OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

Medicine Collection Event

Operating a Medicine Collection Event

Eugene B. Jones
Southern Waste Information
eXchange, Inc.

Medicine Collection Event Workshop
April 21, 2017

Reasons for Collecting Unwanted Medications

- Help prevent improper disposal
- Educate the public
- Help prevent abuse/improper use of unused medications

Improper Use Problems

"Each year in the United States, more than 71,000 children aged 18 and younger are seen in emergency rooms for unintentional overdoses of prescription and over-the-counter drugs."

(DisposeMyMeds.org)

Potential Environmental Problems

A vast array of pharmaceuticals — including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones — have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans.

(DisposeMyMeds.org)

Event Planning

- Identifying Host Site
- Listing of Project Partners
- Date and Time for Event
- Project Marketing Plan/Signage
- Project Partner Planning Meeting
- Marketing Plan
- Event Organization

Priority Issues for Each Event

- Partnering with local law enforcement
- Volunteers to man the event
- Host site
- Destruction/disposal of collected medications

Case Studies:

February 2010 Event Photos

Banker's Box Used for Medicine Collection

OPERATION
MEDICINE CABINET
FREE Medicine Collection Event
Saturday, February 13 • 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Costco, Mahan Drive (4067 Lagniappe Way, Tallahassee FL)
Please Make Sure To...
• Keep medications in original containers
• Keep labels on containers
• Cross through personal information
We will not accept...
• Sharps • Medical Wastes • Thermometers
For more info: 386-6280 • info@swix.ws

OPERATION
MEDICINE CABINET

Private Information Blacked Out

OPERATION
MEDICINE CABINET™
A Prescription for Safe Kids
and a Clean Environment

LIQUOR SALES
LEON COUNTY
SHERIFF
94.9 TNT
Tallahassee's Best Country

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET
FREE Medicine Collection Event
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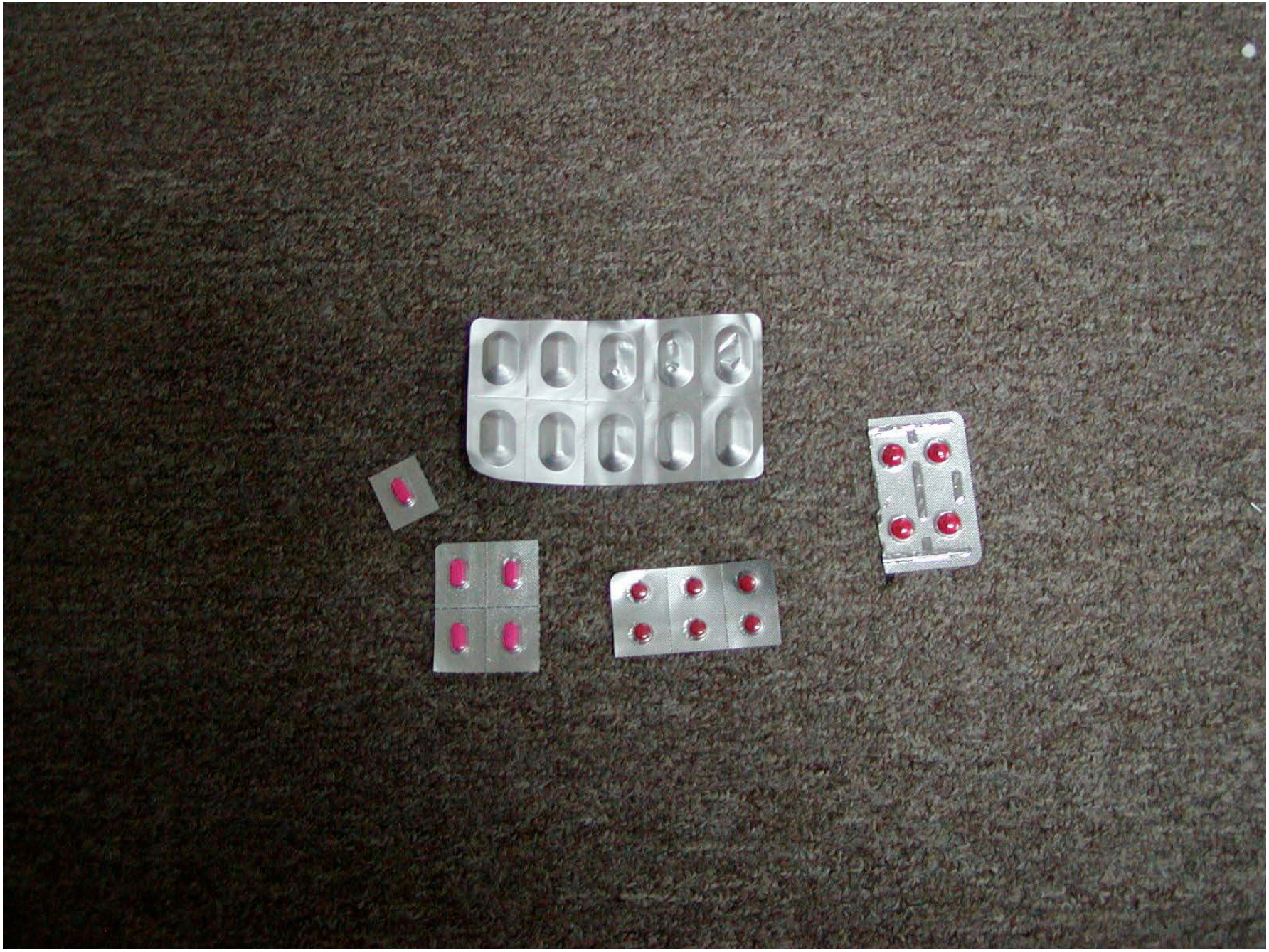
FREE Medicine Collection Event

NDC 51079300 63
PKG. BY: UDL, ROCKFORD, IL
Lot 8J111 Exp. 7/10
RENVELA
800
LISINOPRIL TABLETS
40 MG
Tues

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET
FREE Medicine Collection Event

LEON COUNTY RECYCLES
Lots of Paper, Cardboard and Plastic Packaging



November 2010 Event Photos

STORE
OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET
FREE Medicine Collection Event

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET
FREE Medicine Collection

easy as One
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Ordinary actions. Extraordinary results.
Paper
Every year enough paper is thrown away to make a 12 foot wall from New York to California.
Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.
One-fifth of all wood harvested in the world ends up in paper.
The average U.S. office worker uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper a year.
Cell Phone
An estimated 128 million cell phones are retired annually.
There are an estimated 4.6 billion mobile phone subscriptions worldwide.
Cellular and wireless phone recycling prevents toxic elements and heavy metals from ending up in landfills.
Plastic Bag
Americans used almost 90 billion retail bags in 2003.
Only 1% of plastic bags and 37% of paper bags are recycled.
Up to 315 disposable retail bags can be replaced by a single reusable bag in one year.
dep.state.fl.us/easyasone
twitter.com/

Office DEPOT
SPREADSHEET ②
Scheduled meds
PARTICIPANT SURVEY
COMPLETED SURVEYS

PED
XING

MEDICINE CABINET
Collection Event

Event Results Comparison

	February Event	November Event
Total Participants	137	88
Containers Collected	1,600	2,644
Total Pounds Collected	146	193
Average Pounds/Participant	1.06	2.19

Event Marketing Results

How Participants Heard of Event	February Event	November Event
Newspaper	77.7%	58.2%
Email	14.9%	9.0%
Costco Signage	9.1%	13.4%
Radio	4.1%	3.0%
Flyer	2.5%	9.0%
TV	1.7%	11.9%

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

FREE Medicine Collection Event

When: **Saturday, November 20 • 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Where: Costco, Mahan Drive
(4067 Lagniappe Way, Tallahassee, FL)

Why: To help protect our environment, water supplies, and help prevent misuse

Cost: It's **FREE!**

Please Make Sure To…

- Keep medications in original containers
- Keep labels on containers
- Cross through personal information on containers

We will not accept…

- Sharps
- Medical Wastes
- Thermometers

Disposing of your unused or expired prescriptions/ medications properly is important. So bring your unwanted or unneeded medications to this free collection event and we'll dispose of them for you—**anonymously and no questions asked**!

Please Note:

This event is for individual residents of Tallahassee and Leon County. Prescriptions and other medications from doctor's offices, nursing homes, hospitals and other institutional sources will NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Event sponsored by:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection • Costco • Leon County Sheriff's Office • Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc. (SWIX) • Florida Department of Health • Leon County Public Works Department • 94.9 TNT • Florida Pharmacy Association • Florida Society of Health Systems Pharmacists • Florida State University (Center for Biomedical and Toxicological Research) • Townsend Addiction Recovery Center • Comcast

Contact the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc for more information: 386-6280 • info@swix.ws

How to Dispose of Unwanted Medications

Expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications from households should never be disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or a drain. Although this method of disposal prevents accidental ingestion, it can cause contamination to Florida's aquatic environment because wastewater treatment systems are not designed to remove many of these medications.

Seven Steps to Safety

Please use these practical guidelines when disposing of prescription and over-the-counter medicines:

For Pills and Liquids:

1. Keep the medicines in the original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
2. Mark out your name and prescription number for safety.
3. For pills: add some water or soda to start dissolving them
   For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter, dirt or cayenne pepper.
4. Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape.
5. Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non see-through) container like a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.
6. Tape that container closed.
7. Hide the container in the trash. Do not put in the recycle bin.

Don't Flush That Leftover Medicine

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.8707
www.dep.state.fl.us

PARTICIPANT SURVEY

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET – FREE Medicine Collection Event

Tallahassee/Leon County • Saturday November 20, 2010 • 11:00am - 3:00pm • Costco, Mahan Drive

1. What ZIP code do you live in?

_____

2. How did you hear about this event? (check all that apply)

❑ Newspaper Insert

❑ Radio

❑ TV

❑ Flyer

❑ Email

❑ Costco Pharmacy Notice/Signs

❑ Other:_____

3. How did you manage your medicines prior to this event?

❑ Flushed them down the sink or toilet

❑ Threw them in the trash

❑ Just kept them in medicine cabinet or other storage

❑ Other:_____

4. Are you a Costco member?

❑ Yes

❑ No

5. Do you use Costco Pharmacy for your prescription needs?

❑ Yes

❑ No

6. How can we make this event better?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Contact the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc for more information: 386-6280 • info@swix.ws

Reccomendations

- More education of the public about not flushing unwanted medications in toilets and sinks.
- Need clearinghouse activities on this issue to be coordinate on a state level.
- Need funding for education and events.
- Development/passage of further legislation to allow the use of pharmacies as drop off locations for residents and their medications.
- Law Enforcement needs to be able to thermally destroy meds at the local level just as they do for illicit drugs.

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