

Press Release:

CVS Drop Box Grant for Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Police Department

What: The Uniting Neighbors in Drug Abuse Defense (UNIDAD) Coalition, a program of Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas, in partnership with the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 have applied and been approved to receive a grant from CVS Pharmacy to obtain a permanent prescription medication drop box for installation at the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4.

Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 and the UNIDAD Coalition aim to help residents of Hidalgo County to safely dispose of expired, unused, or unwanted medication. The community will now have a permanent safe drug disposal alternative, no questions asked, at their local police department. The goal is to reduce the availability of prescribed medication for recreational use, which has resulted in addiction, intoxication, and overdoses. In Hidalgo County, there have been approximately 848 reports of dangerous exposure to prescription medication made to the Texas Poison Center Network from 2009 to 2014. The majority of cases have been reported to occur in the home of residence.

This environmental strategy (The Drop Box) provides an opportunity to educate the community about the dangers that prescription medications pose if left unattended in homes or improperly discarded. Improper disposal of prescription medication has shown to have an adverse effect on the environment. More importantly this prescription medication drop box will allow for a reduction of access to addictive medications for accidental or intentional misuse by children or others at home.