



11th Annual Community Commitment for Change Conference
in partnership with the **Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition**

“Marijuana: The Blunt Facts”

May 16th 8:30am - 4:00pm

Check-in Begins at 8 am

Price: \$35

All registrations MUST be completed by May 6th.

No registration at the door.

The Clarion Inn and Conference Center
711 Millwood Avenue
Winchester, VA 22601

We are pleased to announce that our community will welcome Mr. Thomas Gorman and Mr. Ben Cort to speak on the impact of Marijuana on a community, both the legalization and treatment, followed by a panel of local representatives to discuss current trends and ground level efforts to address the SA epidemic in our community.

Mr. Thomas Gorman, Director, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



In 1968 Director Gorman graduated from San Jose State University and joined the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. He served ten years as an undercover agent. He made 1,000 undercover purchases and received two Purple Hearts from being shot and later stabbed. He was promoted in 1990 to deputy chief in charge of statewide drug enforcement operations. In 1997 he retired to become the director of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA.

Director Gorman is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and is past president of the California Narcotic Officers Association and the National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies. He was president of the National HIDTA Directors Association from 2005 to 2017. He authored *The Myths of Drug Legalization* and *Marijuana Legalization: The Issues*. He also authored a recently published book titled *To Believe or not Believe, That is the Question - An Undercover Agent's Quest for the Truth*.

Mr. Ben Court, “21st Century Marijuana”



Ben's passion for recovery, prevention and harm reduction comes from his own struggle with substance abuse. Sober since 6/15/96, Ben has been a part of the recovery movement in almost every way imaginable; from a recipient to a provider to a spokesperson Cort has a deep understanding of the issues and a personal motivation to see the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse minimized.

In 2007 Ben left his position as a HR director inside of a Denver based S&P 500 firm to help start the Colorado based nonprofit, Phoenix Multisport (PM). As an original board member and then their first full time employee, Ben was instrumental in building this organization that has received frequent

national recognition for their innovative approach to building sober communities around sport and healthy activities.

In May of 2012, he left Phoenix Multisport to join the opposition campaign for Amendment 64, the constitutional amendment that would ultimately allow for the commercialization of marijuana in Colorado. Following that campaign, Cort joined the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) where he ran the marketing, business development and admissions departments for their substance abuse treatment services known as CeDAR. He left that role in 2017 to consult inside of the treatment community, athletics and organized labor.

Throughout his time at UCH Ben remained active in the discussion around marijuana, assisting several states efforts to hold back Big Marijuana and always advocating for recovery. These efforts kept him close to the national discussion and made him a frequent guest in the media. Ben has earned a reputation as being pro-logic and recovery oriented rather than anti anything.

Ben is a Jr Fellow at the University of Florida inside of their drug policy institute, a board member for NALGAP (National Association of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender treatment providers and their allies), a Board member at SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) and faculty at numerous institutes. He is a published author (Weed Inc, HCI 2017) and his TED talk "Surprising Truths about Legalizing Cannabis" has been viewed over 1.5 million times.