

COALITION CORNER



Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC) Newsletter

September, 2015

BCCHC Recognizes County/Hospital Partnership

The Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC) hosted three special guests at the September 22 meeting.

Joining the meeting were Burlington County Prosecutor Robert Bernardi, Kim Barnes, Vice President of Planning and Development at Lourdes Health System, and Joseph Manni, Vice President of Operations and COO of DEBORAH Heart and Lung Center. No representative from Virtua Health System was able to attend.

The BCCHC honored the special guests with certificates for outstanding community service. This summer, Prosecutor Bernardi contacted the three hospital networks serving Burlington County and invited them to join him in brainstorming ways in which they could make an impact on the

increasing number of overdose deaths from heroin and other opioids.

The three hospital networks eagerly took part in this process and



Joseph Manni, Beth Mayers, Kim Barnes, Robert Bernardi and Angelina Palella.

determined that providing free Narcan to local police departments was the first step in this battle. And thus, the Burlington County Narcan Assistance Program was born.

Narcan, brand name for Naloxone, is a drug effective in reversing opioid overdose. Police officers in Burlington County, along with other emergency responders, have been trained to utilize Narcan when it appears that an individual may be suffering from an overdose.

In July, 2014, Governor Christie authorized law enforcement across the state to carry the antidote. Since then, according to Prosecutor

Bernardi, Narcan has been deployed 120 times in the county, and fortunately the drug has saved 114 lives.

As Beth Mayers, Coalition Liaison, reminded the group, "where there is life, there is hope. Thanks to Narcan and the groundbreaking collaboration by responsive health networks in Burlington County, many people will now have an opportunity to get sober, and lead satisfying and positive lives."

There is no doubt that Narcan can save lives, but the cost can overburden the budgets of many police departments. For that reason, the generous donation of Narcan by Lourdes, DEBORAH and Virtua is essential. "There was no hesitation at all by these health systems" said Prosecutor Bernardi. "I think it's a tribute to their willingness to provide to their communities."

Kim Barnes, from Lourdes, stated "it's neat to be able to do something that makes a difference, and see tangible results." Joseph Manni, from DEBORAH, said "It's tragic things like this go on, but it's great we can come together to help and take care of this problem."

Administrators in several other counties have approached Prosecutor Bernardi for advice on starting similar programs.

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Drive Thru Flu Clinic



Public Health

Burlington County Health Department
Health Starts Here

Saturday, October 3, 2015

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Independent Fire Co. Station 301
1601 Burlington Bypass, Burlington

Must be 18 years or older

Please bring completed registration
forms with you on the day of the clinic.
to go through the **fast lane!**

Registration Information:
www.co.burlington.nj.us/health
609-265-5533

Can't make it? No worries!
BCHD has more clinics scheduled--
Call or check out our website
for more dates & locations!



Increase in Pot Potency

According to a study by a Colorado-based lab, marijuana being grown today is much more potent than marijuana grown 20 to 30 years ago.

"We're looking at average potencies of around 20% THC," said Charas Scientific Lab founder Andy LaFrate, PhD. He presented his findings at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society.

THC is the psychoactive compound in marijuana that produces the feeling of being high.

According to Dr. LaFrate, some of the marijuana his lab tested has had a THC potency of almost 30%.

Federal officials say that THC levels in the 1980s averaged around 4%.

The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) noted that increased potency may account for the rise in emergency room visits involving marijuana use. NIDA also suggested that frequent users may be at a greater risk for addiction due to the higher THC levels.

Prevention Plus

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Burlington County RX Drop Box Locations

Unwanted medications can be disposed of, free of charge, 24 hours a day (except where noted) at:

- Burlington Township Police Dept., Municipal Bldg. 851 Old York Road
- Mansfield Township Police Department, 190-A Atlantic Avenue (Only M-F, 8am – 3:30pm)
- State Police Barracks, Red Lion, 1722 Route 206, Tabernacle
- Palmyra Police Department, 20 West Broad Street
- Evesham Police Department, 984 Tuckerton Road
- Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, 87th Security Forces Headquarters
- Westampton Police Department, 710 Rancocas Road (Only M-Th, 8am-4pm and Friday 8am -1pm)
- Riverside Police Department, 1 W. Scott Street

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Coalition Meeting Dates and Events

Coalition Meeting:

October 30, 11 AM at Rowan College at Burlington County. More details to follow. Please RSVP to: joeconlin@prevplus.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Red Ribbon Poster Contest Judging:

11 Am — 6 PM at Rowan College at Burlington County. Please come out and help the coalition select a winner.

HIV Outbreak Linked to Painkiller

Health officials in Indiana say a fast-spreading outbreak of HIV is largely due to injection drug abuse of the prescription drug Opana. The powerful drug is more potent, per milligram, than Oxycontin.

State health officials said they had confirmed 26 cases, and have four additional suspected cases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, injection drug users represent 8 percent of new HIV infections annually.

Indiana State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams says most of the residents who tested positive for HIV

have been exposed, but also to connect community members to resources of substance abuse treatment and recovery,” Adams said.



Opana is an opioid containing oxycodone, and is manufactured by Endo Health Systems.

contracted the virus recently and may spread it to others.

“Because prescription drug abuse is at the heart of this outbreak, we are not only working to identify, contact and test individuals who may

In 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new, crush-resistant formula of the drug called Opana ER. However, the FDA says that although harder to crush, Opana ER users have still found ways to inject the drug.

FDA E-Cigarette Rules

New regulations for e-cigarettes are likely to have a large impact on the industry, experts say. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to require federal approval for most e-cigarette devices and flavored liquid nicotine juices, according to a July 7, 2015 Wall Street Journal article.

The approval process will be costly, ranging from \$2 million to \$10 million per device, the article notes. The Smoke-Free Alternatives Trade Association, which represents vapor shops and manufacturers, estimates the rule could force 99% of the industry to go out of business.



Big tobacco companies with their own e-cigarette brands would likely benefit, because they can afford the approval process.

The FDA has also proposed several other rules, including a ban on free samples, and a ban on sales to those under age 18, and a warning label that e-cigarettes contain nicotine.

Join the Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities

• **The Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities (BCCHC)** is an initiative of Prevention Plus, a non-profit agency which has served Burlington County since 1991. Our mission is to promote the health, wellness and safety of the individuals and families of our community by providing professional services for the prevention of abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and related issues, through education, collaboration and advocacy.

• BCCHC Mission Statement

Our mission is to reduce youth use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Burlington County by utilizing community collaboration to facilitate environmental change.

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We Could Not Do It Without YOU... Zahirah Sabir!

Ms. Sabir is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Burlington County, based out of the Department of Human Services. She received her B.A. in English from Rutgers University-Camden and her M.A. in Liberal Studies.

In her current role as Community Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Sabir is responsible for ensuring that the residents of Burlington County are aware of all resources available to them, as well as providing access to those resources, and identifying and establishing workgroups and opportunities for regular feedback in underserved areas related to language, religious/cultural, and geographic barriers.

Ms. Sabir also addresses issues of diversity and creates awareness throughout the county through workshops, roundtable discussion,

trainings etc.

Ms. Sabir works as a staff representative to the Advisory Council on Women whose goal



is to address health and social service issues that affect women and families in Burlington County by raising public awareness of their needs. She also looks at issues of access, representation and

parity from a gender lense across service areas, addresses complaints and instances of discrimination (based on race, gender, nationality, and sexual orientation) regarding housing, education, services and employment, while maintaining relationships with and listings of social service agencies available to provide direct support to residents as needed, helping residents navigate the private social service system.

And yet, with all that she does to assist Burlington County residents through her job at the Department of Human Services, Zahirah finds time to be an active BCCHC member, attending meetings and working behind the scenes to advance coalition initiatives. Thank you Zahirah, for all of your efforts in making the BCCHC successful in Burlington County!