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Brandy vaughan santa barbara



American anti-vaccination group Learn The RiskLegal statusNon-profitPurposeAnti-vaccination groupExecutive Director and founderBrandy VaughanWebsite Learn The Risk is an American anti-vaccine group founded in 2015. It is known for its billboard campaigns asserting vaccines are responsible for a large number of deaths of young children.[1][2][3][4][5][6] Arguments against vaccination are contradicted by overwhelming scientific consensus about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.[7][8][9][10] Founder Brandy Vaughan died in December of 2020; no replacement executive director has been named. A year before she died she posted a Facebook post stating that she was in fear for her life and that she was not suicidal. The coroner report states she died of a blood clot 6 days later. [11][12] Mission Learn The Risk was founded in 2015 by Brandy Vaughan, as a branch of an organization she also founded, the Council for Vaccine Safety. Vaughan led both groups as executive director.[13] She described herself as a former employee of pharmaceutical company Merck and an activist for natural health.[4][14][15] The group is widely described as being anti-vaccination.[1][14][16] With an annual budget of less than US\$100,000 according to tax filings, Learn The Risk does not have the wide reach of larger anti-vaccination groups such as Informed Consent Action Network and Children's Health Defense.[16] The organization got some funding out of the Amazon Prime program, which allowed consumers to donate a small portion of their purchase to the charity of their choice. The program helped fund several similar groups until Amazon moved to exclude anti-vaccine activists from the program, in the Spring of 2019.[16][17] Billboard campaigns in the Fall of 2018, the organization bought space on more than 30 billboards in West Virginia, New York, Missouri and other states, provoking concerns from health professionals that parents may delay or disregard vaccinations for their children. The message used on the billboards claimed vaccines kill children, portraying specific cases even though there was no evidence supporting the claims. A similar billboard campaign in the Summer of 2018 in Perth, Australia, met with resistance from health professionals and calls for its removal.[14] The World Health Organization has identified vaccine hesitancy as one of 2019's ten global health threats to watch.[18] Although a small fraction of vaccine doses provoke serious adverse reactions, health professionals agree the benefits of being protected against a wide range of infectious diseases far outweigh the risks. Among other public health agencies, the Public Health Agency of Canada stated that the science on vaccines is unequivocal, but laments the actions of "a small but vocal anti-vaccination community that spreads false information. They use powerful emotional images and misinformation with their message. This creates confusion and fear for parents who are trying to make the best decisions for the health and wellbeing of their children."[19][20][21] References
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^ "Santa Barbara, Calif. – The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner's Office has completed the death investigation of local community activist Brandy Vaughan. The Coroner's Office has determined that she died from natural causes. On December 7, 2020, 44-year-old Brandy Vaughan, a resident of Santa Barbara City, was found down in the bathroom of her East Sola St. residence. Paramedics were summoned and life saving measures were initiated, but were unsuccessful. The Santa Barbara City Police Department responded to the scene and investigated the circumstances surrounding her death. Their investigation found no signs of foul play or anything suspicious to warrant further investigation. Since Vaughan's death occurred outside the direct care of a medical doctor, the investigation was turned over to the Sheriff / Coroner to determine the cause and manner of death. The Sheriff's Coroner's Office conducted a thorough investigation which included an autopsy, in depth toxicology screening, interviews and medical record review. At the conclusion of the Coroner's months long investigation, the Office determined the manner of her death to be Natural, caused by bi-lateral Pulmonary Thromboembolus. The Coroner's Office has concluded this investigation, and will be finalizing reports and updating the State of California death certificate accordingly. Brandy Vaughan | Credit: Paul Wellman (file) Santa Barbara's coroner concluded that nationally renowned anti-vax activist Brandy Vaughan died at age 44 of natural causes on December 7 at her Santa Barbara home on East Sola Street. Vaughan, who attended UC Santa Barbara, was a former pharmaceutical representative who would start two organizations highly critical of Big Pharma and the mandatory vaccination of school-aged children as a requirement to attend school. According to the Coroner's report, Vaughan died of bilateral pulmonary thromboembolus, otherwise known as a blood clot in an artery. Emergency medical responders tried to revive Vaughan after her 9-year-old son discovered her body, but without success. Police investigators determined there was no sign of foul play, but due to Vaughan's high profile in the anti-vaccination movement, Coroner's officials opted to give her death more careful scrutiny to head off the potential proliferation of conspiracy theories. Her remains were subjected to an autopsy, "an in-depth panel of toxicology screenings, interviews," and a review of her medical record. Vaughan had reportedly only recently moved back to Santa Barbara at the time of her death. In her speeches, she highlighted her experience as a sales executive for the Merck pharmaceutical company and claimed to have sold Vioxx, a painkiller that was eventually removed from the market when it was determined to be unsafe. That experience taught Vaughan to be distrustful of corporate and government studies showing pharmaceutical products to be safe. Get the top stories in your inbox by signing up for our daily newsletter, Indy Today. Vaughan broadened her critique to encompass the health-care industry as a whole, questioning why the United States spends more on health care than any other country and still has more sick people. Her conclusion was that the health-care system makes money only when people are sick. To that end, she started an anti-vaccine group in 2015 called Learn the Risk, which underwrote a billboard campaign throughout parts of the United States claiming that vaccines kill children. These billboards aroused serious concern from medical health professionals asserting there was little to no evidence to substantiate Vaughan's claims. She strenuously opposed a state bill passed in 2017 that required proof of vaccination for students to attend public or private schools. Within the anti-vaxxer movement, Vaughan had emerged as a charismatic Joan of Arc figure, and her death had been the subject of considerable suspicion by many skeptical about the competence and intentions of the Centers for Disease Control and other governmental health institutions. Her death had been seized upon as a subject of much note and discussion by anti-mask protesters who marched down State Street — without masks — shortly before Christmas last year. At the time of her death, Vaughan had reportedly suffered an attack to her gallbladder severe enough to cause her to black out. Every day, the staff of the Santa Barbara Independent works hard to sort out truth from rumor and keep you informed of what's happening across the entire Santa Barbara community. Now there's a way to directly enable these efforts. Support the Independent by making a direct contribution or with a subscription to Indy+.

