



# Family and Consumer Advocacy and Support Group

Aka: Loved Ones

Our Purpose

August 1, 2016

# Mission Statement

Our mission is to support the segments of the Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force by improving the delivery of services for those affected, advocating for our loved ones while fortifying the community response of attaining our common goal of eliminating addiction, illness and death from opiate use.

We envision a joint effort to:

- show respect for all people
- minimize health, legal and social harms associated with substance use
- provide comfort and compassion to those affected by addiction
- advocate for available, affordable, comprehensive therapeutic services for the addicted
- educate the public
- focus on prevention
- reduce harm among families and individuals
- pursue legal enactments to further our goal.
- eradicate this public health crisis from our community and our homes



# Goals

Save Lives.

Eliminate addiction, illness and death from opiate use.

Advocate for our loved ones.

# Subgroups

- Event Resource and Planning  
Jeannine Cormier
- Lobbying  
Diane DiStefano
- Community education  
Debi Cleary/ Tom McCarthy
- Grief  
Diane Cimmerer

# Subgroup Purposes

- **Grief Support Group**

To offer comfort and support to those suffering from the disease of addiction

- **Community Education**

To develop Public Awareness of the Epidemic by offering knowledge from personal experience



- **Event Planning and Resource Development**

- Create or find events to further our mission of comfort and support
- Speaker Group of those with personal experience.

- **Lobby**

- Strengthen Laws to Support Consequences
- Judiciary to be aware of our community concern and interest
- Strengthen Legislative processes to represent our Community Interests

# Educate the Public

- Black Balloon Day March 7, 2016
- Awareness/ Memorial Walk April 30,
- Awareness/ Memorial Walk May 21
- Opiate Awareness Cheektowaga June 15
- Narcan Training July 5
- Funeral Home Brochure July 26
- NYSPOA Convention July 29

# Putting a Face on Addiction

- News
- Social Media
- Attending Trainings
- Attending Events
- Making Public Statements
- Making Private Statements
- Newspaper Editorials
- Lending out our Personal Stories Library

# Advocate for Services

- Legislative Meetings
  - November 2015- Public Awareness
  - January 2016- Information to Health Comm.
  - March 2016- Advocate for Telephone Line
- Engage Service Providers
  - Fill in the Gaps we have identified in treatment/ health delivery

# Lobbying

- Lobbying Medical Support
  - Educating our physicians/ dentists
- Lobbying Organizational Support
  - Approaching Labor/ Businesses
- Lobbying Community Support
  - Petition
- Lobbying the Judiciary and Elected Representatives

# Pursue Legal Enactments

- Attending Court Proceedings
- Encouraging Support for Dillon's Law and CARA through Social Media
- Offering Support to Law Enforcement and Prosecution
- Telling others to Co-operate fully with Investigations

# Currently

- Survey Data is being Analyzed
- Developing site for Family Comfort and Support
- Angel Training to help others
- Scheduling at Public Events
  - Canal side Memorial August 20, 2016, 7pm
  - CSEA Convention September 2016



**We are a group of passionate,  
professional, trained individuals  
who are willing to support  
objectives to further the causes  
of safety, treatment and health.**

**How can we assist you?**



- Questions?

- Concerns

- Comments

Thank You