Successful Town Hall Meeting in Amherst

The Amherst Task Force held a town hall meeting on January 6, 2016 to address the growing opioid epidemic’s impact on this suburban community.

Members of law enforcement, treatment providers, and substance abuse prevention specialists, including ECCPASA’s Parent Programs Coordinator, Sally Yageric, gathered to discuss the issue with Amherst community members.

According to experts, over the past 10 years, prescription drug overdoses have increased by 430 percent! With 17 heroin overdoses right in the Town of Amherst in 2015, it is no surprise that the turnout for this event was staggering. There were approximately 300 individuals in attendance on this Wednesday night in January.

An important point that law enforcement officials stressed during the panel discussion was that opioid addiction does not discriminate. It can, and does, affect anyone: any age, race, sex, socioeconomic class, or educational background.

In addition to an expert panel, community organizations were present to provide resources and informational materials to those in attendance. ECCPASA hosted a table as a community resource provider, along with Horizon Health Services, Beacon Center, Save the Michaels, Catholic Charities, The Training Resource Center, BryLin, Renaissance House/Kids Escaping Drugs, Inner Quest Counseling, Catholic Health System, and the Amherst Task Force for Healthy Community and Healthy Youth.

For more information on opioid abuse or for help with addiction, contact us at 716-831-2298 or email us at eccpasa@eccpasa.org.

From left to right: S. Yageric, Parent Programs Coordinator, ECCPASA; Detective Lt. J. DoNoto, Amherst Police Department; Detective J. Gilbert, Amherst Police Department; Officer G. Trotter, Amherst Police Department; and T. Logsdon, Counselor, Inner Quest Counseling.
Letter from the Executive Director

Robin Mann

I am truly honored to be the Executive Director of The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. My career at ECCPASA began many years ago as a Student Assistance Prevention Counselor working with some extremely resilient and determined adolescents. I later became the Director of Programs in which I worked with some very committed professionals coordinating services and implementing policies. And now I look forward to experiencing the great opportunities that being an Executive Director has to offer. This has been and continues to be an amazing professional journey!!

April was Alcohol Awareness Month. As an affiliate of The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, we continue to bring awareness and education about the negative impact that alcohol abuse has on individuals, families and communities. We must not forget that alcohol is still a gateway drug for adolescents which can lead to poly-substance use and addiction.

Spring is here! And with spring comes a sense of renewal. The field of prevention has not always received the recognition that it deserves. I believe that there is a renewed sense of the importance of prevention. Professionals outside of the field, communities, and families are reaching out to prevention agencies seeking information, education, and techniques on how to live a healthy drug-free lifestyle. We have had the opportunity to provide programming, education, and trainings throughout Erie County in many new and different venues.

So as you gear up for warmer weather and you think about personal renewal and spring cleaning, take a moment to clean-out your medicine cabinets and take any unneeded medicine to one of the many permanent drop boxes throughout WNY. For information on locations, check out our website www.eccpasa.org. And as we celebrate our grads, dads, and other events, be safe and have a wonderful summer!!

Robin

ECCPASA has the Following Job Opportunities:

• Director of Programs
• Community Educator
• Community Educator/Counselor

For more information see our webpage at www.eccpasa.org and click on the “Current Opportunities” Link.

Resources and Contacts:

Adult Children of Alcoholics - c/o ECCPASA 716.831.2298
Al-Anon & Alateen - 716.856.2520 www.aiswny.org
Alcoholics Anonymous - 716.853.0388 www.aa.org
Crisis Services - 716.834.3131 www.crisisservices.org Kids Helpline - 716.834.1144
Erie County Sheriff’s Office Underage Drinking Hotline - 1.800.851.1932
Gamblers Anonymous & Gam-Anon - 716.879.0555 www.gamblersanonymous.org
Nar-Anon - 716.875.0548 www.nar-anon.org
Narcotics Anonymous - 716.878.2316 www.na.org
National Association for Children of Alcoholics - www.nacoa.org
Save Our Selves - Non-religious support for twelve-step recovery www.cfiwest.org/sos/index.htm
Western New York 211 Health and Human Services - 211 www.211wny.org
Erie County Executive, Mark Poloncarz, issued an executive order earlier this year to create the *Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force*.

The Task Force is made up of over 110 individuals from local human service agencies, law enforcement, government, and the private community. The goal is for all these individuals to join together to begin working on creating a community-wide response to the heroin issue. According to Poloncarz’s website, “The Task Force’s mission is to provide a framework for organizations and individuals from across the opiate overdose continuum to collaborate, develop, and share best practices and provide for timely sharing of information.”

The idea is that if multiple partners from varying backgrounds are convened together in one area, the different expertise and perspectives of these individuals can help with the creation and implementation of a successful plan to combat the issue.

The Task Force has several subcommittees in which individuals who have certain expertise were invited to participate. The subcommittees are: Provider Education & Policy Reform, Community Education, Families and Consumer Support & Advocacy, Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (“PAARI”), Treatment Providers, Hospitals/ER ROI Project, and Naloxone Access. ECCPASA staff are members of two of these subcommittees.

Mental Health Commissioner Michael Ranney says, “The Task Force combines best practices, public and private input, health knowledge, personal experiences, treatments and supports, and many other innovative practices designed to meet the addiction issue across municipalities and jurisdictions,” which is something people have been looking for, for a long time.

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When you visit Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to ECCPASA every time you shop!

- Visit [http://smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
- When prompted, select “Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse” as your charitable organization.
- Continue to shop Amazon’s millions of items!
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

With the help of the Jolly Boys of Williamsville and the Elks Ken-Ton Lodge, student success packets were developed for Amherst parents.

(From Left: Jeffrey Baker (Lodge Trustee); Becky Whelan, (Lodge Exhaled Ruler-President); Sally Yageric, Community Educator, Robin Mann, Executive Director ECCPASA).

ECCPASA Presents
Tomorrow's Leaders Camp
This year’s theme: "It's A Small World"

JUNE 27 - JULY 8
Monday - Friday  9:00 am - 3:30 pm
2253 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214
Camp is open to all children ages 8 - 12.

Early Bird Registration!
Save 10% if you register by June 6th

Cost: $75 per child
Special rates may be available for multiple children.
Please call to find out more.

Includes:
- Daily activities
- Morning and afternoon snack
- Field trips
- Full adult instruction
- Guest speakers

LIMITED scholarships are available. Please call for more information.

For more information or to register contact Robin Mann
phone: 716.831.2298
email: robin@eccpasa.org

Congratulations Robin!

It is with great pleasure that we announce Robin Mann, LMSW, the official Executive Director of ECCPASA!

Robin has been employed with the agency since 1998, serving first as a counselor in the Student Assistance Prevention Counseling program, and more recently fulfilling her role as Director of Programs.
An Apple A Day program, a nationally recognized evidence-based program, recently received high praise by St. John the Baptist School in Kenmore, NY. The school issued a press release applauding the program, and shared the release with several local newspapers.

While our agency has been implementing the An Apple A Day program in several public and private elementary schools throughout Erie County for many years, An Apple A Day is new at St. John the Baptist this year.

Prevention Educator and Project CHOICES facilitator, Sherri Weinholtz, began implementing An Apple A Day in the Kenmore school in January 2016. She visits several of the school’s classes from Pre-K all the way through third grade. Assistant Pre-K teacher, Angel Panowicz, was quoted in the press release saying, “It may sound simple, but having little kids who are only four learning how to interact and basically talk—observe the uniqueness of one another, from their little freckles to how two rows of teeth show when they smile—is pretty impressive!” She continues, “I think it’s terrific that we brought this program to our students, and wonderful that resources and people such as Sherri (Weinholtz) are available to the community!”

We are excited to see teachers and school administration recognize the benefits of this, and other important prevention programs. If you or your school is interested in receiving the An Apple A Day program, or any of the other evidence-based programs our agency offers, contact Robin Mann at 716-831-2298 or by email at Robin@eccpasa.org.

For a complete list of our programs, visit www.eccpasa.org/programs.
The Restoration Society received funds to create a youth clubhouse; a safe and drug-free environment for young adults who are in recovery to go and hang out. The Restoration Society is one of seven organizations chosen across New York State to provide this service. The Restoration Society, with assistance from its partners, will receive $250,000 to open a location in Buffalo. In addition to a safe, drug-free environment, the clubhouse will offer support groups, job training, educational opportunities, and recreational activities. Our agency, ECCPASA, is one of the many agencies chosen to assist with this project, along with Prevention Focus, the Mental Health Association of Erie County, Compeer, Buffalo State College, Horizon Health Services, and Kids Escaping Drugs. The clubhouse is set to open sometime this summer.

Retired Restoration Society Chief Executive Officer, Jack Gustaferro (3rd from right) stands with Restoration Society staff and patrons; along with Erie County Commissioner of Mental Health, Michael Ranney; David Mussen of Prevention Focus; and Robin Mann of ECCPASA.

Photo credit: Avery Schneider, WBFO News

On April 26th, ECCPASA’s staff joined thousands of volunteers for The Buffalo News Kids Day. This annual community-wide fundraising initiative began in 1983 and the funds raised are used to benefit the Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. ECCPASA staff raised over $400 as they braved the brisk morning hours at the corners of Hertel and Parkside!

Anthony, one of our young supporters, bought a newspaper on his way to school.
ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, INC.
The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse will deliver research driven education, prevention, intervention programs and services to promote and support the health and wellness of individuals, families and communities by focusing on solutions to alcohol and other drug misuse, addiction and unhealthy behaviors.
ECCPASA will provide leadership to fight the stigma associated with addiction through public education, policy awareness, liaison with health professionals and recovering communities, by providing objective information, referral, and linkages to those in need.

Support ECCPASA
As we continue to serve the community, please become an official “supporter” of our mission!
Your tax deductible contribution can be made at any time of the year:

- $10.00
- $25.00
- $50.00
- $75.00
- $100.00
- Other $_________________

Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________________________________________________
Phone:__________________________________________
Email:__________________________________________

Thank you for supporting the ECCPASA community efforts!
Please mail your tax deductible contribution to: ECCPASA, 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14216

Under contract with the Erie County Department of Mental Health. Funded by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, school districts and municipalities throughout Erie County, individuals, corporations and community service organizations. Member agency of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.