



# UNDERSTANDING FENTANYL IN OUR SCHOOLS

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WHAT IS YOUR  
GOAL FOR TODAY?

# TODAY'S AGENDA

Setting our  
intention



Education



Prevention



Intervention



WHAT ABOUT  
THE FENTANYL  
CRISIS IS NEW?

WHAT IS NOT  
NEW?



**(A Lethal Dose - About the size of a snowflake)**

# THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMETHING ELSE . . .

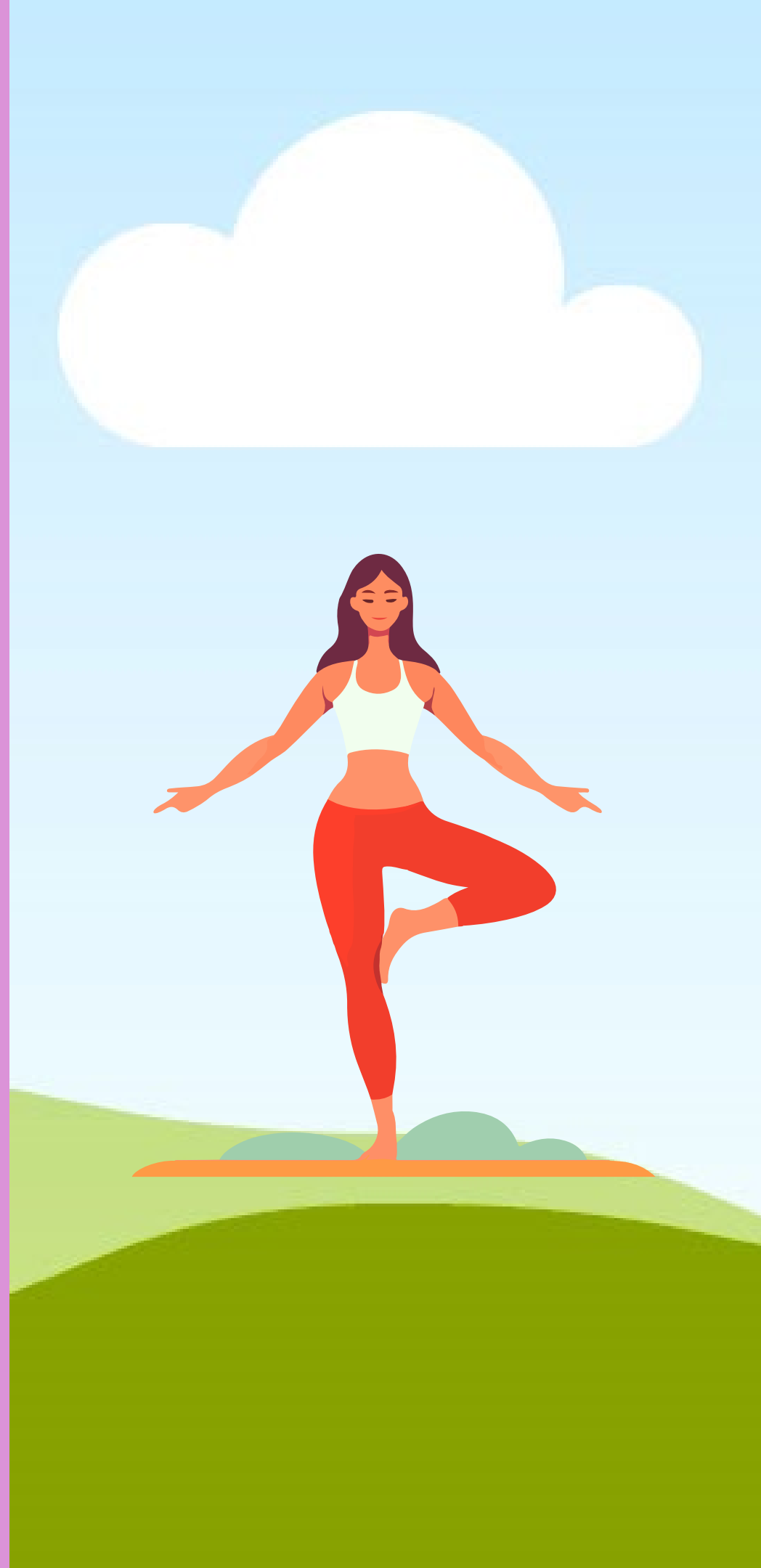
“Nitazenes” are powerful lab -made opioids, such as metonitazene and isotonitazene, with no approved medical use.

They are potentially 40 times stronger than fentanyl and are difficult to detect through standard drug tests or testing strips.





# MIND YOUR MINDSET



## Keep calm

Avoid misinformation

Resist getting drawn in to  
panic / over-dramatization

Self-care and staff-care

## Focus on connection

Connection is the opposite  
of addiction

Connection is also the  
antidote to trauma

## Stay the course

Consistency is key

It works if you work it

# What message do we want to send?

- Every student is a valued member of the school community
- Health and well-being is our priority
- Avoid fear-based tactics
- Remove stigmatizing language
- Positive social norming
- Target a wide audience
- Help is available and easy to access





# Parallel Process for Schools & Families

- Health-focused
- Talk early and often
- Reduce shame & stigma
- Structure
- Accountability
- Connection
- Reduce barriers to help-seeking





# FENTANYL EDUCATION



# CLASSROOM LESSONS / ACTIVITIES

Virginia Foundation  
for Healthy Youth  
Prevention Lessons

<https://www.vfhy.org/prevention-lessons/>

DEA Operation  
Prevention

<https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>

NIDA Mind Matters

<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/parents-educators/mind-matter-series>

Song for Charlie  
MS/ HS Toolkit

<https://songforcharlie.org/ms-hs-toolkit/>



# PEER-LED MESSAGING

- Partner with student groups (future medical professionals, DECA, Sources of Strength, wellness -related groups, youth advocacy, etc.)
- Morning announcements
- Interactive campaigns
- Signage
- Staff introductions / trusted adults
- PEER, student mentors
- Social media

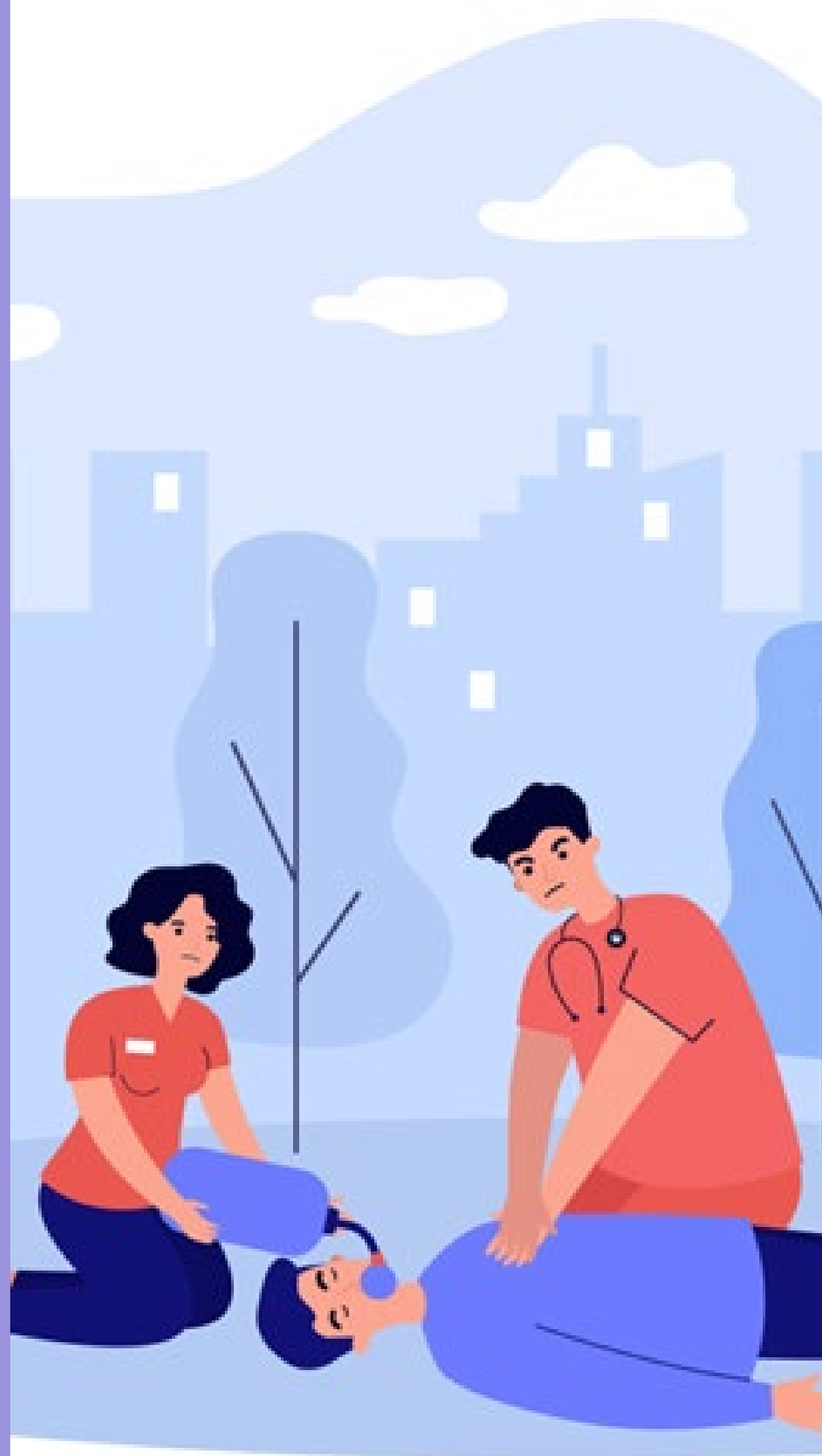




# GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS

§ 18.2-251.03. Arrest and prosecution when experiencing or reporting overdoses.

Protects against arrest or prosecution for unlawful purchase, possession, or consumption of alcohol, marijuana or a controlled substance or paraphernalia.



IF . . .

a person is experiencing an “Overdose”:  
life -threatening condition  
resulting from the consumption  
or use of alcohol and/or a  
controlled substance.

AND . . .

they or another person seeks  
emergency medical attention  
from:

- EMS, fire fighter, LE or 911

AND . . .

The person remains at the scene  
or at any alternative location until  
a law-enforcement officer  
responds.

# NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY

[HTTPS:// WWW.FENTANYLAWARENESSDAY.ORG/](https://www.fentanylawarenessday.org/)

**TAKE ACTION.  
SAVE A LIFE.**

**MAY 7 NATIONAL  
FENTANYL  
AWARENESS  
DAY**

**You can't fix real stress  
with fake pills. Help your  
friends find the support  
they really need.**

#NationalFentanylAwarenessDay #JustSayKNOW

**SPREAD  
THE WORD.  
SAVE A LIFE.**

**MAY 7 NATIONAL  
FENTANYL  
AWARENESS  
DAY**

**Fentanyl is 50x stronger  
than heroin (Imagine 4000  
proof vodka). To get the  
dose right, it takes a doctor,  
not a dealer.**

#NationalFentanylAwarenessDay #JustSayKNOW

**MAY 7 NATIONAL  
FENTANYL  
AWARENESS  
DAY**

**SPREAD  
THE WORD.  
SAVE A LIFE.**

**MAY 7 NATIONAL  
FENTANYL  
AWARENESS  
DAY**

**No Random Pills. If it  
doesn't come from your  
doctor, don't take it.**

#NationalFentanylAwarenessDay #JustSayKNOW



# NATIONAL FENTANYL PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY

[HTTPS://WWW.FENTANYLAWARENESSDAY.ORG/](https://www.fentanylawarenessday.org/)



The background of the slide is a solid purple color. Scattered across the surface are several capsules, some entirely yellow and others half-white/half-yellow, creating a medical or pharmaceutical theme.

# Integration with other school-based programs

- DARE
- Driver's Ed
- Back to School Night
- Rising Freshman Orientation
- Rising Senior night
- Senior courses
- Athletics presentations for students & parents



PREVENTION





# TARGETED NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION

## Works best when:

- Provided to people at high risk of experiencing or witnessing overdose.
- Outreach workers, harm reduction staff, and trusted clinicians are properly educated and comfortable distributing naloxone.
- Comfort with carrying and administering naloxone is crucial.

**TAKE ACTION.**

**SAVE A LIFE.**

**MAY 7 NATIONAL  
FENTANYL  
AWARENESS  
DAY**

**Naloxone is the  
easiest way to reverse  
a fentanyl overdose.  
Learn how to use it.**

*#NationalFentanylAwarenessDay #JustSayKNOW*



# COLLABORATION



- School
- Public Safety
- Public Health
- Government agencies
- Treatment providers

Community Coalitions:

<https://communitycoalitionsofva.com#searchwp-modal-659081cb625c1cb8980cda98fe555d94>

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## Naloxone

When it is needed. Who has it. How to administer it.

## Identifying SA Concerns & making referrals

Warning signs & symptoms  
Process of making a referral

## Safe & Supportive Schools

Creating an atmosphere where these students feel included, respected and valued.

## VDOE videos for staff

[https://vastudentservices-clc.org/learning-center/?course\\_term=substance-use-disorders-and-opioid-addiction-in-school-communities](https://vastudentservices-clc.org/learning-center/?course_term=substance-use-disorders-and-opioid-addiction-in-school-communities)



# INTERVENTION





# 9 COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMING

1. School board policy
2. Staff development
3. Program awareness
4. Internal referral process
5. Problem-solving team and case management
6. Direct services to students
7. Cooperation and collaboration
8. Integration with other school-based programs
9. Program evaluation and improvement







# Program Awareness

- Dedicated position or staff who receive specialized training
- Visibility
- Process for making referrals
- Reducing stigma and encouraging help-seeking
- Confidentiality considerations (42-CFR)

# DIRECT SERVICES



Consultation



Individual  
support



Referral to  
care



Needs  
assessment



Group  
support

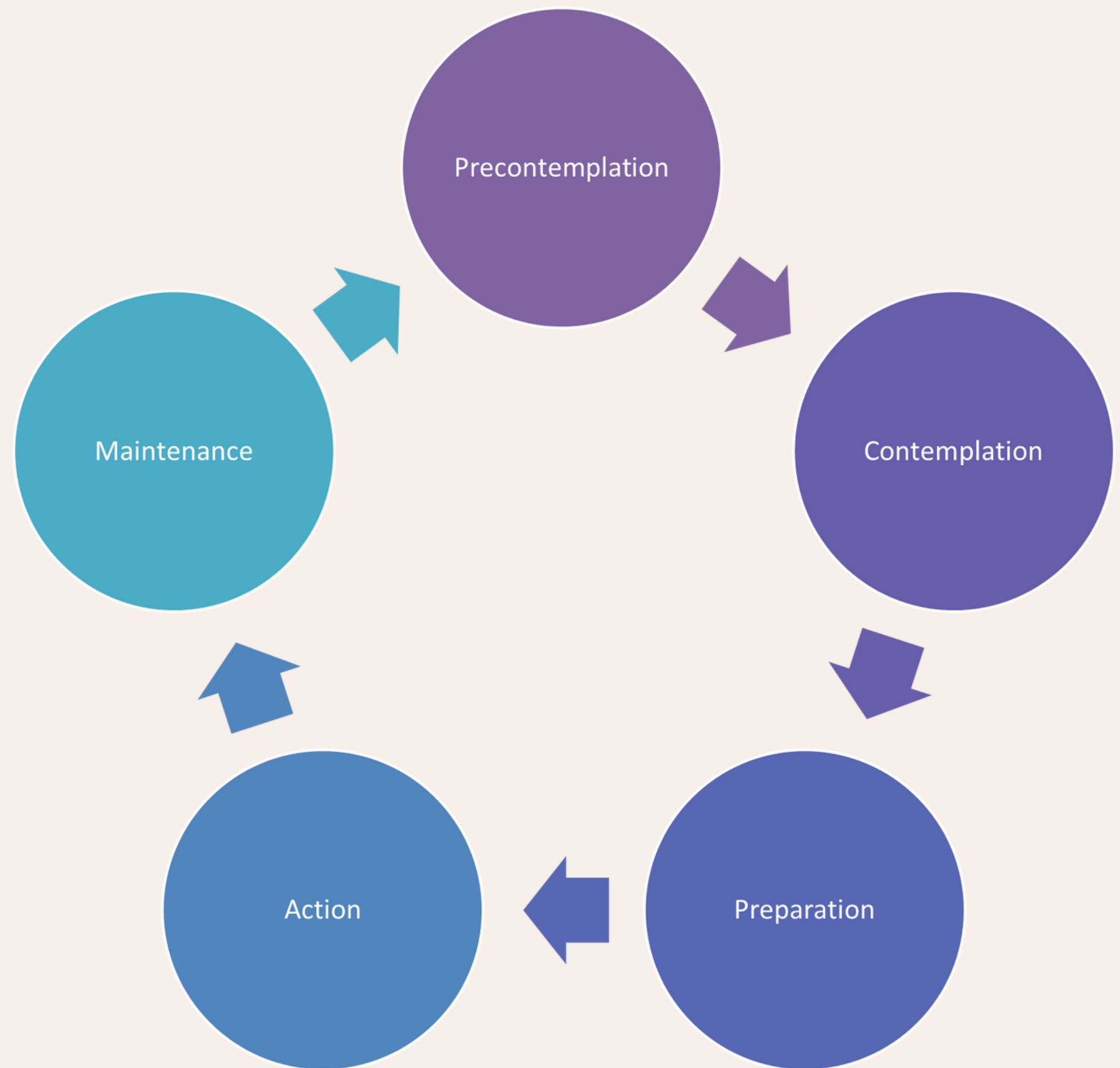


“Meet them  
where they are”

Transtheoretical Model, also  
known as the “Stages of  
Change”

Change is non-linear  
We adapt our approach to the  
needs of the individual

This does NOT mean waiting  
for someone to “want it” or  
waiting for someone to “hit  
rock bottom”



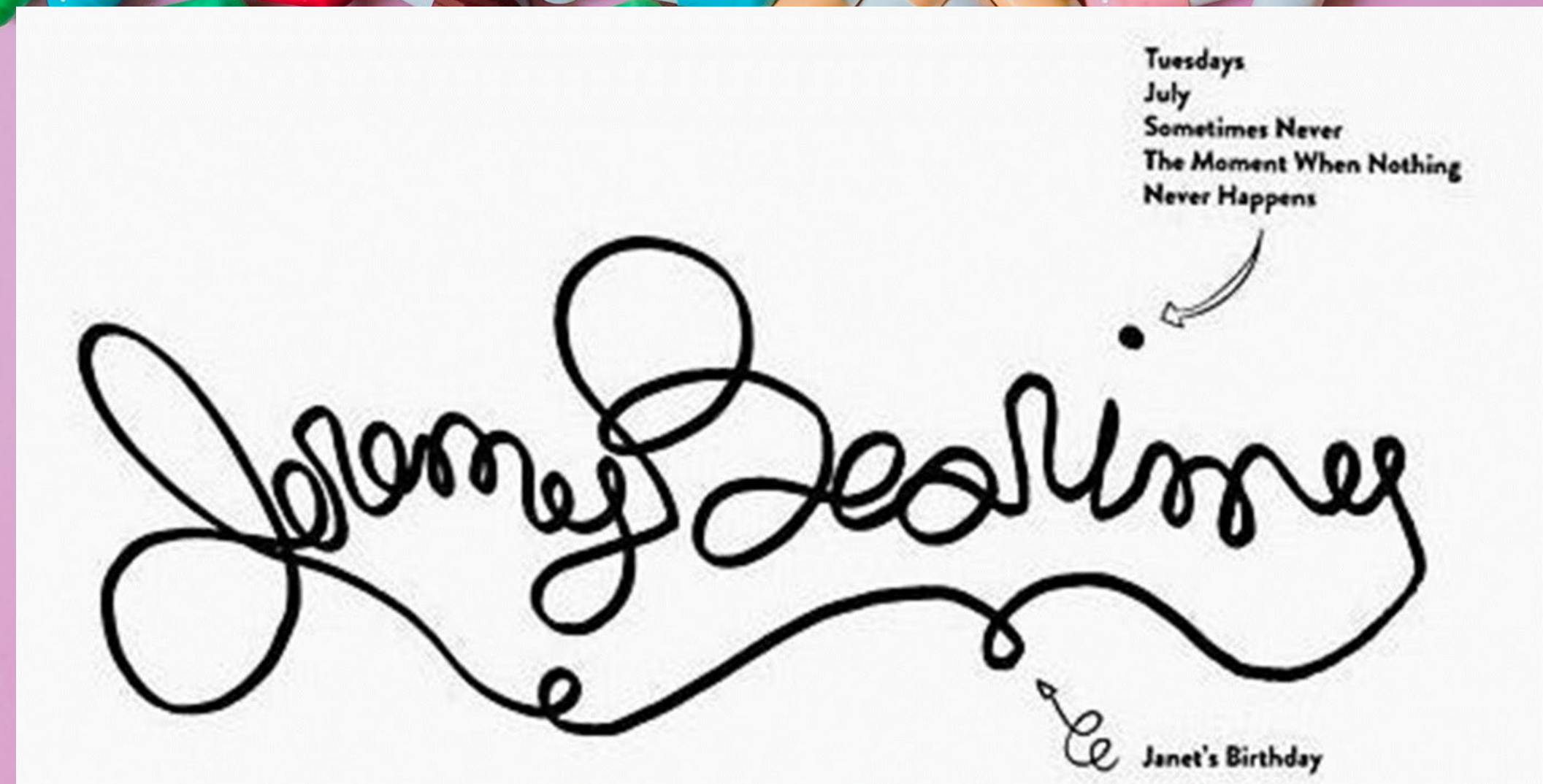


# RECOVERY SUPPORT

Coordination  
with  
providers

Group and  
individual  
support

Recovery  
schools





# RESOURCES



CDC's DASH

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/index.htm>

Drug Enforcement Administration Fentanyl Awareness

<https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>

Virginia's It Only Takes One

<https://www.itonlytakesoneva.com/>

VA Foundation for Healthy Youth - Prevention Lessons

<https://www.vfhy.org/prevention-lessons/>

National Fentanyl Awareness Day

<https://www.fentanylawarenessday.org/>

Partnership to End Addiction

<https://drugfree.org/prevention-and-early-action/>

SAMHSA's Talk. They Hear You

<https://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you>

SAMHSA Student Assistance Program Administrator's Guide

<https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/pep19-03-01-001.pdf>

Song for Charlie

<https://songforcharlie.org/>

# THANK YOU!

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