

Ben Cort

Advocate for Marijuana Policy, Addiction, Prevention, and Recovery

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Addiction / Substance Abuse / Recovery
- Personal Growth

About Ben Cort

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 community 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 full time 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 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 sports and healthy activities.

Ben joined the drug policy conversation at the national level in 2012 after leaving PM to be a part of the "No on 64" Campaign. Following the passage of A64 he has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Project SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana), as well as NALGAP (the National Association of Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Treatment Providers and their Allies). Ben's passion about the intersection of recovery and public policy makes him a frequent guest in the media.

Ben's first book, Weed, Inc., was published by HCI. Ben resigned from his position with the University of Colorado Hospital inside of their chemical dependency treatment service line to focus on marijuana education and consulting inside of the substance use disorder treatment field.

Select Keynotes

- **20+ School Assemblies**
Marijuana Education
- **CADCA Annual Conference**
Updates on Marijuana Policy from Colorado
- **Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police 2015/16**
Commercialized THC in Colorado
- **Federation of State Physician Health Programs**
Ethics in Treatment Marketing
- **International Association of Chiefs of Police**
Marijuana Policy
- **Mission Hospital Grand Rounds**
Cannabis Lessons Learned from Colorado
- **New York Treatment Professionals Ethics Conference**



Stop Marketing, Representing Treatment Rather Than Selling it

- **NFL Owners Annual Meeting**

Athletes and Cannabis

- **South Carolina Prevention Network**

The Blunt Truth

- **Texas Christian University**

Lessons Learned from Colorado

- **Vail Symposium**

Marijuana Policy in Colorado

- **Valor Christian High School**

Parents and Students - Updates on Marijuana

- **Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police 2016/17**

Marijuana: Lessons Learned from Colorado

Select Book Titles

- **2017:** Weed, Inc.: The Truth About the Pot Lobby, THC, and the Commercial Marijuana Industry

Select Articles

- [The Real Skinny on SAM: A Response to Maia Szalavitz](#)
- [Treatment for Substance Use Disorders – The Continuum of Care](#)
- [Marijuana policy: It's your fight \(Part 4\)](#)

Select Testimonials

We often learn our most meaningful life lessons from the people we are lucky enough to meet and the stories they share with us. Ben Cort's sincerity, dedication and commitment to this prevention work allow him to be just one of those touchstones for anyone who has the fortune to hear his presentations.

— *Bryna - School Counselor*

Ben is a true example of how a person can make a personal life change to then change the lives of others. I would highly recommend Ben to speak about the addictive nature of marijuana as it relates the adolescent lifestyles and development. His realistic and comfortable communication style allows for attendees to quickly connect and learn the real world of addiction and treatment. People will leave a session with Ben with a lot more information on THC commercialization and having some laughs along the way.

— *Chief John Jackson - Greenwood Village, CO PD*

Ben has been a valuable resource for our group. His knowledge, energy and the unique ability to connect with a variety of audiences makes him an excellent presenter on marijuana or any topic he chooses.

— *Dwight Hollier, LPC, NCC, Vice President, Wellness and Clinical Services National Football League*

Ben Cort is exceptionally knowledgeable about marijuana in today's culture. His expertise as a treatment provider as well as his passion gives him a powerful voice.

— *Kevin Sabet PhD*

Whether speaking or consulting Ben translates his years of experience, breadth of knowledge and personable approach into a salient message.

What you choose to do with it will determine your path of success -Transform treatment, be a thought leader, make patient care paramount.

– *LaTisha Bader PhD*

I wish every single person in our country could hear Ben speak about marijuana. The information he provides is balanced and fair. When you attend one of his talks, you walk away knowing the good, the bad, and the ugly. Ben is a dynamic and humorous speaker who can reach out to all audiences and make an impact. I am forever thankful for the work he has done in Wyoming.

– *Rhea Parsons - Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chief of Police*

Ben's dynamic speaking style keeps the full focus of the audience on the educational journey he has come to share. His passion and amazing personality shine through as he talks with his audience about difficult and sometimes complex issues surrounding addiction, recovery, and marijuana's impact on our lives today. Ben speaks in simple and compelling ways that resonate with his audience. The knowledge and inspiration Ben pours into every talk he gives will be remembered by the audience well after the day is done.

– *Sarah Urfer, M.S., D-ABFT-FT*

This was hands down, one of the very best trainings I have been to, on any topic. Ben Cort was very knowledgeable, communicated in a very easy one-on-one level to a whole room and managed to teach us a lot in a short amount of time.

– *Sharon - State Employee*

I know Ben as a passionate and articulate advocate for recovery, an ardent and expert voice for a sensible public-health approach to marijuana policy, and as a consummate professional in the addiction treatment field. Ben is passionate about improving the lives of those seeking or pursuing recovery. He cares deeply about our communities and is not shy about sharing his experience in service to improving them. I would recommend Ben for any role that aligns with his passions and that skill set.

– *Steven Millette - Director Recovery Ecosystem, Gloop, LLC*

My experience with Ben Cort has been positive. He's a professional who truly cares about the welfare of others. He understands substance abuse and drug policy issues and is an excellent speaker on the topic.

– *Thomas Gorman, Director - Rocky Mountain HIDTA*