

Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force

Work Group Monthly Report

Work Group Name: Community Education/Prevention

Work Group Leader: Barbara Burns

Work Group Chair: Pat Greco

Summary of meetings/activities:

- We are in the planning states of a large event to be held on August 4 from 6-8 pm at St. Gregory the Great Church on Maple Road in Amherst. This will be a resource fair and will include representatives from different agencies who will be available to speak to attendees one on one. One of the strongest messages we have heard is that people in the community do not know where to turn. This resource fair will have the organizations on site that can assist in getting people the help they or a loved one needs. We are also planning to include a Narcan training and drug drop off in the event. This event will be replicated subsequently in the north towns and City of Buffalo.
- Public awareness forums continue throughout Erie County, the most recent in Buffalo and Cheektowaga.
- The pamphlet we created detailing information about what are opioids, what's in our community, signs and symptoms, Narcan training, how to talk to your doctor, disposal of drugs, where to turn for help, etc. is being distributed. It will be much more widely distributed once the Crisis Hotline # is available.
- Our Facebook page continues to generate great interest and share important information.
- We are in the process of producing 6 You Tube videos to address important opiate related topics including stigma; a message from a parent, medication disposal, Narcan, no one is immune, and the Good Samaritan Law. These will be shared on a You Tube channel our committee is creating and disseminated throughout the community.
- We presented at a recent Erie I BOCES Superintendents Meeting to begin a dialogue with school officials about how the opiate problem can be addressed in local schools. District Superintendent Lynn Fusco has joined our committee and will assist us in this effort.

Work Group Contact Information:

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Support needed? Nothing at this time.

7/8/16