

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Uxbridge to Host Community Forum on Substance Abuse Prevention and Mental Health Resources

On Tuesday, March 8, 2016, the Uxbridge Coalition for a Community of Caring, in partnership with a number of community organizations, the office of Representative Kevin Kuros (R-Uxbridge), the office of the Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Uxbridge Police and Fire, and the Uxbridge High School, will be hosting a Community Forum on substance abuse prevention and mental health resources. The event, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be hosted at the Uxbridge High School auditorium.

As part of our local and regional efforts to reduce substance use and build healthy communities, we are holding this Community Forum to share our stories and make resources available to those in need. Whether it is a particular family member, friend, or neighbor, the Opioid epidemic has affected many of us. The preconceived notion of what a drug user looks like, is long gone. In holding that our best defense is working together to support one another, make resources known, and help those in need, we invite you to attend this evening with us.

Parent involvement for prevention is the single most important factor affecting whether or not a child will use drugs. Parents may not always realize it, but they hold the key when it comes to keeping their child drug free. According to CASA, (The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse), “Teens with weak family ties are 4 times more likely to try tobacco or marijuana as those with a strong family.” Spending quality time and eating meals together are great ways to build the relationships among family members. Parents’ attitude toward drinking or drugs also has a big impact, and young people need to know that drinking and drugs are not acceptable.

We will hear from Katie Truit and Meghan Giacomuzzi from the Missin’ Matt Foundation, to talk about families struggling with addiction and the path their personal journey took. This will be followed by a panel discussion facilitated by substance abuse specialist, Amy Leone, MS, MA, LMHC, owner of Community Impact. Our panelists will be sharing information on local offerings and what supports are available for individual access, and how you can help with prevention efforts. In order to respect those who may be uncomfortable asking questions during this televised event, we are requesting that individuals email questions for the panel to UxbCommunityForum@gmail.com. This will also allow us to make most efficient use of our time and provide needed resources in advance. Informational tables will be available for you to visit and resource packets will be provided.

Knowing that accessing services and navigating “the system” can be very challenging, we will be offering onsite intervention and treatment options from Community Impact. Their clinical staff will help families and those struggling begin to explore the journey of recovery.

We hope you can join us in working to keep Uxbridge a safe and healthy community for our youth and their families.