

Sno-Isle Libraries
“Issues That Matter: Drugs in Our Communities”
Recorded Aug. 14, 2014, at the Monroe Library
Video transcript

00:00:00 – 00:00:20 [Music and Credits]

00:00:20 MODERATOR (ED BREMER)

This spring at the Sultan Library, two young people overdosed on synthetic marijuana, known as Spice and if you don't know about Spice, you will know about it before you leave tonight. It's a drug that, while not *illegal*, can cause seizures, hallucinations and vomiting. But the drug problem along the Corridor goes much farther than *Spice*. *The Snohomish County Tribune* reports that the number of substance abuse calls and thefts in the first six months of 2014, was seven to eight times *higher* than the same period a year ago.

Police say that most of the thefts were committed to fuel a heroin habit and all of these substance abuse calls thus far have been related to heroin. High school girls are reportedly using heroin as a *weight-loss* product. Heroin is showing up in-, in routine traffic stops. Drug-related hospital admissions have skyrocketed. Heroin and other drugs are taking a toll on the health and the security of the community, lives are being cut short, families are shattered and that is why we are here *tonight* to talk about that, to *understand* the extent of the drug problem and to share some ideas for *addressing* the problems.

After opening comments from each of our four panelists tonight, we'll take questions. We'll ask questions, we'll open the floor up to questions and we will try and find some answers tonight, as well. *When* the time comes for those questions, we have a roving microphone. We'll bring that microphone to you. We will hold it for you to *ask* your question. Please address your question to someone in particular. You can certainly address the question to all *four* of them. Don't address your question to me. I don't know *anything*. For those of us who are joining us by Twitter, please Tweet your questions. We'll have them asked *for* you at the appropriate time.

Tonight, on our *panel* we have Detective David Chitwood of the Snohomish Regional Drug and Gang Task Force, Bart Wheaton, Chemical Dependency Counselor with Catholic Community Services and Cocoon House, Kerry Boone, Vice Chair of the Monroe Community Coalition and we're-, we have Officer Scott Kornish from the Monroe Police Department with us, as well.

So for the *opening* part of our forum tonight, I'm going to ask each of the panelists to just make a brief statement. Talk briefly from *their* experiences of what they've *seen* and what they *know*, and their *thoughts* about drugs and drug use along the US 2 Corridor. And I think we'll just begin with Officer Scott Kornish.

00:03:06 SCOTT KORNISH

Thank you, Ed. Thank you for having me here to night. Thanks for everybody to showing up. [clears throat] I'm Officer Scott Kornish. I work for the Monroe Police Department. Been in law enforcement ten years. During the time with Monroe I have training in gang customs and suppression. I'm a hostage negotiator. I was a school resource officer, which I left in January of 2013, to become in my position now on the Monroe Police ProAct Team. Officer Springer, who

is also here today to speak, took my position at the – as the School Resource Officer in January 2013.

The ProAct Team in Monroe, we have *three* members – myself, my partner, who could not be here today, who is a Narcotics Canine Handler and a Sergeant. We, with the ProAct Team, we don't – you dispatch the calls. We do proactive enforcement, directed patrol. We work problem houses with surveillance, plain clothes enforcement and surveillance and uniform patrol. [clears throat]

Mostly with narcotics, but also with narcotics is what Ed had mentioned [clears throat] comes a lot of property crimes. So we work organized retail theft, vehicle prowls, burglaries and EBT and Welfare fraud, which is commonly-, all of those things are commonly associated with narcotics. Organized retail theft and I think Detective Chitwood could say this from his area in Snohomish, as well, is we've gone off the charts with Lowe's, Home Depot, even Albertsons and Safeway, Fred Meyer, Kohl's and it's usually to finance a drug habit. And the same with EBT fraud, we're finding – EBT welfare cards are being traded for narcotics. Thank you.

00:05:13 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Cool, thanks. I am Detective Chitwood. I work for the Snohomish Regional Drug and Gang Task Force. I am a Deputy and I'm *assigned* to the Drug Task Force. I've been in law enforcement for 22 years. I came from the City of Lake Forest Park and transferred over to Snohomish County Sheriff's Office back in '99.

I kinda found my niche into the drug world when I started doin' patrol and stuff. That sounds kinda *weird* but it was what I *liked* to do and what interests me and what I like to enforce. So eventually got hired with the Drug Task Force so currently, now the Drug Task Force I – I do all kinds of stuff actually. I handle all the tips that come in. I work the website that we have. I have – we just started a Facebook page. Any drug trainings, drug talks, community events or somethin', I'm kinda like the face of the Task Force, to be able to go out and do those types of things. And then I do street level drug enforcement and drug nuisance houses. I work with Patrol on those, to shut down the activity there.

What-, what our Task Force does in Snohomish County, it's a *regional* drug task force so it's multi-jurisdictional. Just doesn't, you know, help unincorporated Snohomish County. We work with Monroe and Bothell and Stanwood, Granite Falls. So what we *do* is obviously the detectives there are undercover, and they work mid to upper level enforcement. So they're tryin' to stop the supply of the narcotics, the drugs coming into Snohomish County, and that's what they *do*.

Where my . . . is like Officer Kornish is doin', is the more lower end, street level addiction, problem retail theft type enforcement and stuff. So, again, at the Drug Task Force, it's kinda like a one-stop shop. It's really nice to *have* in Snohomish County. We have officers from other jurisdictions, obviously, and then we have some federal officers in our department, and then we have the Health Department, we have CPS. And the reason we have Health Department and CPS there is for when we go to these places that are problem areas and they have a sewage issue, a garbage issue, if there's a house that has *kids*, we have somebody assigned to your office that's able to help with that problem, right then and there.

We also have Prosecutor that's assigned to our office, so any of the cases that I write [clears throat] they don't go up to Snohomish County and get four or five different cases going with four

or five different prosecutors. We have *one* prosecutor that takes our cases and does our criminal prosecution, so it's really cool.

We also have a – a detective in there that does all of our civil seizure type stuff so when we take somebody's car or seize somebody's house, takes their money from drug funds and that type of thing, we're able to *do* that so –

Yeah. It's a-, it's unfortunate that we have to have such a big Task Force in Snohomish County but knowing that we have it is great because, you know, we have the ability to do a lot of different stuff so – Yeah. As you know, criminals don't have any boundaries, so being able to work with Skagit County, King County, Thurston County, Whatcom County – all of our detectives do a great job there, so –

And you guys are lucky to have a ProAct Team and such a, you know, *good* police department in Monroe that's very proactive and lookin' after the community and stuff, too, so – you guys are lucky to *have* that, so –

I think that's it for me.

00:08:23 **MODERATOR**

All right, David. Thank you. Bart Wheaton.

00:08:25 **BART WHEATON**

Hi, [clears throat] my name is Bart Wheaton. I'm a Substance Abuse Counselor, a Chemical Dependency Counselor for Catholic Community Services. I also work through Cocoon House that – for the at-risk youth, higher at-risk youth right now, and I've been doin' this for about five years now, working for Catholic Community Services.

I [clears throat] I guess . . . one of the things that was brought up at the last panel – I don't know if any of you were at the Snohomish panel – was one of the things that I think was a-, kind of a, I don't know, a faulty kind of idea that there is a good drug and a bad drug. And I'd like to just talk a little bit about that. How I address the-, the teenagers or the adolescents that I work with, I try not to put that category, you know, categorize those drugs as-, as a bad or a good drug because *all* of those substances, whether it be marijuana, heroin, alcohol, amphetamines, *all* those substances, they can't-, they can be used as prescribed and – and you know, recreationally, some of them. So I don't try to say that – that people, you know, those drugs are *bad*. If I come at a-, at an adolescent that tho-, those drugs are *bad*, what will *happen* is the adolescent who-, who is *taking* those drugs will tell me I'm *crazy*, ha!

Because a lot of times those drugs really *work* for the-, work for those . . . teenagers I work with. They *like* the effect produced by those drugs. It's like me telling you: *Oxygen's bad* for you. You'd say I was crazy. So I don't try to-, I try to *meet* 'em where they're *at*, so to speak. And – and I think that *any* drug can be bad if it's used too-, abused and to the point of addiction. So I try to address the *addiction* as-, as a *disease* rather than try to-, to say that there's one drug that's worse than the other drug. That's a kind of a slippery slope. I don't try to get into – I mean, there's certainly *worse* symptoms of withdrawal for different drugs or worse – a more addictive way that the drugs affect your *mind*. Different things that-, that little drugs *do*, but I don't try to separate them. I don't try to . . . let the kids know that, you know, becoming– I've seen . . . like I tour around the detox centers in the area, you know, and *volunteer* and I see kids in there that are

detoxing from heroin, Methamphetamines, and it's inevitable. I ask them what's the first drug they ever took and inevitably it's almost *always* marijuana. The first illicit drug that they've ever used. So it's, you know, any *one* of 'em can be bad. Thanks.

00:11:33 **MODERATOR**

Thank you. Kerry?

00:11:36 **KERRY BOONE**

I'm Kerry Boone. Can you hear me OK? And I am representing the Monroe Community Coalition. I – we're – we're coming kind of more from a prevention and wellness standpoint and – and our-, the Monroe Community Coalition is a grassroots coalition made up of people from various sectors here in Monroe. We have representation from the police force, from the school district, from the faith community, parents and some from the library, and anyone is welcome to participate. And we are trying, together, to accomplish something that we, no *one* individual or organization can do, and that is to help prevent drug use in our community. And we are fortunate to be part of a statewide program – The Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative. So we have funding from the State, and Monroe was chosen based on some – some of the elements of our community that show that we have a higher risk for underage drinking and drug abuse. But *also* because our community has demonstrated the ability to work together, and we have very limited resources here *in* Monroe.

So, it's really exciting to me that we have this resource available in our community. We've just been getting started and are starting to try to get to the root causes of drug use in our community. So we're working on strengthening the prevention programs that we have, even down to the pre-school level, elementary school, middle school and high school. And – and we have, through the Coalition, the supports of full-time drug prevention counselor at the middle school, and then the District also has a counselor at the high school.

So and – some of the things that we've been doing in the community, we have a campaign you many have seen at the movie theater called *Talk – we-, They Hear You*, encouraging parents to talk with their kids about – about drugs and alcohol. One of the things that we have noticed in looking at data, as we've been trained to get-, get a better picture of what the needs and issues are with drug and alcohol use in – in especially, *youth*, is that the perception is very distorted. You can ask – in the *Healthy Youth Survey*, kids were asked how many of their peers did they think use alcohol? And the kids responded that 64 percent is – is what their perception is, when in *reality*, and it's 24 percent. So their perception of – of if there will be consequences with law enforcement, most of them did not *think* so, and their perception of . . . of parents caring or – or showing, of supporting, most kids didn't think it was an issue with parents and – and had-, didn't think that their parents were concerned about that. So there are a lot of perception issues that we feel like we can make a difference and we're excited about having this Coalition in our community, and everyone is welcome to participate.

00:15:03 **MODERATOR**

Thank you. I'll start off with some questions here, just to set some background and – and some parameters here. And I-, and I'll ask Bart this question, and then I'll also put the question to Officer Kornish and Detective Chitwood. When you say "youth" in these detox centers, what – what age range are you dealing with and are you *seeing* the age group getting *lower* as the years progress? Or are you – have you maintained a fairly stable age range of-, of youth that you're

dealing with in these detox centers. And then, similar question for the Detective and the Officer, the *youth* that they're dealing with – are they getting *younger*?

00:15:45 **BART WHEATON**

So I – I think that the age that I usually am doing assessments on kids, it's been about the same. It's usually in the age between 7th and 8th grade when-, is when you'll see a lot of 'em will start and I'll first start to see 'em. And in the detox centers, I would say, yeah, I've seen a younger crowd show up there and since I've-, I've only been doin' this for five years, but definitely because of the prevalence of-, of heroin and-, and amphetamines in our-, in our communities. Because that's a – you *need* medical help to detox off those, or at least the heroin.

00:16:28 **MODERATOR**

And Detective, have-, have you, in the-, your 20 years, have you seen the age range dropping?

00:16:35 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

That's a-, that's a hard one for *me* to answer 'cuz of comin' from Lake Forest Park, I didn't *see* that. It was mainly the 19 to 29 year-olds that we were-, I mean, we had two elementary schools in the city of Lake Forest Park. Comin' into the *county*, workin' with the *county*, obviously we saw the fi-, wide range from elementary school up. So I would say it's – we've seen maybe younger kids, a little bit earlier now, but I'm not – I'm not thinking and looking at it and goin': Oh, my gosh, we're seein' *fifth*-graders and sixth-graders doin' this type of stuff, more so than we did before. But I-, I *am* seeing *more* homeless teenagers on the street, that are addicted to drugs and stuff *now*, than I ever have before. So . . . maybe that's a little bit of a yes, as far as the younger . . . kids.

00:17:22 **MODERATOR**

Officer Kornish?

00:17:24 **SCOTT KORNISH**

I mostly work the same age group – is on the street, as most people are 21 and over that I deal with. I mean, up into their 60s, people have been doin' drugs for so long. I *talk* to all of the people that I either *contact* with narcotics or arrest, and when I worked patrol . . . you know, the last . . . eight year-, eight years previous to goin' to the school, and all these kids would tell me are *adults* now, were telling me that they stared *using* when they were 13. I talked to many girls like when they were using Methamphetamine at 13 years old, is when they first *tried* it.

And again, with the juvenile-, *teenage* street kids, that are on the street, tend to be using, as well. I think Officer Springer, working at the high school, might have a better . . . current answer with the juveniles or the youth.

00:18:17 **MODERATOR**

Well let's give Officer Springer the microphone. Officer Springer? Just introduce yourself, please and then just go ahead and answer the question.

00:18:25 **OFFICER SPRINGER**

You bet. Officer Justin Springer, Monroe Police Department. I'm currently assigned as a School Resource Officer at Monroe High School and prior to comin' to the – hold on, it's kind of – prior to goin' to the high school, of course I worked patrol at the street level with everything and *currently*, you know, my age group that I have worked with is 8th grade through seniors. And unlike *these* guys, I'm not working with the 21-year-old crowd and up. And the biggest issue I see at the high school are prescription drugs and marijuana – those are the two biggest. I have not made a personal arrest for heroin at the high school, but I know kids are usin' it . . . who are *there* so. That probably *helps* –

00:19:08 **MODERATOR**

Yes, it does.

00:19:08 **OFFICER SPRINGER**

- give a little background.

00:19:09 **MODERATOR**

Thank you. And through the course of the evening, if you wanna join in, just throw something at me and we'll bring the microphone over to you.

00:19:14 **OFFICER SPRINGER**

OK.

00:19:16 **MODERATOR**

If I ask a question and you want to reply, just throw something at me and I'll see that you get the microphone. Kerry? Age group that you're dealing with and what-, what's the age *range* for the – for your organization?

00:19:32 **KERRY BOONE**

Pre-school up through high school and then – and just generally in our community. And on a personal level, I'm a *mom* in this community so I have kids at the high school and middle school, and I hear . . . all kinds of things that they see at – at the high school and midigal-, middle school level, at the parks. My sixth-grader last year saw kids, just a lot of activity and hookah pens and some of the newer things that I didn't see when I was a kid. Seem to be – my five-year-old brought me a marijuana pipe at the beach this week, a little treasure she'd found on the – on the beach so – it's affecting all of my kids.

00:20:20 **MODERATOR**

Well, let me follow up with a-, with something that Bart Wheaton brought up and just to ask each of you and – and Bart, you can expand a little bit on your answer. At-, at the *risk* of – of offending some, but based on an anecdotal experiences that you've all got – *Is* marijuana the starting point for drug use? Do you find marijuana swirling around in the early stages of the people that you deal with, the people that-, that you talk with, when they *are* involved with-, with the higher drugs, the – the amphetamines and the heroin and things of that nature? Will – will –

00:21:00 **SCOTT KORNISH**

Yeah, when I was at the school, [clears throat] especially, I had a debate with a young student before the legalization of marijuana for adults . . . about smoking marijuana. And remember, too, the THC content, which is what gets you high, in *today's* marijuana, is a lot different than it was in the '70s and '80s. You know, I've got the: Well, it's an *herb*. Well, growing on the shoulder of a road, natural growth with a one percent THC level, *maybe*. That's like catnip. But some of this marijuana is has a 30-percent THC. They're making *butter* with it, in which they're using butane and sucking out the THC concentration, which is off the charts for the-, for the content of THC. And what I had discussed with this young man was . . . about being a gateway drug and I said: Well, look. I said: Every person I've ever contacted or arrested or spoke with about heroin or methamphetamine use, *all* started, smoking marijuana. So I asked him if he still thought it was a gateway drug. Not everyone that smokes marijuana will shoot heroin. *But* everyone who shoots heroin started out smoking marijuana, for the most part.

00:22:15 **MODERATOR**

Detective?

00:22:15 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Yeah, I think it could be considered a gateway drug. Alcohol could be at the kids' level. Just the idea of what they're usin', like the hookah pipe. That could be the gateway drug now to, you know, what's out there. I mean, we're seein' hookah pipes all over. For those of you who don't know what a hookah pipe is, it's like an e-cigarette. You put . . . you know, some type of a cartridge in it that has liquid and then it vaporizes it and you inhale that, that vapor that comes out of there. And it's supposed to be safer and smokeless and all this stuff, you know, so that you don't get the second-hand smoke and stuff. But, you know, that could-, that could be something that starts up. So I - I'm not one to say: Yes, marijuana is the gateway drug and that's the one that, you know, everybody's been doin'. I think it *could be*. But it could also be alcohol. It could be somethin' else in the house, too. So -

00:23:03 **MODERATOR**

OK. Kerry? What has been *your* experience?

00:2307 **KERRY BOONE**

I would just add prescription drugs to the list of gateway, but I also-, in the *hearings* we participated in for retail sale of marijuana here in Monroe, several people who had personal experience with marijuana shared kind of their testimonials of - and that was the consensus. That, you know, when a pastor here in our community shared that he and some of his buddies had started out in high school using marijuana, kind of experimenting, and all of them committed that: Oh, yeah, this will never lead to anything. And he just shared the tragedies that as they escalated to higher drugs, almost all of them had gotten into serious drug issues. One of them had died and he just felt really strongly against the use of marijuana because of his experience. And one other . . . man that shared his experience, shared that his *son* . . . had been introduced to marijuana by a friend's *mother* and that had-, he had spent the last five years in rehabilitation programs and upwards of \$200,000 between them and their insurance in trying to help him get clean.

00:24:25 **MODERATOR**

And Bart, anything you wanna add to-, to what you – you started the discussion.

00:24:30 **BART WHEATON**

Yeah. I just wanted to reiterate that I don't think any *one* drug is any worse than any-, if you're *addicted* to a drug – that's the problem. The problem *is* the addiction. It's not *really* the drug, albeit, marijuana *is* a gateway-, *I* believe. I mean, I've worked with youth, like I said, for the last five years, and without *fail*, the initial drug that they've almost *always* used is marijuana. But they've-, it can be-, the-, and I see kids make the ultimate sacrifice of their *freedom*. They're on probation, *knowing* that if they smoke marijuana, that they *will* go to *jail*. They do it anyways. So that's a pretty big sacrifice. Sacrifice your *freedom* to smoke that *drug*. So that tells me the *impact* that marijuana *can* have on a person's brain when they're addicted. I mean, and I've seen a lot of things happen, as far as even in *adults*, they'll you know, flunk a drug test and – and lose their *job* and it'll affect their family *immensely*. So it's – I mean, either way, *addiction* to any drug – I mean, you-, I've seen people get addicted to videogames and – and have that cause a huge problem in their lives and in their families. So I try not to concentrate or beat down on-, any one *drug* because I know people that can recreationally smoke marijuana. I know people that also use it medicinally. And so I'm, you know, there's people that can *do* that.

00:25:55 **KERRY BOONE**

If - if I could just add, one of the things, I guess, that is *concerning* to me about marijuana, in particular, is that because it is *legal*, and that has a very significant impact on the perception of kids. When – when we, as *adults* have voted to make marijuana, the drug, *legal*, then kids with developing brains and teenagers who have not yet fully developed the ability to see through the consequences of their *choices*, are seeing that adults have – have made that choice, then it's really, especially important to make it *clear* to *kids*, that just because marijuana is legal does not mean that it is safe for them.

00:26:43 **MODERATOR**

You've been looking ahead at my *notes*, haven't you? We're gonna open it up to questions in the audience here in a few moments. So if you *do* have some questions, and I'm sure you *do*, begin to formulate those questions and – and who you might want to *ask* them to. But you-, you've given me the opportunity to – to lead into a very *broad* question, which is: How does the dynamic *change* now? What – do you, as the panelists think the situation is going to *be* now that marijuana use is legal for adults? Do you fear, anticipate that drug use is going to go *up*? If a parent can come home from work, light up and relax with a pipe, *just the same* as a parent coming home and opens a beer, or begins with a cocktail in the evening? Your-, your thoughts on how *that* dynamic is going to change? Officer Kornish?

00:27:43 **SCOTT KORNISH**

I think that we . . . we probably *will* see an increase of marijuana use with the youth. And we'll see – Officer Springer, I don't know if you've had any –

00:27:59 **OFFICER SPRINGER**

Actually, yeah.

00:27:59 **MODERATOR**

Hold on, just a second. Let us bring the mic. You didn't *throw* anything at me.

[laughter]

00:28:04 **OFFICER SPRINGER**

I – I started the School Resource Officer position at a unique time . . . because I started, I believe it was the week, or the second week after marijuana was legalized for those 21 and up, and I was working with Officer Kornish. In that first week, I believe it was six students I had arrested for possession of marijuana at the *school*. And at the end of the week I looked at 'em and I said: Is this the *norm*? You know, I was . . . *amazed* by it. And he said: No. But there was a definite *spike* at that time, and I still make several arrests on a regular *basis* at the high school for marijuana and that's probably the #1 arrest. Like you said, and prescription drugs, right there with it. So – so yeah, I . . . *I've* seen it, yeah.

00:28:50 **MODERATOR**

Can you-, can you draw a comparison with *before* the legalization to marijuana? Was it *fewer*? What was the – what do-, *arrests prior* to the legalization?

00:29:01 **OFFICER SPRINGER**

Well, I don't have any experience *before* 'cuz I just started at the high school the week after so –

00:29:08 **SCOTT KORNISH**

I *did*, but the first week that he was there was a busy week [laughs].

00:29:10 **OFFICER SPRINGER** [laughs]

00:29:12 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

[laughs] I don't think we've *seen* that yet. I don't know that we *know* the impact of what that's gonna be yet. Kids going home to families, to older *siblings* that are smoking marijuana because it's legal and they bought it at-, *legally* at a place that they're smoking. So I don't know that we've seen the impact of that. But I think, as *parents*, as grandparents, as *guardians*, as law enforcement and – and *others*, we have to be able to educate the kids *earlier* and – and have conversations and *talk* and say, you know, like somethin' I'd say to *my* kid is: Listen, if you go to a friend's house and now that marijuana's legal, and their parents light up or their uncle lights up or they're smoking marijuana or somethin', I want you to *call* me. I'll come and get ya and you're not gonna be allowed to *go* there. 'Cuz I *choose* in my *family* not to smoke it. So I'm gonna teach my kids that it's dangerous and when you turn 21, if *that's* what you *choose*, to decide to do, just like alcohol, that's what you choose to do – at 21.

So I think we just have to be able to calm-, you know, have conversations with the kids and let 'em *know* what we *like*, or, you know, what we want them to do. It's just like, if you go to a friend's house and their parents are drinkin' and they wanna drive down and get a Red Box

movie, I don't want you to get in the car with 'em. We've *had* those conversations and that's what we have to do as adults.

00:30:24 **MODERATOR**

Kerry, before I ask you what you say to *your* kids, I wanna ask Detective Chitwood – that conversation, if you're at a friend's house and mom or dad decides to light up, call me, I'm gonna come get you. Do you have that same conversation if they're at a friend's house and mom and dad wants to open a beer or pour a cocktail, do you tell them: Call me and come and get me?

00:30:46 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

No, I don't have that conversation with them.

00:30:47 **MODERATOR**

Why *not*? What's the difference?

00:30:49 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

I mean, I think the only conversation I had is if they're drinking, which one of their friends *is*, that when they go to that house is you don't get in a car with them if they're drinking. You know, but I didn't have a conversation with them as: Hey, if they're havin' a beer, you know – I just think . . . second-hand *smoke* and what happens when you're dri-, when you're smokin' marijuana is more of a concern to me if the parents comin' home and have a glass of wine or a thing of beer.

00:31:19 **SCOTT KORNISH**

I can add a little bit to that, too. You know, I think most – my perception is the same way as – is if somebody's parent is having a glass of wine, they're adults, they're legal to do so. It's not *affecting* the child. If somebody's sitting there smoking marijuana *near* someone, you can smell marijuana a block away. It smells like somebody ran over a skunk. In fact, I think the first day that . . . no, a couple-, about a month ago or so, I think the first stores were opening up. I was actually going home to Snohomish. I had the window down. [Sniffs] Wow! Somebody hit a skunk? I came into downtown on the First Street, where the bars are and I – that's all I smelled, was marijuana smoke.

So, I think that it will, you know, no ones *supposed* to smoke in public, 'cuz it *does* affect other people. But I think you-, you're gonna see some-, some of that and it, you know, it affected me drivin' down the road. I mean, just of the fact that you could *smell* it so strongly. [Sniffs].

00:32:12 **MODERATOR**

Kerry? Your conversation with your kids? If – about marijuana, about alcohol?

00:32:20 **KERRY BOONE**

We start really *young* with: What are the good things that we put into our body and what things are not good. Try to give them as much information about the *harm* that it does to our body, and I guess for *our* family, we've chosen to . . . not use *any* of those substances. So we encourage our kids . . . I guess we just talk about the harmful effects. The-, the campaign that I was raised

on was: Just Say No and kind of more of the scare tactics. And research has shown that that those don't *work* but – but giving kids some *reasons*. Some of the-, the drugs like – oh, I forgot the name of it –

00:33:11 **MODERATOR**

Molly? Ecstasy?

00:33:13 **KERRY BOONE**

Yes, and some of the synthetic things that they're creating and it's like –

00:33:15 **MODERATOR?**

Spice?

00:33:15 **BART WHEATON**

Spice.

00:33:16 **KERRY BOONE**

Spice – thank you.

00:33:20 **MODERATOR**

Again, you're looking at my *notes*.

00:33:22 **KERRY BOONE**

Ha! We don't know what's *in* those and they can deform and harm our bodies in ways we have *no idea* and if kids have some understanding of – It's not Just Say No, but it's Just Say No *Because* – this is what can happen. You can be permanently deformed or completely unable to be independent for the rest of your life when you put these substances into your body. You lose control. You have no judgment. And it can be permanently damaging. So –

00:33:52 **MODERATOR**

Bart?

00:33:52 **BART WHEATON**

Yeah, I agree – Awareness. Talk about addiction. Talk about how addiction is developed and talk about how drugs and alcohol *affect* your mind. That's what-, in *my* family, that's what – what I do. You know, I talk about the harms of – of how negatively they can, you know, affect you. And I know, for my *daughter*, she has never experiment-, *hasn't* experienced – she's 17 and she came home – it was just about two or three months ago and a lot of her friends had just started experimenting. And she was *appalled* because she hadn't tried it before and she was wondering *why* they-, they had started experimenting. And she didn't understand it. Because she was raised like – our-, in *our* house, we-, we don't use those substances either. We choose *not* to and-, and so she doesn't understand that – how a kid would even *want* to experiment with those

drugs, just because of the way she was brought up and-, and exposed to, you know, the fears of addiction. She knew about those at an early *age*. You know, she doesn't wanna . . . that's not a road she wants to go down.

And there's huge protective factors that you can use, you know, for youth. I mean, and I – you know, a lot of 'em are, you know, just involvement in our-, in our community, you know, as far as sports and – and youth groups and-, and volunteering and – There's just huge protective factors that you can use.

00:35:19 **MODERATOR**

Oh, Dad, that's so lame.

00:35:22 **BART WHEATON**

Well, if you start 'em at an early age, they then, you know what? That this is –

00:35:25 **KERRY BOONE**

It's a part of their life.

00:35:27 **BART WHEATON**

That's just a part of their life. That's with my-, with *my* daughter, anyways.

00:35:29 **MODERATOR**

If anyone has any questions, we'll open it up. So please feel free to raise your hand and we'll bring a microphone to you and get those questions, and while we're going over for that first question, I just wanna ask you, Bart, do you always use the *phrase* when talking with your-, your daughter or with others, 'drugs and alcohol are bad.' Do you – do you always ask –

00:35:49 **BART WHEATON**

No ab-, absolutely *not*. I'll just simply ask *her* to see the kids that *she* knows that *use* drugs and alcohol. I'll say: Look at *those* kids. And they do the-, they do the explaining *for* me. I don't have to-, I just look at the kids that *do* use drugs and alcohol chronically and that-, that'll scare you enough.

00:36:10 **MODERATOR**

Thank you. Question?

00:36:13 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE**

Yes, this is for Detective Chitwood. Where do you feel the breakdown is in keeping the drug-related crime and the trafficking rate down?

00:36:27 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Could you ask that again? Where do I think the what is? The breakdown of - ?

00:36:32 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE**

In keeping the drug-related crime and the trafficking rate down.

00:36:39 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Well, the trafficking rate, I mean, it's a . . . multi-trillion dollar business. And we've got Highway 2, we've got 522, we've got the railway, we've got the waterway, we've got the airway, we've got I-5, *unfortunately*. So we are kinda like a *hub* for an area for trafficking. Our population is *huge* in our area. So I don't – I . . . that's a big question. I don't know *where* the breakdown would be.

I think all our agencies, like I said, back earlier in the week, our agencies in Snohomish County do a great job at bein' proactive out there and doin' enforcement. You can only take people to jail so many times. You gotta have *options*. You gotta have early education.

So I think, all of us, we're . . . we're all *older* and we're *experienced*. I think we're a great resource to teach our kids, to teach our grandkids, to talk at an early age. So maybe that could be part of the breakdown. You know, but as far as *enforcement*, we only have so-, we only have what we *have* to enforce, espec-, I mean, in – in Monroe, they probably have a staffing issue some days. You know? So that, that could be an *issue*. If they're chasin' 911 calls all the time, then when you call in a . . . a problem with somebody that – maybe a dealer just showed up to a known drug house and took off and they couldn't *get* there. They could have been handlin' a crash or a burglary or somethin' and so they were tied *up*. So staffing *is* an issue.

Budgets are an issue. But I think in Snohomish County, we do a really, *really* good job and the officers *in* Snohomish County, from Edmonds up to Stanwood, you know, are really tryin' to stop that *flow*. And the Drug Task Force is *actively* doing that and working with other agencies and stuff. So I don't *know*, to specifically answer that question, where the breakdown *is* but – I hope I – helped to kinda – give you some –

00:38:28 **BART WHEATON**

I think it's supply and demand, right? You get rid of the demand you-, you, I mean, like he was just sayin', educate your youth – there's not as much *demand*.

00:38:37 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

And what I mean by you guys bein' a great resources is – we want our kids to learn from *us*, right? We're *experienced*. We can *tell* them what we've *seen*. We can explain to them, you know: Hey, back when – maybe you have experience to using it and what happened to you. I got suspended and kicked off the football team and this is what happened to me. That's a good experience to be able to teach your *kids*. So we wanna be able to teach our *kids* that, you know, the *dangers* of that. So I think, again, talking early and – and being involved is – is a-, is a really good thing and you guys are a great *resource* because of your experience of what you've read in the paper, what you've *seen* family-wise, and to be able to share that, *honestly* with the kids, is very, very important.

Some people don't wanna talk to their kids about: Oh, I – I – OK. I used cocaine back in the day. Well, maybe sharing that with your kid and explaining what happened to you and the

dangers and maybe medically – issue or what happened job-wise – is a good *learning* experience for your kids. So I think being *honest* with them is a good, good thing, too. Just wanted to throw that out.

00:39:38 **MODERATOR**

Another question? Please stand.

00:39:41 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Oh, OK.

00:39:43 **MODERATOR**

And we'll get a microphone to you.

00:39:46 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Oh, all right. OK. It looks sort of ominous there. So . . . I was wondering if any of you could comment, I mean, what percentage of heroin versus Meth. I mean, where does the heroin and Meth come from? Is it being made in labs, in the woods, or . . . is it coming from Mexico? How many 911 calls do you really want, concerning suspicious-looking activity? And do you suspect that the supposed – well, I mean, a number of people have commented and seen this ring that operates out of the Albertsons parking lot, over by the Dollar Store, the people that beg and . . . You know, you see strange things going in and out of trucks at odd hours and it-, do you suspect that that's involved? Or is that kind of its own little operation?

00:40:38 **SCOTT KORNISH**

Well, I can probably answer some of that [clears throat]. Right now it seems – the heroin is very prevalent. The heroin – in the mid-2000s, Oxycontin came out. And at the time it was kids and just, I mean, suburbia America – takin' mom's pain pills that she got for whatever, an operation or a bad car crash or something. Became addicted to that. That was very prevalent in 2006, '07, 2008. They changed Oxycontin after legislation, where it couldn't be *smoked* anymore, 'cuz that's what they were doin'. They were *smoking* it. It was extremely expensive. On the street it was a dollar a milligram. And kids were doin' – and these started out in high school and kids were doin' it at \$80 a day or *more*, seven days a week. From that, *heroin was cheaper*. And it's the same thing. Oxycontin is like a synthetic morphine.

So kids started using that and at first, *I* saw – and I'm sure Detective Chitwood did, too, is *smoking* it. Smokin' on aluminum foil. *Now* – and Meth was still prevalent. Now I'm seeing that – and *before*, too, some people who did Oxy or Meth-, or heroin – *didn't* do Meth. It was either – either / or. *Now*, almost every arrest I make and every contact I make, they do *both*. And they went from *smoking* to using syringes – IV injection.

And with Albertsons, you're speaking of the Monroe?

00:42:20 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Yes. Across Highway T – [sounds like]

00:42:24 **SCOTT KORNISH**

I've made some arrests in that-, in that area, and a lot of those . . . what a lot of those people are doing, too, especially a lot of those, the transients who were out with signs? Yeah, they're-, a lot of what they're doing is, some of 'em are . . . have some *mental* issues? And they're lookin' for cigarettes and doing some other things. And there's . . . probably some narcotics-related things with some of these people. They have addictions so –

00:42:55 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

So heroin's comin' from the north – Canada – and it's comin' from the south. Methamphetamines, - same thing. We don't have any *labs* back here anymore. Back in 2000, 1999, yeah, we had lots of labs and we were dealin' with that stuff, with people manufacturing Meth labs in dump sites and stuff. I think, year-to-date we maybe have two dump sites in Snohomish County, which is *awesome* 'cuz back in 2000, I would tell you, we had 70 Meth labs or somethin' and we've had 40 dump sites. And dump sites are meaning somebody that made Meth, put it in a bag or somethin' and threw it on the side of the road or left it in a park and some hikers found it or somethin'. So that stuff's way *down* right now. But it's all coming from out of the state, OK? And all-, most of the states are dealing with what *we're* dealing with.

Your other question was about calling and suspicious stuff? Here's what I tell people about *that*. Is: We encourage people to use 911 and yeah, I don't wanna know that there's a raccoon in your backyard, right? Or your neighbor parked their mail-, or their garbage can too close to your driveway. OK? Yeah, I think that's a waste of 911 call, OK? But as far as a suspicious *person*, or somebody doing somethin' funny. Somebody-, a – a vehicle that's in the wrong place. We *encourage* you to call 911 because Monroe might be looking for that *car*, or they might be looking for that *person*, and that opens up a case that they just were able to make an arrest or put somethin' together. So just by you *calling*, an officer could be right around the corner, right at that *time* and able to make a contact, to be able to talk to that person.

If you suspect a *house* of doing somethin', I mean, I would check with Monroe and see if they have anonymous reporting type or somethin' like that, online, with their website. You know, they-, they like to hear about that stuff – traffic complaints to suspicious drug house. The Drug Task Force has their website. They have anonymous reporting on there, and if we were to get something in the city of *Monroe*, we would then forward it to them so that they would know about – 'Cuz they may not *know* about it. So that's why I encourage people to use the 911 line.

00:44:55 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

The *known* drug houses that, you know, like we know where they are, the police know where they are, than the-, more interested in what's going on right there, if we see somebody coming and leaving the house and –

00:45:06 **SCOTT KORNISH**

Let me answer that.

00:45:06 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Yeah.

00:45:06 **SCOTT KORNISH**

Yeah. Well, [clears throat] first off, for every Monroe citizen, we *appreciate* those phone calls. You see something that makes you go, 'Huh?' *Call*. [pause] Because we can't be everywhere, you know? And I travel around from problem location to problem location to problem location. And sometimes I leave a problem location and somethin' just happened at the one I just *left*. I, in fact, had calls today where I talked to-, spoke with somebody about what was going on.

Like I said, we can't-, we can't be everywhere. I mean, it's not a *big* city, but it's *big enough* that it's, you know, you can't be at every place. And certain places, we don't even *know* about until later on, until people call and are frustrated. And say: Well, this is goin' on. Well, we didn't-, we didn't *know*. 'Cuz it's happening at . . . *odd hours*, or it's not a-, an area that usually has a lot of problems, where it's not *patrolled* as-, as *often*. So . . . calls and you guys have *no idea* how much power you have to change your own environment by calling us and providing some information.

00:46:11 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

So what constitutes like probable cause for a search? Like what sort of information is [inaudible].

00:46:19 **SCOTT KORNISH**

For a *search*?

00:26:21 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

You know, concerning like somebody has gone into what we know is a drug house, with a backpack and they're carrying, you know, something in a package and they've just gotten off of a bike that isn't the right size for their body or type.

00:46:38 **MODERATOR**

What moves it from *suspicious* to giving you the opportunity to take an action?

00:46:47 **SCOTT KORNISH**

It helps if you can – I mean . . . with that kind of scenario, what you just explained, would be a social contact. Maybe a Terry stop *if* the officer *knows* the person. But a lot of these people, too, and people that you're talking about, have warrants for their arrest. And especially, even if just to socially contact them, to let that person *know* that this officer *knows* that they were in this area at that particular time – which is *great*. Monroe officers, I know, are-, are very proactive with contacting people. How do you keep vehicle prowls down? If somebody's, again, riding around on their bike in the middle of the night, adult male on a BMX bike, contact him. So that's what we *do*, is we contact him. I know you were *here* in this neighborhood. They're not gonna prowl your car because they were just identified in that area.

And then when it comes to probable cause, it . . . Usually for-, for a search anymore, there's – an arrest is made.

00:47:47 **MODERATOR**

Any other questions? Are there-, anyone else have a question? Let's go back in the corner there, the-, oh, right there to your – to your-, to your *left*.

00:47:57 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

OK. My question is: Why have I not heard more reference to *mental* health. This – it's almost comin' up on hour. I did hear one ment-, the word 'mental' just a few minutes ago. I don't see how we can talk about drug addiction / addictions without talking about mental *health*. And I could just specifically ask: Out of the-, the volume of arrests or the volume of students at the high school, what *percentage* are identified as having any emotional or mental health *issue*? Is that a *statistic*? And if it *isn't*, I think it *should be*. If they-, if there aren't addictive behaviors and an addictive *brain* and some type of emotional mental red flags going up, along with maybe smoking or drinking? There *will be* if there's continued – *likely* – if there is continued *use* of a drug.

00:49:12 **MODERATOR**

Let's – let's put that to Bart and Kerry. You would – *your* experiences.

00:49:17 **BART WHEATON**

So yeah, there's a high amount of co-, what they call co-occurring disorders. So yeah, there's a *huge* amount of that in-, in addiction. I've probably, if I was-, I don't know the exact stats but if I would to take – at least 70 to 80 percent of the people with addiction *issues*, have co-occurring disorders with mental disorders. And especially with the-, the *youth* that I work with, the higher at-risk homeless youth, that have been passed around from state agency to state agency, foster home to foster home. A lot of those kids have been physically abused, mentally abused, sexually abused. So a lot of those kids have – a huge *trauma*, you know? And a lot of adult-, actually, I find a lot of *adult* people with addiction issues, have huge *past trauma* issues they've never dealt with or grief and loss, or you know, there's, yeah. It's – it's almost – almost always side by side. And so, yeah, and the – as she was talking about, the people who hang out, the transients that hang out at the Albertsons and so that is a good question you can bring up to your community and your county, is: What are we *doin'* to help our mental health and what are we *doin'* in our community to . . . you know, *house* them and – and make sure that there's enough, you know, *counselors* in our community to – to *talk* with 'em. And I can tell you right *now*, just in *my* field there's not enough counselors to work with the *teenagers*, so I – I really doubt there's enough mental health counselors in this community to – to work with your transient or mentally ill transient population.

00:50:56 **MODERATOR**

Kerry?

00:50:58 **KERRY BOONE**

I really appreciate that you brought that up because it is definitely so interrelated and the Coalition, while the prevention and wellness initiative directly supports drug and alcohol abuse, mental is a huge part of that, as well and one of the most concerning statistics for Monroe specifically is depression among youth, and that was something that came out in the Healthy Youth Survey. When one in six kids have seriously considered *suicide*, that's definitely

something that we wanna address, and when substance abuse is something that they turn to in search of *relief*, definitely is interrelated. We actually are starting a-, have a youth coalition that's gotten started and there's a group of kids that are especially passionate about mental health and . . . the -, one of them is here, raising her hand. Did you wanna add something?

00:52:00 **MODERATOR**

Well, we'll need to get her a microphone if she -

00:52:03 **KERRY BOONE**

Um – anyway – so – so I think that youth can make a huge difference and we're working on getting peer mentoring programs started at the high school and – and . . . and I think that having a group of youth that-, that *see*, as their *peers*, what-, what's happening, they will be able to make a big difference in that so –

00:52:23 **MODERATOR**

Let's get the question that was *next*. Oops, you're over *there*, so we'll go ahead and get that gentleman there [pause]. And *behind* you. Just – just behind you. Just behind you.

00:52:35 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE**

Well, I was gonna ask you . . . since the marijuana legalization, has there been an increase in like traffic problems, accidents or just issues with *drivers*? And, you know, on-, on this question about drug abuse, I used drugs when I was a teenager. It wasn't because I was mental. It was because I wanted to get *high*. And I thought it was a good time. We need to think about what we *teach* our kids – what's fun and I mean, you know, it's sad to think that you gotta do stuff like that to have *fun*. I mean, really.

00:43:17 **MODERATOR**

Detective? Follow up with this one?

00:53:19 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Yeah, so I'll let Officer Kornish talk about actually Monroe, but over all the state, I don't think we *have* the stats yet from Washington Traffic Safety Commission, to be able to say: This is what we're seein' in DUI arrests that are resulting from marijuana. We haven't *seen* it yet. We're *going* to. I know Colorado has seen an increase. They've seen a *decrease* in *crime*, which everybody is sayin': Ah, great. Ever since we legalized marijuana crime's gone up. But they're also seein' an increase in DUI arrests and crashes. And we just have – I don't know that – I mean, I don't have the stats yet. But we will *have* that.

00:53:52 **KEN GINNARD**

Hi. I'm Ken Ginnard. I'm the Deputy Chief of Monroe P.D. I've been with Monroe for a couple of years. I've been in law enforcement for 34 years, and prior to coming to Monroe I was the District Commander for the Washington State Patrol, and in the statistic arena, as far as drug to drivers, over the last several years, drug drivers are normally out during daytime hours, and the number is about 36 percent of-, of all drivers on the road are drug drivers. We kept stats on that

for several years and it-, it increased substantially *before* they legalized marijuana. I do *not* have the statistics *afterwards*, but I would suspect that it's gonna skyrocket.

00:54:38 **MODERATOR**

And then how are you determining that? You can do a Breathalyzer for someone who is obviously drinking and driving. What's the procedure for marijuana?

00:54:50 **KEN GINARD**

The procedure for marijuana is to bring in a drug recognition expert and take and do specific tests for that. You can check the eyes, you can check so on and so forth. And with proper training, we can tell you whether it's a central nervous system *stimulant* or whether it's a depressant. We can't say exactly what drug it is. That has to be done by blood, through the tox lab. But you can get a general idea through – through a drug recognition expert if the person is affected by a substance other than *alcohol*. Is we'll give physical tests out on the street. Our Monroe officers are trained in it. I know the County's trained in it. And after you give the specific physical tests, if they fail tests and there's no alcohol in the system, then we'll take 'em in for a drug evaluation.

00:55:41 **MODERATOR**

Thank you. Other questions? We have some . . . some questions – right . . . there, next to you. Go ahead.

00:55:47 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

I just wanted to address the mental health thing again. I'm a student at Monroe High School and – that's my mom. I was . . . friends with . . . one of my good friends committed suicide my freshman year. And we – there was a couple of us who were friends with him and we realized like how bit of an issue suicide and depression really *is* and so I just wanted you to know that we just started meeting for these coalition, this the end of the school year and we are focusing more on the mental health area, but we're still focusing on the drug and alcohol, but more on the mental health for these at our school. So –

00:56:37 **MODERATOR**

And how would someone get in contact with your organization?

00:56:42 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Well, we haven't like figured out everything yet, but we are hoping to maybe talk about it in an assembly and just-, and have-, we're gonna have advertising about the coalition. It's kinda gonna be like a club at our school, that anybody can join, and we're also gonna have a support group, that people can come and talk if they need to. And we're also planning on going to the middle schools and maybe other schools and classes at the high school and sharing our story and spreading awareness about what an issue it really is.

00:57:21 **MODERATOR**

All right, well thank you.

00:57:20 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Yeah.

00:57:22 **MODERATOR**

And we've got some other questions. Just keep your hands up and we'll get a microphone over to you for your question here. Thank you all for your patience this evening, as well as we move here and there across the room.

00:57:34 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Yes, hi. This – I – I missed the meeting last week in Snohomish. I live in Snohomish but – I'm here today. I just wanted to ask either the Chief here, or the – the Detective. I wanted to ask: Why-, what is – what do you think is the *reason* that it's – in Snohomish and Monroe, it's become such an epidemic? I mean, I – I understand the supply end of it. I'm 28 years clean and sober myself. But I understand the whole demand side of it. But what-, what's the other *reasons* that it has become such an epidemic?

00:58:13 **MODERATOR**

And-, and let me just *add* to that and if it is unique to Monroe and Snohomish?

00:58:20 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

I don't *think* so. I think the State of Washington is dealing with Monroe and what Snohomish is doing, you know? We're just – we're *talkin'* about it. Right now that's what's a good thing. It's a-, it's a *business*. It's – it's supply and demand and it's, you know, if . . . if I . . . when the Oxy prescription drug was at its high, people were paying 80 to a hundred dollars a *pill*. And if they're usin' two or three pills a day, that's a very expensive habit. So as-, as DEA, as law enforcement start to put the graps [?] on, you know, enforcement for the pills and stuff . . . heroin came into the picture. And it was *cheap*, right? So if I'm a drug *dealer*, I'm gonna flood the market with heroin, right? And you're gonna get a whole bunch of people addicted to that *drug* and then you're gonna pull back production of it a little bit and you're gonna increase the price of that drug. So we've seen heroin go from, you know, a little piece costing \$20, to now it's costing 60 to 70 dollars for that same one. So whoever is selling that, is making a ton of money.

So but . . . *again*, we've got some roadway, the waterway, the railway, the airways – we've got a lot of ways in and out –

00:59:42 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

And it's not only about the cost.

00:59:43 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

I mean –

00:59:45 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

And-, and - I'm just saying that from my perspective because I've been trying for three and a half years to get *several* people busted. And I've been reporting it to your agency, Snohomish, I've had long talks with the Chief in Snohomish.

00:59:58 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Sure.

00:59:59 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

And I just wonder, I mean, I – I see them get into jail and they get right back out. And they're right back in. And they're right back out. This has been going on for several years.

01:00:08 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Sure.

01:00:08 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

I had a personal stake in this so this is personal for me. But what I'm seeing is, is that like Snohomish just doesn't have enough cops who are assigned to drug enforcement, to do drug enforcement. I – and it doesn't see like it's gotten any *better* in the last couple of *years*. I mean, this, to *me*, isn't the police fault. This to me, is the *City's* fault. This is, you know, I mean, I'm all for building lots of parks in town. I think it's a *good* thing. But I think maybe if we really focused our money for the last-, next couple of years on really battling this monster, that maybe something could actually, you know, maybe we could actually *do* something. But, you know, when you *hear*, three years ago that they're saying, you know: Yeah, well we ran 'em out of town. They *didn't* run 'em out of town. Heroin was *still* going on. In epidemic proportions.

01:00:56 **MODERATOR**

I – I think that may be –

01:00:57 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

You know –

01:00:58 **MODERATOR**

- beyond the brief of this discussion, but I think it points to –

01:01:02 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

- but I think it *is* part of –

01:01:02 **MODERATOR**

- but I think it points to exactly what the *solution* is which is for the *people* to get involved.

01:01:08 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

We keep trying to [inaudible]

01:01:09 **MODERATOR**

- and to *change* things.

01:01:10 **BART WHEATON**

Yeah, but we don't wanna have a *police* state, build more prisons and – and, you know, build more police. So I think *prevention* – Kerry here, where-, where she's workin' at in the youth, you know, workin' it from-, from there, *up* . . . I think is-, is where it needs to happen.

01:01:26 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

And I then-, I agree with that.

01:01:28 **BART WHEATON**

Yeah, and more prisons –

01:01:29 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

And getting –

01:01:30 **BART WHEATON**

- and more police, I don't think's the answer to it.

01:01:32 **MODERATOR**

We have a couple of more questions in the audience. We'll go back here and then we'll come right upfront here. So the lady –

01:01:41 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Hi. So my question for you, Kerry, and first of all I wanna say that the heroin and Meth go hand in hand.

01:01:45 **MODERATOR**

Would you identify yourself?

01:01:47 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Pardon me?

01:01:47 **MODERATOR**

Could you identify yourself?

01:01:48 **LAURA BARTLEY [SP]**

Oh, sure. My name's Laura Bartley. I'm a citizen here in town. The heroin and Meth go hand in hand because they smoke the heroin, they sleep three or four days. They need the Meth to wake up. Because I – I – my child *lives* it. So I understand it [emotional] Sorry. For you, Kerry, can we get or is the coalition working on getting youth that are active *users* or currently recovering at the middle school and high school level? Not just kids that have *seen* it but that have *lived* it and wanna come in and talk about it to *discourage* the youth? I mean, have they looked at doing assemblies like *that*?

01:02:24 **KERRY BOONE**

Definitely – we're . . . as part of the-, there are several boundaries and hoops, I guess you could say, because this is a state-funded project and one of the requirements is that everything that we do be-, not *everything* but the majority of what we-, the prevention programs that we have, be . . . proven best practices and so anything – there have been some research that has shown concern about having testimonials done and I am not an expert on – we have-, we have a part-time person that works for the County that supports our coalition and is-, has a lot of expertise in – in what *not* to do and what to do. And I actually, there's a handout, there's a sign-up sheet and there's a lot of information that I left on the table out there, that kind of shares – And I would love to talk with about ways to get involved and how we can support. But I know that there *are* some concerns about drawing too much attention or attracting youth, when they see other kids that, even though it's a negative experience, but that we are looking at every possible way that has been proven to help – help our youth. And so any prevention programs that are – are best practices, we are trying to implement as many of those as we can.

01:03:50 **MODERATOR**

We have a question right down front here and we're coming dangerously close to the end of our time here and we've had some terrific questions this afternoon.

01:03:59 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

Ha! I'm not gonna stand up. Ha – Age, you know, privilege. I've been working with the mentally for at least –

01:04:06 **MODERATOR**

Would you identify yourself please?

01:04:07 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE**

I work for a –

01:04:09 **MODERATOR**

Your name?

01:04:10 **KAREN**

Sea Mar in Marysville. My name's Karen.

01:04:13 **MODERATOR**

Thank you.

01:04:13 **KAREN**

I'm a Social Worker there. I've been working with the mentally ill for at least 30 years and the thing to understand, in *my* opinion, is the long-term addicts, the people that are really struggling with, you know: I gotta have this drug and – and they're seriously addicted – *have* serious mental health problems. You know, the ones that are doin' it for fun – they're doin' it for *fun*. But the mental health system is *broken*. It's *broken*. It's broken all over the *country*. And unless we address *that*, we're not gonna be able to make a – a big enough *dent*.

01:04:49 **MODERATOR**

Thank you and –

01:04:50 **KAREN**

You can see, I'm very emotional about this, Yeah!

01:04:52 **MODERATOR**

Thank you.

01:04:53 **KAREN**

It's *real*.

01:04:54 **MODERATOR**

And I think that's where we will, you know, try to *bring* this to, and once we *have* meetings like this, and we identify the problems, the causes, the roots – then, as a *people*, we can go forward and try to *change* those things that need to be changed.

I wanna bring the session to a close by bringing it back to where we *began*, and go *to* the base and ask: When do you *have* the conversation with your child, with *kids*, about drug use? Is – is there a *best* time? Is there a – a *good* time, *better* time to have that conversation?

01:05:35 **KERRY BOONE**

I –

01:05:36 **MODERATOR**

Detect-

01:05:38 **KERRY BOONE**

Oh –

01:05:38 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Go ahead.

01:05:38 **KERRY BOONE**

I would just say, I would not-, I wouldn't say *the* conversation. I – I would say it – it needs to be an open channel of communication that is established when they're in pre-school, when they're very *young*, when they can start communicating, and that-, that obviously we're not gonna start talking about the effects of Meth to our *three*-year-olds, but it's – it's age appropriate. You know, what are-, what are the good things that we put into our body? How do these things affect? Do you recognize what this is? And, you know, this is – You know, just showing them pictures and identifying just really basic things.

We have a program that we're trying to get started called Halo and it's directed toward pre-school kids and it just has pictures and, you know, they can see a cookie or a glass of beer or a carrot stick and just, you know, picking out the things that might be good to put in their body, and helping them at a very basic level that's age appropriate. But I think establishing open lines of communication early and *continuing* to have those conversations and – be aware of, you know, what's going on with our texting, what's going on with our virtual world, as they get older. And just keeping tabs on who they hang out and *talking* about all those things – *continually*.

01:06:47 **MODERATOR**

Bart?

01:06:49 **BART WHEATON**

Yeah . . . Yeah, just to piggyback on what Kerry had said that I think is very important to know, to understand and I mean, anybody that knows teenage development or have been a teenager will understand that *decision-making* isn't exactly their-, their strong suit. They-, they haven't really figured, you know, the *risk* to *reward* yet. So . . . that's, like *she* said, I - as-, as a parent of a *teenager*, I – I monitor and especially when the-, especially at those ages when they're very, you know, *influenced*. I've monitored everything that was goin' on. You know, what friends my daughter had. Who she, you know, what she liked – texting, computers, what she was lookin' at on the TV – those type of things and then had conversations about those *things*. You know? Hey, what – what-, how was she *perceiving* those things and how-, what *she* thinks about those things. And, you know, friends that come up to her at school or she's, you know, and starts noticing people using drugs at her school, or the conversations with teenagers. You know? To start to happen, like she said, about sixth grade, seventh grade, you know? And that'd be – just like *ongoing* conversation with my-, in *my* household.

01:08:06 **MODERATOR**

And-, and your response to your daughter when she says: What's the matter, Dad? Don't you *trust* me?

01:08:12 **BART WHEATON**

[laughs] NO! [laughs]

[laughter]

01:08:18 **BART WHEATON**

Ha! I know too much about adolescent brain science – NO!

01:08:22 **MODERATOR**

Detective?

01:08:23 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Yeah, I – I mean, the schools that I go and talk to and – and stuff, we, in Arlington and Stanwood, we – we've . . . targeted the sixth grade type class. So, 6, 7th grade is when we start talkin' and showin' pictures. And it's not that we show pictures to say: Hey, this is how you *use* it. It's: Hey, if you're at a friend's house and they say: Huff this *in*, it makes you feel good. You know that that's huffing and they're or inhaling and that's *dangerous*. Or if they say: Take this little *pill*, you know? How do you know what's *in* that little pill? *We don't know*. They could say it's Tylenol or they could say it's this – that makes you stay up longer. *We don't know*. So, I mean, I -, I think, for *me*, as law enforcement, I think teaching and talking in school, starting at the sixth-grade level is a-, is a great place to start.

01:09:04 **MODERATOR**

Officer?

01:09:05 **SCOTT KORNISH**

Yeah, I think, you know, *values* in your home. You know, your job as a parent and I would talk about this when I talk about gangs or anything else, is – Your-, your *job* is to raise a good, little human being. And to send them on their way. And I know it's difficult now, and again, with society the way it is today, there's a lot of single-family [sic] homes. I've talked to people with in gang relations and it's the same type of thing where a-, a single mother has five jobs. And they don't have time to know what their child is *doing*. Again, they're your *child*. *Know* what they're doing. Look at their Facebook page. Look who they're writing things to. If you give them a cell phone, it's *your* cell phone. They're just *borrowing* it. *Look* through their cell phone. You know, there's some privacy things, but they're your *child*. And their *welfare* is what you're looking at. Know who their friends are.

And I know, again, it's difficult because sometimes we're all working so much or both parents are working or there's only one parent in the household. But I think try to stress – knowing what your child is doing and try to be as involved as you can.

01:10:22 **MODERATOR**

And-, and what are the signs that a parent should be looking for? What are the indicators that maybe their child *is* involved with drugs?

01:10:33 **BART WHEATON**

Change in behavior. I mean, you-, you *know* your kid's behavior. A change in the eating patterns, a change in the friends, a change in the way they're *talking*, a change in the way they're, you know, sleeping. Just change in behaviors. If the-, you know there's this-, you know, their schoolwork – those are the-, the big indicators that I find that are the most indicative of kids that start using drugs.

01:10:59 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

And what do they *smell* like when they come home? You know? My wife hugs my kid when he comes home. She wants to know what he smells like –

[laughter]

You know? I mean, are you at a friend's? And he says: Oh, yeah. I'm at Johnny's house and their parents smoke. Well, Johnny's parents don't smoke and you've got, you know, nicotine on your – your clothing, you know? Or I smell a little bit of alcohol or somethin', so you know? And just – you know, I'm kinda, I'm – we get-, we start getting police thinking and stuff – I'm a little hardcore with that but it's – it's *our* cell phone that we're giving our kids to use. If you don't know the password, then take the cell phone. If they want the pa-, if they want the cell phone, you know, the Facebook and all that stuff, you need to know the password so you can monitor what they're doing. You know?

01:11:40 **SCOTT KORNISH**

You'll learn a lot about your child by reading their Facebook.

01:11:46 **MODERATOR**

And Kerry, anything you'd like to add?

01:11:49 **KERRY BOONE**

I just . . . I guess, wanna add that a lot of things that we don't think of directly as drug and alcohol prevention or just talking to our kids about anything, keeping open lines of communication Bart mentioned. Being involved in activities and sports, when they're younger, and family dinner. But I think with all of these things, it's not a foolproof. There is *nothing* foolproof and kids have pressures and things to deal with at school, and so many environmental factors that we *can't* control and we do our best to prepare them and – and to know where they are and what they're doing. But we – we can't control and-, and so having, I guess, I – in our community, having as much – addressing the root causes and trying to, in a widespread way, provide support for filling in the gaps as they go out into the world.

01:12:56 **MODERATOR**

And before we – go down the panel and let each of you make some concluding remarks here, just – what's the single or *is* there a single motivating pressure that leads a kid into drugs? Is it *boredom*? Is it a *psychological*, *genetic* flaw? What . . . takes them to drugs in the first place?

01:13:20 **SCOTT KORNISH**

Well, it's what you said, boredom. I mean, there's many different reasons why people choose to do things. Sometimes they wanna hang out with the *cool guys* or the *cool girls* and who are making poor decisions . . . self-esteem issues. But yeah, if you look at – and while I was at the school and I have four children of my own, three-, or *two* are adults now and-, and thank goodness I was fortunate enough they didn't get involved in any narcotics or alcohol. I have a 16-year-old who's – *same* thing. So I'm crossin' my fingers that we can get the last one out the door.

But the kids that you see that are *busy* - doing things – whether it's youth groups, or sports – *generally* . . . have a good *path*. You know, the old saying: Idle hands are the devil's playground. I mean, they made- they-, that saying is for a *reason*. I think that, yeah, that sometimes if you have-, they have too much time on their hands, well – sometimes you're gonna make poor decisions.

01:14:15 **MODERATOR**

Bart, what-, what have you found takes kids into drugs?

01:14:19 **BART WHEATON**

Yeah, it's a socioeconomic thing. So it- [sighs] addiction. So . . . yeah, it's a lot – there's a lot of factors. I think there's . . . you know, peer pressure. I find a lot of kids that I have talked to, I'll ask them, a lot of kids that I've worked with, I'll ask 'em what's the first, initial drug use they've – they've done and a lot of kids will say, it's you know, a friend. And so I've seen, or and *older sibling* that is, you know, steered them into that direction. But, you know, anything-, and you know, we talked a little bit about the emotional triggers that kids will have, you know, they'll find-, you know, if you look at the *media* today . . . You know if I watch some of those – has anybody seen *Pineapple Express*? It looks *fun*. You know, that stuff looks *fun* to them. So you-, like you said, having that conversation, you know that's-, that's what you gotta talk to the kid. It's not exact-, that's – they're-, they're showing one side of it on – on the media, you know? So you, you really gotta have that conversation with your-, your child, I think.

01:15:22 **MODERATOR**

We've come to that point in the evening where it's just about the end of our forum. I wanna thank all of you for coming out and I – and I *would* like to also give the opportunity for each of the panelists to just wrap their thoughts up and bring this evening to a conclusion. And since we began with Officer Kornish, we'll begin with Kerry.

01:15:42 **KERRY BOONE**

Thank you.

01:15:42 **MODERATOR**

Just some final thoughts for tonight.

01:15:44 **KERRY BOONE**

I just want to express my appreciation for all of you being here. I think it's – it's great to see so many people that are concerned about this issue in our community and I just want to invite

anyone who has . . . an interest to be involved more, too. I have – there's a sign-up sheet in the hall-, in the hallway for the Monroe Community Coalition. And it's just a way to get involved in . . . like I had mentioned, there are people from all different perspectives in our community and we are never gonna have enough police officers or enough – it's something that we need to address as a community and all work together. So I appreciate everyone being here and – and showing concern.

01:16:35 **MODERATOR**

Thank you. Bart? Please.

01:16:36 **BART WHEATON**

Yeah, I'd like to echo that. Thank you for coming out and thank you Sno-Isle for giving us the opportunity to speak. And I just – we-, Catholic Community Services *has* a counselor out at Sultan. I know that does IOP groups or outpatient groups for drug and-, drug addiction. And I'm not sure, I don't think Monroe has too much and I think Seymour is here in town, and they don't have much, as far as outpatient or-, or any kind of -, actually – or stay kinda lax in – in youth addiction facilities. So, you know, that's somethin' that – it's kinda hard. But there's a card out there for the coun-, our counselor at-, Catholic Community Services counselor at Sultan, if somebody's interested in that, or to have a – a youth that has a problem with drugs. And also, Cocoon House works with that risk youth and I have a lot of information on the desk out there. And so if you have an at-risk youth that's livin' on the streets or – or you know of one, that's also a good resource.

01:17:49 **MODERATOR**

Thank you. Detective?

01:17:50 **DETECTIVE CHITWOOD**

Yeah, I appreciate you guys all comin' tonight. I hope you *learned* somethin'. A couple things: You know, I – I put-, I brought some pamphlets, brochures and stuff. You never know what people-, what you guys wanna take home with ya. My business card's out there. Although I'm not assigned to Monroe, I'm here in Snohomish County so I – I'm here for you if you need somethin', if you want training with somethin'. You know, I'm not here to step on Monroe, the city. I'm here to *work* with them and work with their department. But – so use me as a *resource* if you need to, if there's somethin' you need. My email's address was on there and I'll mail it to you, come and drop it off to you, but you can use me as a resource.

One, I think it's really cool that you got four cops here from Monroe. They've got Command staff here and stuff. They're . . . They're *concerned*. It's not an epidemic, crazy, out-of-control thing that's happening in Monroe. It's just happening all around Snohomish County, all around Washington, what *you* guys are seeing that's out there. So . . . you know, it's-, it's a downer subject – heroin and – and Meth and stuff but it's somethin' that we have to *address* and stuff, so it's cool to see people from Monroe here, and being involved.

Again, you guys, can all use yourself as resources. I mean, you can connect on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. You can get emails from each other. You guys can spread the word now that you, you know, were involved in something like this and if somebody says: Hey, you know, I missed out. It was really great. Well, come back to Sno-Isle and see if they can do it again

somewhere else, maybe in Sultan or maybe hold another one here in Monroe or go someplace else again. So, you know, you-, you guys, you know, communicate with each other 'cuz that show we're gonna reach out to the community and take *back* the community and stuff so – I mean, I think-, I think it's great that you guys are here and I appreciate, you know, all the panel that's here, so thank you.

01:19:29 **MODERATOR**

Officer Kornish?

01:19:30 **SCOTT KORNISH**

And thank *you*. I know it sounds weird as the fourth person to say that but – thank you for coming. It's . . . it's impressive. You know, obviously, you care about . . . your families, your community and the situation. And-, and again, *my* thing is, you know, *youth* is a big thing. Start when they're *young* with your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces. We-, we all have a vested interest in the youth of society and I know they told me this when I was 13. They said: *You* will be – you know, you will be running the country when you're-, when you're my age. So, you know, involvement, I think is really important and again, for people in Monroe, if you see something that makes you go: Huh? Call. Somebody's ridin' at 3:00 in the morning down your street on a bicycle when he's 35 years old – Call. We *love* those calls. And again, it's just – I'm trying to nip it in the bud.

01:20:32 **MODERATOR**

I'll make it *five*. Thank you . . . for coming out tonight. Thank *you* for sitting at the table and being part of the panel this evening. Detective David Chitwood of the Snohomish Regional Drug and Gang Task Force, Bart Wheaton, Chemical Dependency Counselor, Catholic Community Services and Cocoon House, Kerry Boone, Vice Chair of the Monroe Community Coalition and Officer Scott Kornish of the Monroe Police Department.

We've come to the end of our allotted time. Don't forget that there *is* an evaluation form that we'd like to have you fill out, with any thoughts or suggestions how to *improve* it for future shows, what other future topics might be discussed in these Issues That Matter forums. Civil discourse on The Issues That Matter is what makes *solutions* possible. And we wanna thank the *panel*, we wanna thank you for coming and sharing your *time* and your thoughts and ideas tonight on the issue of drug use along Highway 2, and I wanna thank you for this opportunity to – to be here tonight and-, and to talk with you and *learn*, as well. And thanks, as well, to the Sno-Isle Libraries, the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation for making it possible for us to be here tonight. And if tonight's discussion has made you more *curious*, there's *lots* of information that's available right through that door. And I wanna thank you again for coming out. Thank you all.

[Applause]

END OF RECORDING [01:22:13]