

# Quarterly Newsletter

SUNCOAST INSTITUTE ON  
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

◆  
August 2024



## Here's what's happening with the board and what is to come!

Welcome to our newsletter. We are excited to connect with you and share everything happening with Suncoast Institute on Chemical Dependency and in our community.

We hope this newsletter will connect you to upcoming events and see what the board is up to. Our board members and volunteers are active in our community, and we are excited to highlight the amazing work they are doing.

We want to welcome our new 2024 Board members: Surry McFaul, Marguerite Hazen, and Liliane Demosthenes.

A special thanks to our volunteers Peggy Frerk, Jayne V. Colomaban, and Ellen Hales. Please visit [www.sicd-fl.org](http://www.sicd-fl.org) for an application to join our team as a board member or volunteer.

Coming up in September, we will participate in Sarasota Fights Fentanyl Walk and Resource Fair. Join us as we walk in memory of those we have lost, encouraging hope in those struggling, and celebrating those who have survived. More information can be found on page 2.

Linda Christensen & Robin Hain have become trained facilitators for Responding to Addiction. Since January 2024, they have facilitated six 2.5-hour presentations with Centerstone, Nar anon, Second Heart Homes, Samaritan Counseling, and Freedom House. Supporting over 84 community members to date. See page 2 for more information on requesting a training at your facility.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

*Suncoast Institute on  
Chemical Dependency Board*

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

Community  
News

Upcoming  
Events

Trainings

Building Our  
Board

Our Story

Join SICD





## Community News - Sarasota Fights Fentanyl 2024

Join us for Sarasota Fights Fentanyl 2024 walk and resource fair. The walk will begin at 1pm on Ringling Bridge.

If you are interested in walking with us, we will meet at the SICD table ahead of the walk.

1pm-5pm there will be 14 local vendors, on site detox, free narcan and classes on how to administer, NA Speakers, NAR-NON speakers, Free Food and Drinks!

Find Sarasota Fights Fentanyl 2024 on Facebook.

Honoring the lost, seeking to help the struggling, and celebrating the survivors.

Sunday, September 1st, 2024 1-5 JD  
Hamel Park  
Walk 1-2 Ringling Bridge

### Upcoming Events

**9/1** - Sarasota Fights Fentanyl Walk @ 1pm and Resource Fair 2pm-5pm

**10/11** - Project 180: "The Light They Cast" Film Premier Luncheon @ 10am

**10/11** - SCID Board Meeting - Hope City Church @1pm

**10/15** - Substance Use Disorders and Pregnancy: Sixth Annual Regional Summit 7:30am-5pm

**10/22** - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Educational Event details will be available soon via [sicd-fl.org](http://sicd-fl.org)

RESPONDING TO ADDICTION

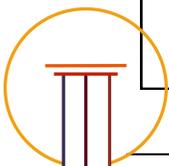
Training Available

### Responding to Addiction

#### A Comprehensive Training on Addiction

As the addiction and overdose crisis reaches troubling milestones – 100,000 overdose fatalities last year alone – all leaders and key stakeholders in the community are needed to address the problem. The Responding to Addiction training is designed to increase knowledge about addiction and develop skills and strategies to help your community.

If you are interesting in this training, we are currently taking reservations for onsite training with congregations, organizations, etc. [click here](#) to reserve a program for your community.



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## Building Our Board



**Robin Hain,**  
President

I joined Suncoast Institute on Chemical Dependency in 2019 as Director of Fund Raising. Our community fundraising efforts have grown from \$600 to \$17,000 in the past five years!

I was elected President of SICD in May 2024 to uphold our mission to offer free addiction education and recovery resources to families, churches, and communities.

As a faith-based organization, we will continue to pursue active collaboration between faith, recovery, and medical science communities, effectively promoting anti-stigma education that supports prevention and long-term recovery systems of care. We execute these deliverables through the dedication of our board and volunteers.



**Surry McFaul,**  
Director of Outreach

I joined SICD's board in May of 2024 as Director of Outreach - Sarasota County. I'm a retired Engineer. For three years, I served on Project 180's board. Due to a family member who struggled with addiction, I was actively involved in Al-Anon and Nar-Anon over the last 15 years. I bring a wealth of experience to SICD and believe we can provide much needed services to suffering families in both Sarasota and Manatee counties.



**Liliane Demosthenes**

I am a master's student in psychology, pursuing certification as a Master's Level Certified Addiction Professional (MCAP). My work focuses on supporting individuals struggling with Substance Use Disorders and Addiction, and joining SICD aligns perfectly with my goal of positively impacting the lives of those affected by addiction.

## Interested in Joining the Board?

- We are looking to continue to build our board and our volunteers.
- Positions we are looking to fill:
  - Congressional Outreach
  - Community Outreach - Sober Living Programs
  - Website Management
  - Social Media and Email/Constant
  - Education
  - Fundraising
  - Grant Writing
  - Family Support Groups
  - Crossroads Career Program Facilitator
- Volunteers are always welcome to support events in the community!



**Marguerite Hazen,**  
Director of Communication

I am a Mental Health therapist new to Sarasota County. As a therapist, I hope to support children affected by addiction and their families. As I was a child of an Addict, those children have a special place in my heart. I joined the board in support of creating our newsletters, event support, and build connections with our community.



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## Stories of impact: this month's story is about how Suncoast Institute on Chemical Dependency began.

Have you ever gone to church trying to appear normal, maybe even happy and joyful, when on the inside your heart aches as you worry about a loved one who is abusing drugs or alcohol? If so, you are not alone. You are not the only one who is struggling with the destructive addiction-related behaviors of a family member.

Several years ago, we began to notice changes in the behavior of one of my beloved grandsons, who I will refer to as "Sonny." He had always been such a cheerful, outgoing and very talented child – a good student, athlete, artist – but that began to change during his early teen years. Slowly he became quiet, irritable, and his grades began slipping. The problems progressed. He was kicked off his high school football team because of his attitude, and finally was expelled from school. Then there were arrests for such things as public drunkenness and driving under the influence. It became increasingly hard to deny that this was not just a "phase" that he was going through, and his parents soon concluded that Sonny had a problem.

Finally, I just couldn't hold it in any longer. I talked about it. Yes, one Sunday morning when they asked for prayer concerns, I just blurted it out. I don't even know exactly what I said, but I asked for prayer for my grandson who has problems with drugs and alcohol. I said it out loud, and they heard – and it wasn't long until some of them began to confide in me regarding similar worries about drug and alcohol related problems in their families.

Through months of training and discussions with our church, community members, addiction professionals, and other ministries using addictions programs, the Faith Partners Addiction Ministry at Snellville United Methodist Church in Snellville, GA, was up and running.

Then on a Friday night; I had finished my devotional time, gone to bed, and was falling asleep, when I was startled by a call from my daughter. She was crying hysterically, telling me that she was on her way to the hospital. Sonny had attempted suicide. In tears I fell on my knees and prayed with all my heart for God to spare my grandson's life. When I arose from prayer, I noticed my open Bible. I picked it up and began reading. It was opened to Psalm chapter 27. As I read verses 13 and 14 (NIV), these words warmed my heart and calmed my fear:

*"I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."*

That scripture spoke to my heart and gave me reassurance. I thought surely that this would be the event that would be Sonny's "bottom," the turning point leading to recovery, but not so for him.

For several weeks, we began networking with everyone who might have even a remote interest in this endeavor – and in January 2010 we met for an organizational meeting and formed a board of directors. Completing the required documentation and registered as a faith-based, nonprofit in the State of Georgia, the Southeastern Institute on Chemical Dependence was established.

The Suncoast Institute on Chemical Dependency was initially established as the Florida division of the Southeastern Institute on Chemical Dependency (SICD) in 2014. In 2016, in order to better serve our Suncoast communities, we re-established as the Suncoast Institute, an independent, faith-based, not-for-profit in the state of Florida. Our mission continues to be to provide educational programs at no cost to all who are interested in learning more about addiction disease and the recovery process.

*-Jewell Meringer*

*Thank you!*



<b>SUNCOAST INSTITUTE ON CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY</b>	941-479-0520
<a href="http://www.sicd-fl.org">www.sicd-fl.org</a>	Bible Verse of the Quarter: <u>Psalm 46:10</u>

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