



Bridget Fleming
Suffolk County Legislator
Second District

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For Immediate Release
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MEDIA ALERT: NARCAN Training and Drug Give Back
WHEN: TUESDAY, AUGUST 9th AT 6:30 PM
WHERE: SAG HARBOR FIREHOUSE, 1357 BRICK KILN ROAD, SAG HARBOR

LEGISLATOR FLEMING TO HOST NARCAN TRAINING AND DRUG GIVE BACK IN SAG HARBOR

On Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming in conjunction with County Executive Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Sag Harbor Village Police, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, HUGS Inc., Thomas' Hope, and Sag Harbor Coalition will be hosting a NARCAN training session and prescription drug disposal at the Sag Harbor Firehouse. The event was organized by Legislator Fleming in an effort to inform the community and bring awareness to the heroin and opiate epidemic in Suffolk County that is becoming an increasing public health threat among our young people.

The event will include: A presentation by Linda Ventura of Thomas' Hope on substance abuse and drug addiction, a NARCAN training class taught by Deputy Sheriff William Weick, and a resource table with drug addiction and recovery information by HUGS Inc. Refreshments will be provided by Sag Harbor Coalition. All training participants over the age of 16 years old will receive the overdose rescue kit with the NARCAN antidote. There will also be a drug disposal box in the room where unwanted prescription drugs can be dropped and will be properly disposed of by the Police Department.

“Heroin use and the abuse of prescription painkillers has become a major public health threat among our young people, so it is important that we educate them, so that they can make healthy choices,” said Legislator Fleming. “It is also important that our community is well equipped with the tools needed to fight addiction and prevent overdoses, and I believe that this training and drug take back is a good first step. I hope that no one ever has to administer the NARCAN antidote, but if there is a need for it, it is my hope that this training might help someone to save a life, rather than a family losing a loved one to drug overdose.”

Recent reports show Suffolk County as having the most heroin related deaths between 2009 and 2013, with over 300 deaths in the County. This is the largest amount of people to die in a 60 month span in any county in the State of New York. The number of overdoses in Suffolk County is greater than that of Brooklyn and the Bronx combined.

“We must have all of the tools in our arsenal to combat the opioid epidemic affecting our Country and our region,” said County Executive Steve Bellone. “Ensuring that our medical personnel and residents have access to and can administer Narcan is of paramount importance as well all work together to combat this epidemic.”

Sag Harbor Village Police Chief, Austin McGuire was happy to join Legislator Fleming, County Executive Bellone, and the many other sponsors to host this event. The Village Police Department will properly dispose of any unused prescription drugs that are brought to the firehouse during the training. Chief McGuire said, “I am very happy that our department was included in this training. The effects of opioid use and addiction are widespread. No community in Suffolk County is immune from its effects. Saving the life of someone who has overdosed gives them an opportunity for another chance.”

Kym Laube, Director of HUGS, Inc. has been very active in combating this public health crisis, and was one of the first on board with sponsoring NARCAN training in Sag Harbor. “HUGS, Inc., and the Sag Harbor Coalition are thrilled to take part in this robust community conversation about this life saving tool and addiction. We applaud the efforts of our key leaders who are shining a light on this devastating disease and breaking the stigma by creating opportunities to put words to what so many often stay quiet about. We must strengthen our efforts and shift our conversation to recognize where addiction begins, not just where it ends, providing individuals with as many opportunities for help as possible. As we find ourselves in the fight of our lives with the opiate epidemic, prevention, education, community collaboration, intervention and access to treatment are some of the essential components necessary to save lives and help individuals. Across the Nation, communities that come together to work on this public health issue have shown a reduction in drug use in their area. We strongly encourage all community members to come join us” stated Laube.