



September, 2014

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BCCHC Town Hall Meeting a Great Success

On September 16, Burlington County Prosecutor Robert Bernardi and marijuana policy expert Doctor Kevin Sabet spoke to the well-attended Town Hall meeting hosted by the Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities.

Dr. Kevin Sabet, who until 2011 served as an advisor to President Obama on national drug policy, provided some eye-opening data to the audience. Sabet described how the marijuana industry is funded and marketed by billionaires and Wall Street as a lucrative commodity.



Dr. Sabet presents at Town Hall Meeting

The new marijuana business is poised to follow alarmingly in the footsteps of big tobacco. Doctor Sabet also illuminated the disconnect between benign marijuana advertisements and the big business aspect of the marijuana trade.

Evaluations of the Town Hall meeting were overwhelmingly positive. Participants commented that they learned a great deal about the politics of marijuana policy. Doctor Sabet's power point slides can be accessed at the Prevention Plus website at: www.prevplus.org.

Prevention Plus

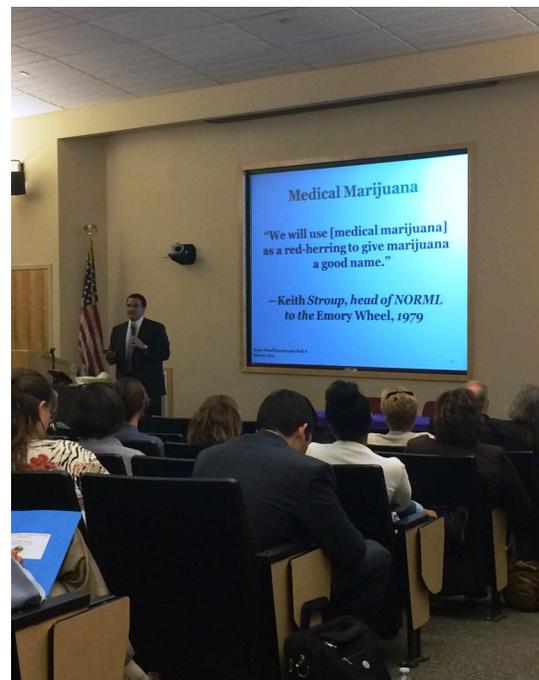
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Prosecutor Bernardi kicked off the afternoon with a discussion of heroin use in Burlington County and the success of the new state-wide program allowing police officers to carry and administer the anti-narcotic drug Narcan. Bernardi credits this new program with saving the lives of 11 Burlington County residents since its inception on July 20.

Bernardi also reported on the effectiveness of drug courts, which are diverting non-violent drug offenders from jail and into a highly supervised program which provides treatment instead of punishment. The program has the added benefit of reducing the tax-payer cost of keeping the offender in prison, which is much more expensive than treatment.

Following his presentation, Prosecutor Bernardi was recognized with a plaque for his ongoing support of the coalition's efforts in Burlington County.



Dr. Sabet presents at Town Hall Meeting

Visit us on the web:
www.prevplus.org

**Burlington County
Coalition for Healthy
Communities Meetings:**

**October 28: Burlington
County College, Room
320 at 2:00 PM. See you
there!**

SAVE THE DATE:

**October 24: Conclusion
of the RED RIBBON
WEEK poster contest
for grades 4-12. The
judging will take place
at the Moorestown Mall
from 1-5 PM. Please
come out and support
the BCCHC!
If your agency would
like to table at the
BCCHC mall event,
please contact Joe
Conlin at:**

Joeconlin@prevplus.org

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BCCHC Launches Billboard Campaign

The Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities unveiled its latest environmental strategy in the form of a drug awareness billboard campaign.

Two billboards focusing on prescription drug abuse, and one billboard each on the

topics of underage drinking and heroin were erected throughout Burlington County.

The billboards will be in effect from September through mid-January. After that time the coalition has collaborated with the Burlington County

Municipal Alliances to extend the life of the billboards until mid-March.

Please look for the billboards on routes 206, 130, 530 and 616. If you see them, post a picture of them on social media so they reach an even larger audience!

