

Thursday, April 3, 2025 from 8:30am – 4:00pm
“Addiction Neuroscience, Fentanyl, and Cannabinoids”
With Dr. Kevin McCauley

Workshop Description (6.0 CEs). This workshop is a combination of three training sessions. The first part serves as a primer on the current neuroscience and public health research about addiction or Substance Use Disorder for people in or seeking recovery, their families, friends and co-workers, and public policy professionals. Dr. McCauley will cover the major theories used to explain addiction with special emphasis on two important areas of recent discovery: epigenetics and psychoneuroimmunology. This section will highlight topics such as barriers to the use of medication for Opioid Use Disorder, the evolving epidemiology of cannabis use the United States after legalization, and the importance of nicotine cessation in recovery. The second part traces fentanyl's origins and unique molecular properties to its prominent utility in anesthesia and pain management to its current status as a driver of opioid mortality and the "third and fourth waves" of the US drug overdose epidemic. We will explore opioid physiology and individual opioid medications, the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of fentanyl in particular, and how these caused changes in the global economy of opioids that elevated fentanyl to its current dominance. This section will also address medications for Opioid Use Disorder, the evidence supporting their ability to prevent opioid mortality, and common myths and challenges regarding their use by relating the experience of a nationally-known treatment program in overcoming stigma against this intervention. The last section will serve as a primer on the pharmacology, physiology and clinical effects of the plant and synthetic cannabinoids increasingly available in the environment and their interactions with the endocannabinoid system. Topics covered include the effects of cannabinoids on adolescent brain development and the gateway hypothesis, as well as phenomena associated with cannabinoid use such as psychosis, hyperemesis syndrome, and Cannabis Use Disorder. Evidence for the potential benefits of cannabinoids including neuroinflammation, cardioprotection, and their ability to substitute for opioid pain relievers is presented.

Dr. Kevin McCauley is a non-practicing physician who has worked in the field of addiction treatment for nearly two decades. Kevin first became interested in the treatment of substance use disorders while serving as a Naval Flight Surgeon for Marine Corps heavy-lift helicopter and fighter/attack squadrons. Due to the Navy's policy toward treating such disorders as a safety (rather than moral) issue, he witnessed pilots self-report their addiction since they knew they would be treated medically and, once safe to do so, returned to flying status under careful monitoring. "These were charismatic and otherwise highly-capable, self-disciplined pilots who *did* come forward and ask for help – and they all got better and went back to flying! That just destroyed the prejudice I had picked up in medical school that addicts never ask for help and once an addict, always an addict." Unfortunately, the Navy did not have a similar policy for other kinds of addiction, and when he found himself addicted to opioid pain medications following a surgical procedure he was imprisoned by the Marine Corps in solitary confinement, court-martialed, and transferred to the U.S Army's maximum-

security prison at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Once released, the Navy paid for Kevin's treatment, for which he will always be grateful. Kevin now has over ten years of continuous sobriety and has worked in a non-clinical capacity at several treatment centers giving lectures on the neuroscience of addiction and recovery management concepts. His career path has taken him from Orange County, California to Salt Lake City, Utah where he currently serves as Director of Program Services at New Roads Behavioral Health in Sandy and Provo. He has given over two thousand lectures on addiction and recovery throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe and Australia. His main interest is the debate over whether or not addiction can rightfully be considered a "disease." Kevin also continues to assist pilots with substance use disorders through his collaboration with the Air Line Pilots Association's HIMS Program.

Learning Objectives:

1-Describe the latest neuroscientific explanations of substance use disorder pathophysiology and interpret Substance Use Disorder symptomology in light of this research. 2-Describe and analyze the arguments for and against the conceptualization of addiction as a brain disease. 3-Define psycho-neuroimmunology and explain its connection to substance use disorder. 4-Trace the timeline from the initial commercial synthesis of fentanyl to its widespread use as an opioid analgesic in surgical and ambulatory clinical settings to its diversion and illicit synthesis for non-medical use to its prominence in the current overdose epidemic. 5-Describe the properties of the fentanyl molecule, how it acts on the body, and how the body metabolizes it that creates its unique lethality among opioids. 6-Describe how Opioid Use Disorder involving fentanyl differs from OUD to other opioids. 7-Understand the different methods of medication induction to treat Opioid Use Disorder and fentanyl use disorder. 8-Describe the effects of cannabis use on brain development and bodily systems. 9-Describe the actual and potential public health harms and benefits of cannabis criminalization, decriminalization, and legalization.

Thursday, April 3, 2025 -- 5:30 – 9:00pm
“Recovery Comedy: One Laugh at a Time”
with Jay Armstrong

Laughter is good for the soul and being able to laugh at oneself in recovery can help with healing. Helping clients find fun and humor in life can aid in long term recovery. Using humor, wisdom and personal insight, this presentation will offer an opportunity to laugh, cry, and gain insight into your own recovery and/or how you can help others around you. **(1.0 CE)**

Learning Objective: To identify ways to use and experience humor/laughter in treatment and recovery.

5:00pm Doors Open. 5:30pm Buffet Dinner catered by Whitefoot Catering 6:30 – 8:00pm Comedy Show. 8:00pm Raffles/Art Auction Announced Evening festivities will include buffet dinner, dessert auction, raffles, and a whole lot of fun you won't want to miss!

Friday, April 4, 2025 from 8:30am – 3:00pm
“Through a Child's Eyes: Understanding Addiction and Recovery” with Jerry Moe

Workshop Description (5.0 CEs). Many children face multiple challenges growing up in families hurt by addiction to drugs and alcohol. All too often, kids are the first hurt and the last helped. This workshop explores the critical components of a child-centered family program and the healing stages for kids. It features prevention strategies, key messages, and essential resources that can make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

Jerry Moe is NACOA's Senior Clinical Advisor. He is the National Director of Children's Programs, Emeritus at Hazelden Betty Ford. Jerry is an author, speaker and consultant on issues for children and families hurt by addiction. He has spent over four decades working in the treatment and recovery worlds. Among his twenty books are *Through a Child's Eyes: Understanding Addiction and Recovery* and the *Beamer* series for kids. Jerry's work is featured in the PBS documentary *Lost Childhood* and has contributed to Emmy Award winning programs on both Nickelodeon and Sesame Street.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) List the healing stages for children.
- 2) Describe the three key elements of a child-centered family program.
- 3) Share two intervention strategies to engage kids in the healing process.
- 4) Talk about three new resources for children and their families.

These sessions have been approved by the Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions, Inc. as a NAADAC Approved Education Provider, for up to 12.0 CEs, NAADAC Provider #236874, Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions, Inc. is responsible for all aspects of its programming.

All conference sessions are open to all alcohol/drug counselors.

LADC and Criminogenic Continuing Education Hours have been APPROVED!!

Depending upon your scope of service, these workshops may meet the criteria of an approved continuing education program for mental health and social work practices, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors.

Hotel Room Block – Boarder's Inn & Suites, 3333 Ramada Rd, Grand Island. 308-384-5150; book before 3/12/25 to ensure discounted price of \$99.95; reference CNCAA when making your reservation. Email grandisland@stayboarders.com

I will be attending:

Earlybird Discount Registration by March 25, 2025

- April 3 Workshop Only \$190
- April 3 Workshop and Dinner/Comedy Show \$243
- April 4 Workshop Only \$175
- April 3 & 4 Workshops Only \$350
- SAVE \$25 = Both Workshops & Dinner/Comedy Show \$378
- April 3 Dinner/ComedyShowOnly \$53 / \$96 Couple
- Reserved Table of 8 at Dinner/Comedy Show \$400

....After March 25, 2025

- April 3 Workshop Only \$210
- April 3 Workshop and Dinner/Comedy Show \$263
- April 4 Workshop Only \$195
- April 3 & 4 Workshops Only \$370
- Save \$25 = Both Workshops & Dinner/Comedy Show \$398
- Apr 20 Dinner/ComedyShowOnly \$65 / \$120 Couple (no tickets sold at door)
- Reserved Table of 8 at Dinner/Comedy Show \$480

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Please make checks payable to CNCAA. Please send registration form and payment to CNCAA, 3204 College Street, Grand Island, NE 68803.

Online registration: www.cncaa.net

CNCAA reserves the right to withhold a \$50 processing fee for all cancellations. Force majeure: In the event CNCAA is prevented from carrying out its obligations as a result of any cause beyond its control, such as but not limited to acts of God, war, acts of terrorism, airline flight cancellations, strikes, lock-outs, flood, commercially unfeasible or failure of third parties to deliver goods or services, CNCAA shall be relieved of its obligations and liabilities for as long as fulfillment is prevented. The Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions is a non-profit corporation and is supported in whole, or in part by Grant # 93.959 under the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant and Grant # 1H79TI081706-01 under Nebraska's Targeted Response to the Opioid Project from the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the State of Nebraska DHHS Tobacco Free Nebraska Program, Hall County, Heartland United Way, various fundraising activities, and tax-deductible donations. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the DHHS; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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The Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions

Spring Conference

Featuring



**Dr. Kevin McCauley
and**



Jerry Moe

**Thursday and Friday
April 3-4, 2025**

*to be held at the
Evangelical Free Church
2609 South Blaine, Grand Island, NE
www.cncaa.net*