



COLUMBIA
ADDICTIONS
CENTER

Celebrating 25 years of dedicated service!



Message from the Director...

I can't believe Columbia Addictions Center is celebrating its 25th Anniversary!

We remain as dedicated today as we did when we saw our first client 25 years ago. Doing that takes knowledge, compassion, respect and an unwavering commitment to meet people where they are and guide them to a healthy way of life. It also takes a great staff that works as a team and believes in the mission of CAC. We are all committed to carrying on the legacy of excellent service we have delivered in the past.

As a leader in addiction treatment, we take our job very seriously. We stay constantly educated, traveling the country to participate in continuing education classes and seminars about substance use disorders and advances in treatments. Our growing body of knowledge about services and strategies help us offer the best practices in substance use and mental health.

I speak for everyone at CAC when I say "thank you" to our clients and the community for allowing us to serve you. It is our passion and mission to provide programs that produce life-changing results for our clients.

Here's to another 25 years!

**Best Regards,
Eileen Dewey, MSW, LCSW-C, SAP**

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www.ColumbiaAddictions.com

Summer 2013 Newsletter

Deadly Effects of New “Synthetic” Drugs

Synthetic marijuana, “bath salts” and other designer drugs are now being grouped together and termed “synthetic drugs.” These synthetic drugs are meant to mimic the effects of marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines and other drugs. They are some of the most destructive drugs available today. As a whole, this category of drugs is noted for its unpredictable and toxic physical effects. The drugs have been easily available in convenience stores and head shops in some states, including Maryland. Most states are now banning them.

Synthetic drugs are usually made in China, India and other Asian countries. They change ingredients to stay one step ahead of an illegal status and standard drug screens. They are often inexpensive and claim to be legal, thus enticing young people to buy them. But the consequences can be fatal. The ingredients are increasingly causing severe reactions, such as seizures, hallucinations, labored breathing, heart palpitations, extreme paranoia, infections, aggression and more. Some people experience symptoms for days, while others may suffer permanent damage.

Although these drugs are synthetic, that does not mean they are not addictive; they are! A person may start using them innocently, not knowing the terrible damage and then may not be able to stop from going back to them. When addiction threatens a person's life in this way, it takes a successful drug treatment program to guide them and their family through the recovery process.

Columbia Addictions Center is dedicated to providing adults and adolescents with individualized substance abuse and mental health programs in a welcoming and non-judgmental format. Our integrative methods weave together current innovative practices with classical treatment approaches to produce durable results. We aim to have our clients make healthier life choices, possess greater awareness and self-respect to build a healthy and happy future.

For more information on synthetic drugs, visit our website at: www.ColumbiaAddictions.com or call us at 410-730-1333.



Eileen Dewey, LCSW-C, SAP, CAC Director

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