

*“Substance abuse has reached epidemic proportions throughout the country and we in Franklin Lakes are neither blind nor immune to this horrific problem....”*

*- Mayor Frank Bivona and Municipal Alliance Chairman Henry Wasserstein*

## **2016 SUBSTANCE ABUSE INITIATIVES**

### **LEGISLATIVE**

DON'T LET SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
LEAD TO A

- Lobby legislators at State and County levels to enact legislation that requires mandatory hospitalization and counseling by a professional counselor after drug overdoses and Narcan administration.
- Write and meet with legislators to promote better laws which help police and healthcare providers compel overdose patients to obtain the necessary assistance they require.
- Work with a grant writer to seek funding to give us financial resources to combat the problem and further our efforts.

### **POLICING**

- Establish specific police policies with regard to substance abuse including an amnesty policy, education, and enforcement.
- Define a formal “Amnesty Policy” with regard to drug abuse amnesty that allows for the police force, in certain circumstances, to be an advocate to the user and their family with a goal towards recovery.
- Define and communicate various enforcement programs focused on drug abuse to raise awareness.
- Implement a prescription drug drop-off program in town to allow residents to safely and securely dispose of their unused medications anytime throughout the year.

### **DRUG AMNESTY POLICY**

ISSUED BY POLICE CHIEF DEAN PEZZUTI  
MARCH 2016

Individuals who advise the Franklin Lakes Police Department that they are addicted to opioids and need help will not be charged with a crime or prosecuted, but will, instead, be referred to appropriate drug counseling and addiction recovery services. If such opioid-dependent individuals are referred to us by parents, children, spouses, guardians or siblings, they will be treated in the same manner as if those individuals had themselves provided the advice to us.

### **REPORTING**

- Track and report statistical drug abuse data for Borough, County and State to better understand the problem.
- Create a simple reporting format for the last five years that shows police activity inside the Borough with regard to drug abuse – overdoses, deaths, Narcan administration, arrests, etc.
- Work with County and State to better define data trends so that we can improve our understanding of our own statistics as well as monitor progress.
- Actively communicate this information to residents in order to raise overall awareness.

### **PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION**

- Provide specific programs, training and resources designed to educate and raise awareness about substance abuse, mental health and overall wellness. Actions will include:
  - Events for FLOW community high school students, FAMS students and their parents
  - Library events for Franklin Lakes community members
  - A health provider forum to discuss pain medications and the role of health professionals in the fight against substance abuse
  - E-blasts and social media communications about substance abuse issues
- Continue to educate the Franklin Lakes community about Stigma-Free by promoting awareness of mental health issues and working to overcome the stigma, stereotyping and discrimination associated with such issues
- Continue the Mayor's Wellness Campaign to improve the overall health of the Franklin Lakes community

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS

Municipal Alliance of Franklin Lakes  
Franklin Lakes Board of Health  
Borough of Franklin Lakes

## 2016 EVENTS

- **Hidden in Plain Sight**  
*March 22 – Indian Hills High School*  
Ramsey Police Sergeant Tim Shoemaker discussed current teen drug and alcohol trends against a backdrop of a teenager's bedroom that had been created on the stage of the High School auditorium.
- **Body Image & the Media**  
**When Did We Learn to Hate our Bodies**  
*May 18, 7:00 PM - Franklin Lakes Public Library*  
Nancy B. Graham, LCSW, will address body image issues, eating disorders, recovery resources and how to choose a treatment center.
- **Over-Prescribing of Opiates**  
**Health Care Providers' Forum**  
*September 19, 7:00 PM - Borough Hall Council Chambers*  
A panel of health care providers will provide their insights on the over-prescribing of opiates and its effect on the drug epidemic.
- **Chris Herren**  
*October 4 – Indian Hills High School*  
Chris Herren, a former NBA basketball player who struggled with substance abuse for much of his basketball career, is a mesmerizing speaker on a drug-free lifestyle. Chris, who has been alcohol and drug free since August 1, 2008, provides educational and mentoring programs on the dangers of substance abuse. Chris will also be doing two separate programs for the students.
- **The Reality of Addiction & Recovery**  
*October 19, 7:00 PM - Franklin Lakes Public Library*  
Joel Pomales, CRC, will provide attendees with an overview of current drug trends as they relate to youth and young adults. Information about when and how to seek treatment, as well as recovery support services in New Jersey will be provided.

## RESOURCES

### **Franklin Lakes Police Department**

Detective Robert Grassi  
(201) 891-3131  
E-mail: [RGrassi@franklinlakes.org](mailto:RGrassi@franklinlakes.org)

**In an emergency, call 9-1-1.**

### **Bergen County Office of Addiction Services**

(201) 634-2740

### **(201) 262-HELP**

Bergen County's Designated Psychiatric Emergency Screening Program provides emergency mental health services to residents of Bergen County.

### **NJ Connect for Recovery**

**(855) 652-3737**

New Jersey call line dedicated specifically to individuals and families coping with addiction to heroin and prescription painkillers. This service provides a safe, confidential, nonjudgmental place that residents may call to connect, grow and transform through a unique combination of supportive counseling services.

**PROUD TO BE  
STIGMA-FREE**

### **FRANKLIN LAKES STIGMA-FREE CAMPAIGN**

Although mental illness is a disease of the mind, society fosters an environment that labels individuals with mental disorders as inferior and subordinate. Franklin Lakes is one of the many towns that have signed up to join the STIGMA-FREE Campaign, a country-wide program which aims at reducing the stigma associated with mental illness.

For more information or to join, go to  
[www.franklinlakes.org/StigmaFree](http://www.franklinlakes.org/StigmaFree)