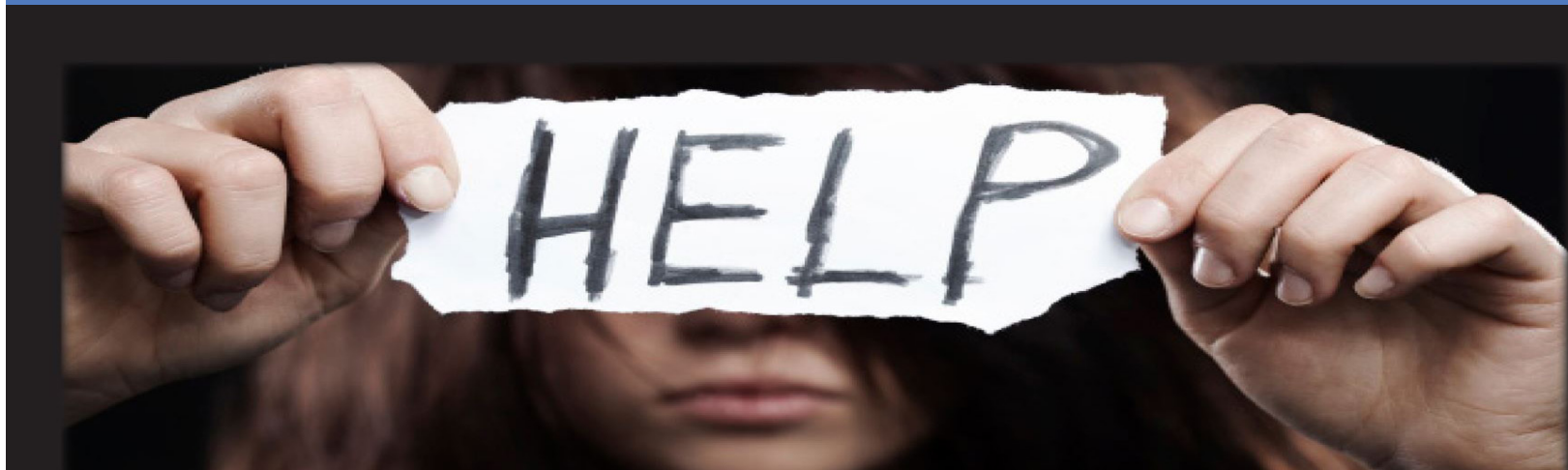


DRAFT REPORT 2018



Opioid Addiction Task Force Draft Report Introduction

The Southampton Town Opioid Addiction Task Force began in October 2017, because far too many people were dying from opioid drug overdoses. In the Town of Southampton, a community of 60 thousand people, there were 19 deaths in 2017. The nationwide epidemic of opioid addiction was hitting home. In 2016, 64-thousand people nationwide died from opioid drugs, that's more than the number of people killed in the Vietnam War. And it wasn't just an urban problem, it was spreading into every corner of the country, including the Town of Southampton.

It hit home in September 2017 with former News 12 anchor Drew Scott-a Westhampton resident. His beautiful 22 year old granddaughter, Hallie Rae Ulrich was found on the side of the road, the victim of a heroin overdose. Tests showed there were traces of fentanyl...a synthetic heroin that is now widely available on the street. When it happened to his family, many wondered if it could happen to theirs.

So the Town of Southampton Opioid Addiction Task Force was created to find solutions, to stop the epidemic. It started with a dozen people but soon it grew to twice that size and now there are 42 members of the Task Force. They are educators, medical professionals, people in recovery or people directly affected by the crisis.

The Task Force was divided into three subcommittees to develop recommendations for the Town Board. They are "Prevention", "Enforcement" and "Treatment" and later a fourth subcommittee was added, "Recovery" to help people in recovery maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The Task Force turned to the public for help and immediately scheduled a public Forum in mid-November. There were 250 people in attendance at the first forum at Hampton Bays High School entitled "It Hits Home". People spoke about frustrations with insurance companies trying to get help for loved ones addicted to pain killers that were too easily distributed. Some complained there were no young people on the Task Force, so they were recruited including the 16 year old cousin of Hallie Rae.

The Task Force then held a "Youth Forum" in January and another one in March. Students from several high schools gathered at the Greek Orthodox Church and spoke about friends and family getting hooked on drugs.

They offered advice about how to keep kids from experimenting with these deadly drugs. Many called for more after school activities or things to do at night and on weekends to keep them from getting bored, from turning to drugs.

The urgency was getting stronger, and the Task Force initiated some programs without waiting for the final draft report. A “help” pamphlet and poster was made up for schools, doctor’s offices and pharmacies for distribution. The Police Department handed them out to families when they responded to overdoses and used narcan to revive victims. The Southampton Police Department also developed the “Bridge Program” to link survivors with the Treatment subcommittee, to walk them through the path to recovery to find them resources to get them in a drug rehab program.

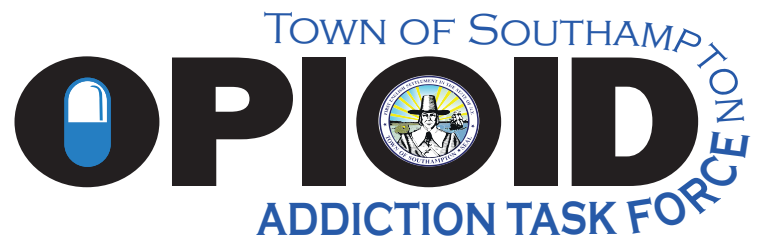
The Task Force also held a medical forum at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital in February and heard from a packed room of medical professionals. They too were frustrated. Many described how often times people addicted don’t get adequate help to kick the addiction, and once they do, where do they go?

It was a question that triggered a road trip in March to THRIVE, a resource center in Hauppauge, the only state funded facility on Long Island that gives people in recovery a place to socialize without the temptations of alcohol or drugs. It’s also a place where many in recovery rebuild their lives, by getting help for employment, housing and counseling.

Another Public Forum was held in April. “It Hits Home-Part II” was held at Southampton High School where Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini spoke about making strides in getting opioids and the deadly synthetic, fentanyl and heroin off the streets.

But he also called on parents to look in the mirror and wake-up — to consider their own drinking habits, could they be sending the wrong message to their children? Educating parents may just change the culture of drug abuse...he advised.

The Task Force has heard from many people in 8 months but probably the most profound testimony came from people who lost loved ones to this epidemic. They spoke at the Candle Light Vigil on Mother’s Day Eve. They shared gut wrenching stories. There were 359 votive candles formed in a circle on the stage at Good Ground Park in Hampton Bays to represent the number of confirmed deaths in Suffolk County in 2017...the most in any county in New York State. About 80 more cases are pending toxicology reports. The middle ring of 19 candles represented the number of opioid deaths in Southampton Town, including Hallie Rae. The largest single candle in the middle honors the one life taken so far this year.



| PREVENTION | LAW ENFORCEMENT | TREATMENT | RECOVERY |
|--|---|---|---|
| Supt. Lars Clemensen HB Schools | Police Chief Steve Skrynecki, Chair | Oscar Mandes, Social Worker | Afredo Merat NA |
| Supt. Katy Graves SH schools | Jay Schneiderman, Supervisor Co-chair Task Force | Alex Holt In recovery | Matthew Omlor LI Center for Recovery |
| Supt. Nick Dyno Southampton Schools | Brian Babcock EMT | Karen Martin Alternatives-Chair | Meesha Johnson Student in social |
| Supt. Len Skuggevik Tuckahoe Schools | Rev. Mike Smith Shinnecock Presbyterian | Dr. Dan Van Arsdale Stony Brook Southampton | Mark Epley Seafield, Chair |
| Supt. Deborah Haab Wainscott Schools | Tom McAbee "Big Red Med" disposal boxes | Susan Sargent Mental Health/Substance Abuse services | |
| Supt. Michael Radday Westhampton Schools | Laura Jens-Smith Riverhead Supervisor | Bob Grisnik South Thrifty Drugs | |
| Ron Fisher Riverhead School Board | Brad Magill Suffolk County District Attorney's Office | Drew Scott Co-Chair Task Force | |
| Former Supt. Lois Favre Bridgehampton Schools | Lt. James Kiernan Southampton PD | Katrin Diana, RN SH Emergency Dept. 631-726-8480 516-527-1773 (cell) kdiana@southamptonhospital.org | |
| Sally Gillies Mom | | Lisa Laznovsky-grandparent | |
| Nancy Lynott-Chair Youth Bureau | | Dr. Allen Fein- Addiction specialist | |
| Erick Saldivar-Student addiction counselor | | James Romagnoli Vice Pres. Security Northwell Health system-Peconic Bay | |
| Kym Laube HUGS | | | |
| Mackenzie Jenkins- 16-year-old, cousin to Hallie Rea | | | |
| Linn Turecamo Community resident | | | |
| Fr. Constantine Lazarakis Greek Orthodox Church | | | |
| Julie Lofstad, Councilwoman | | | |
| Liaison: Councilman Tommy John Schiavoni | Liaison: Councilwoman Christine Scalera | Liaison: Councilman John Bouvier | |