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December 8, 2025

## Straight Talk

**Welcome to the latest edition of the Steered Straight Newsletter! We are thrilled to bring you updates on the impactful work that Michael DeLeon and the Steered Straight team are doing to support communities, young people, and families nationwide. Our mission is to inform, educate, and empower young people to make positive choices. Thank you for joining us on this journey to make a difference.**



### **One Pill. One Time. Gone.**

**Dear Friends,**

No one is safe. Fentanyl and nitazenes are flooding our communities, disguised in counterfeit pills and powders that look harmless but kill in microscopic amounts.

It could be your first time — a teenager at a party thinking they're taking Xanax or MDMA. It could be your 50th time — someone in recovery who slips just once. It could even be someone who has never touched drugs before, trying to "look cool" over holiday break.

Opioids do not discriminate. They don't care about age, background, or circumstance. One mistake can be fatal.

Parents, don't be naïve. This isn't about "bad kids." It's about kids who need education, support, stronger self-esteem, and attention before it's too late. Communities must mobilize, and lawmakers must act.

We've put together a full blog with a **toolkit for parents and communities** — plus a breakdown of how these deadly drugs mimic everyday substances like sugar or vitamins. It's information you can't afford to ignore.

**Read the full article here [www.michaeldeleonblog.org](http://www.michaeldeleonblog.org) and share it widely. Lives depend on it.**

**Michael DeLeon**

## Road Warrior



## How the Miles Make a Difference

Six schools came together this morning to be empowered with Truth. A couple thousand middle and high school students impacted with TRUTH. I can't even begin to tell you how awesome they were! Attentive and respectful, engaged and interested - powerful results! PRICELESS!

The GREATEST Resource we have on this planet are OUR CHILDREN!!! There is no greater asset, no greater purpose, no greater mission than OUR CHILDREN! Their safety, well-being, and lives are our most important commitment! Michael will spend the rest of my life living for them!

**Steered Straight**

# In The News

## Breaking Bad on Steroids: America's Wake-Up Call

*By Jennifer Timmerberg*

Authorities are calling the latest bust “Breaking Bad on steroids.” That phrase should stop every parent, every policymaker, and every community leader dead in their tracks. Because what was uncovered isn’t just another drug ring—it’s a mirror held up to our collective failure.

We have been asleep at the wheel while an industrial-scale drug machine has been pumping poison into our neighborhoods. This isn’t the stuff of TV drama. It’s real, it’s lethal, and it’s targeting our kids. And yet, too many of us still cling to the illusion that “it won’t happen here.” That denial is killing us.

## Parents: Stop Pretending This Is Someone Else's Problem

If you think your child is immune, you’re wrong. The drug landscape today is unrecognizable compared to what parents faced a generation ago. We’re not talking about sneaking beers or smoking weed behind the bleachers. We’re talking about lab-engineered substances so potent that one pill can end a life.

Parents must stop outsourcing vigilance.

- **Know what’s out there.** Ignorance is not innocence—it’s negligence.
- **Talk to your kids.** Silence is permission.
- **Draw the line.** Boundaries save lives.

## **Communities: Outrage Must Become Action**

We wring our hands after every tragedy, but where is the sustained outrage? Social media glorifies drug culture, illegal shops thrive under the radar, and prevention programs limp along underfunded and ignored. Communities must rise up—not just with candlelight vigils after the fact, but with relentless demands for accountability and change.

We need schools that educate, churches that engage, and neighborhoods that refuse to normalize the slow-motion destruction of their youth. Outrage without action is complicity.

## **Lawmakers: Stop Playing Politics With Lives**

The pace of legislation is laughable compared to the speed at which synthetic drug labs innovate. While traffickers churn out new formulas, lawmakers debate semantics. Enough. We need laws that are nimble, penalties that are severe, and funding that prioritizes prevention over cleanup.

Every delay is another funeral. Every half-measure is another obituary.

## **Michael DeLeon: The Voice We Ignored**

For years, Michael DeLeon has been shouting from the rooftops, warning that the drug crisis was mutating into something far more dangerous than anyone wanted to admit. He's been in schools, in communities, on stages across the country, pleading for proactive prevention.

And what did we do? We shrugged. We dismissed him as alarmist. Now, as mainstream media finally catches up, we see that DeLeon wasn't exaggerating—he was ahead of the curve. His warnings were prophetic. Our failure to listen is unforgivable.

## **Outrage Is Not Enough**

This bust—this “Breaking Bad on steroids”—is not just another headline. It is a siren. Parents must wake up. Communities must mobilize. Lawmakers must lead. And we must finally listen to those who have been sounding the alarm for years.

We should be outraged. But outrage without action is cowardice. The question is not whether we feel angry—it's whether we will finally do something about it.

## On the Road to Recovery

Steered Straight and Recovery Army sat down with Matt Russick. Matt's addiction began at a young age. He began to get in trouble at school around 12 or 13 when he was smelling like weed at school. His troubles continued when he would get pulled over by the police because they knew he'd been out drinking. The police would let him go because they knew his dad was a judge. The community saw what he was becoming but gave him a pass because of his father. Once he moved on from weed and alcohol and began to experiment with Percocet, things changed. It began with weekends but by the time he graduated high school he was a full blown drug addict that was using on pretty much a daily basis. He would tell both of his parents, who had divorced, he needed gas money but spend little on gas and most on drugs. Matt even got to a point to where he stole from his younger brother, who once looked up to him. Things got to a point where no one wanted him around. Matt got so desperate that he began to steal from cemeteries to get money from drugs. To hear the rest of his downward spiral, and even more importantly his rise to sobriety and being an advocate for others, please click the link below and hear him tell his story in his own words! Keep up the good work Matt Russick, and thank you for sharing your story.

To see more stories of hope and inspiration please visit:

[www.recoveryarmy.com](http://www.recoveryarmy.com)



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## TABLE TALKS

Michael has created workbooks for parents and children that guide them in managing relationships and discussing difficult topics beyond drug and alcohol abuse. Each month, he focuses on a different subjects and offers many different topics of conversation and activities you can do with your children to help foster that deep connection and communication that is so vital.

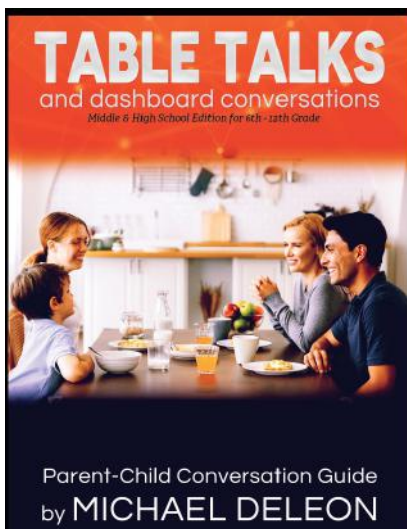


Table Talks and Dashboard Conversations is an in-depth Conversation Guide for Parents and Kids. You can order through [Amazon](#) or

the [Steered Straight website](#).

### The Month of December: Core Values, Peer Assimilations & Peer Pressure

The focus of December is core values, peer assimilation and peer pressure. December is designated to helping teens develop integrated skills. This month we guide teens on how developing and implementing an effective personal wellness plan contributes to healthy decision-making over one's lifetime. This is done using tools that include our Self-Actualizing Scales. **This week I would like to have a conversation with your children about Maslow's Pyramid of Needs, which you can see includes Self-Actualization.**



**Take some time to research if you need to. Discuss the pyramid with your child and if they feel their needs are being met. Be open to discussing their points of view and ways in which they can help to meet the needs they feel are not being met and ways that you can help them as well. We all need a solid foundation, and each level of the pyramid is important.**

Spend the week building your kids up! The more we open up with kids, the more they will open up to the important adults in their lives.

## Headlines We Are Following

[Faith, Family, and Community: The Missing Pieces in America's Recovery —](#)

[Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[Systemic Failures That Need to Be Named — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[Warning: The Silent Opioid Crisis Hiding in Plain Sight - Kratom and the Lethal](#)

[Power of 7-OH — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

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## Contact Steered Straight

Michael and his team of professional Steered Straight speakers are eager to meet you in person and make a profound impact on your students, staff, and community. To bring their inspiring message to your next event, contact Steered Straight to schedule.

[CONTACT STEERED STRAIGHT](#)



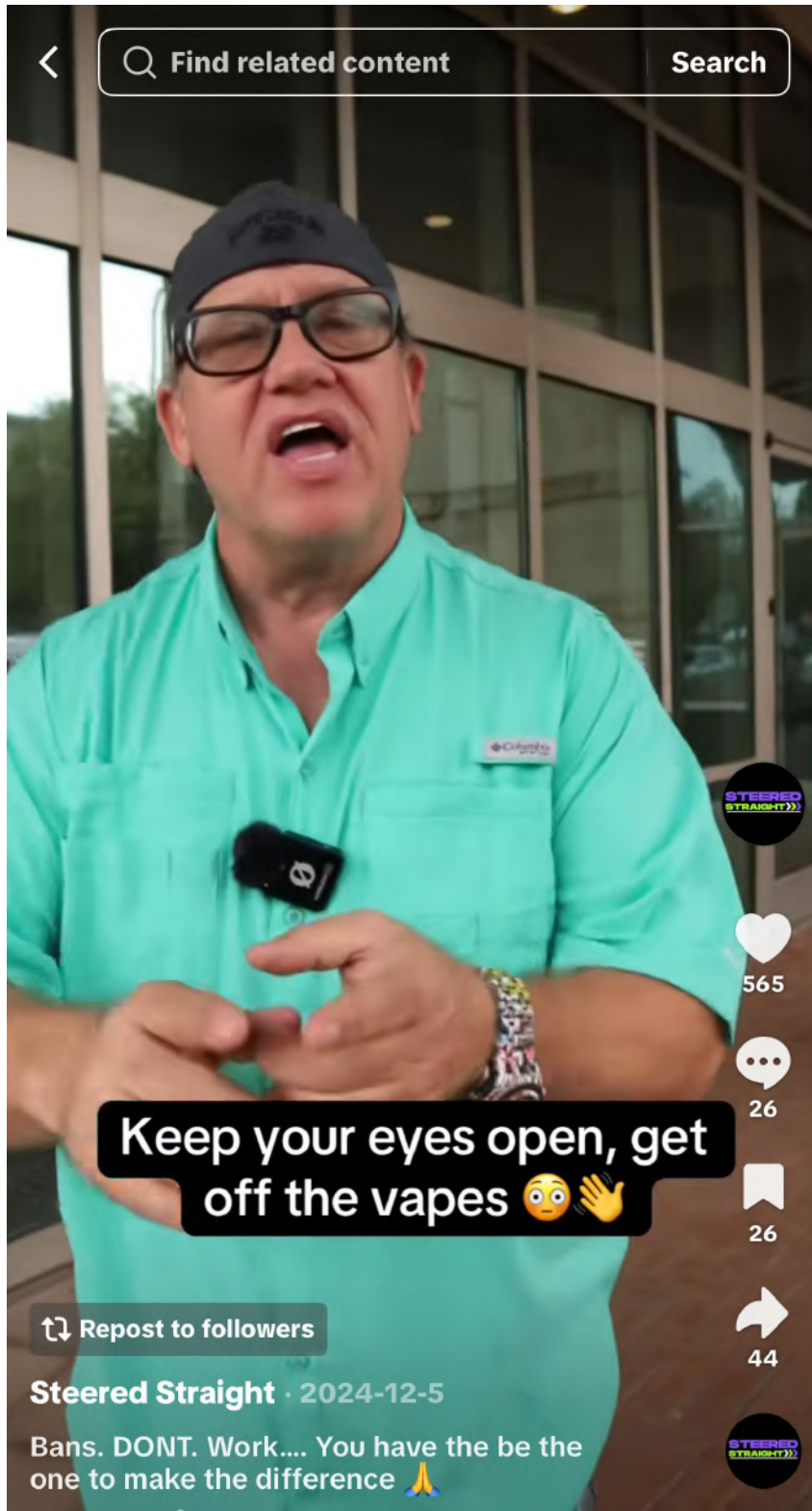
## Follow On Social Media



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18K followers





Watch now on TikTok

@steeredstraight

Check out these awesome posts.

Instagram - This post shows how Michael is getting through to kids and they are turning in their POISON!

TIKTOK - A reminder of how bans don't work if they are not enforced! Please help us enforce these bans!

Michael DeLeon and the team at Steered Straight are working hard to ensure this generation gets what they need to change the world. No other program like it and no one delivers the message better. All for the kids! Follow Michael and Steered Straight on social media so you don't miss a beat!

#steeredstraight #motivator #explore #advice #drugfree #antivaping #recovery #quitvaping #stayinyourlane



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