Texas Against Fentanyl - Support Our Efforts \(networkforgood.com\)](#)
- Williamson County Sheriff's Office - [Sheriff's Office | Williamson County, TX \(wilcotx.gov\)](#). Under Sheriff Mike Gleason's leadership, the Williamson County Sheriff's office has been an integral community partner in providing support and resources to help TXAF educate, raise awareness, and fight the war on fentanyl.
- Recovery – although we didn't discuss this topic, there are many good resources available to provide assistance, and we have worked with the following organizations:
[Bluebonnet Trails | Serving the Counties of Central Texas \(bbtrails.org\)](#)
[Alcohol & Drug detox center : Rise Recovery Service](#)