

Family and Consumer Advocacy and Support Group

Aka: Loved Ones

Report of progress- November 17, 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 Corimer
 - Create or find events to further our mission.
 - Personal Experience Speaker Group.
- **Lobbying** Diane DiStefano
 - Strengthen Laws to Support Consequences
 - Judiciary to be aware of our community concern and interest
 - Strengthen Legislative processes to represent our Community Interests
- **Community Education** Tom McCarthy/ Debi Cleary
 - Develop Public Awareness of the Epidemic.
- **Grief Support** Diane Cimmerer
 - Offer comfort and support to those suffering from the disease of addiction

Educate the Public

- August 4 - Resource Fair, Williamsville
- August 12 & 17 - Erie County Fair
- August 20 - Canalside Memorial
- August 31 - Opiate Awareness Tree Planting
- Sept 17 -CSEA Conference, Niagara Falls
- September 17- Big Event Lancaster, NY
- September 18 - Fed Up Rally, Elma
- October 13 - Support Group @ Stutzman
- November 15 - Resource Fair, Hamburg

Putting a Face on Addiction

- News
- Social Media
- Presenting at Trainings
- Participating at Events
- Making Public Statements
- Making Private Statements
- Newspaper Editorials
- Lending our Personal Stories Library

Advocate for Services

- Legislative Interactions
- OASAS -Media Campaign
- ANGELS – Ambassadors for Loved Ones
- Engage Service Providers
 - Fill in the Gaps that we experienced

Currently

- Christmas Memorial and Hope (date tba)
- Family Support Groups in Buffalo and Hamburg are being developed
- Narcan Training in the Community
- Lobbying for Detoxification Beds
- Lobbying effort for Stricter Sentencing for Predatory Drug Dealers.
- Thank You card initiative continues


Our Gratitude

- We asked and the community is responding. The culture is changing.
- This Task Force was formed due to Community Need. It was developed from love and concern for neighborhoods, families and homes. We are grateful.
- We have a great deal of work ahead of us.

Optimistic Outcomes

No one asking for help should be turned away!

- Increase availability of detoxification beds and treatment.
- Fund a Hotline to provide a service, deliver an outcome or make a plan and follow up with linkages.
- Hire Outreach Workers to engage those in need where they are: homes, streets, jails.
- Provide a central place for information, training, comfort and support, accessible to family members and other shareholders.
- Attract Medical Professionals to this area to assist our ill. (Initiatives of loan repayment options or housing grants.)
- Hire additional law enforcement to eradicate this drug from our community and our homes.
- Increase penalties for Predatory Drug Dealers.



We are a group of passionate,
professional, trained individuals
who are willing to support your
objectives.

How can we assist you?



Thank You