



Haverhill

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For Immediate Release:
January 12, 2015

Mayor's Opiate Addiction Task Force to Hold First Public Meeting on Wednesday

Mayor James J. Fiorentini today announced that the task force he started on opiate addiction, renamed the Haverhill Overdose Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force will hold its first public meeting at the Consentino Middle School on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:00pm. The meeting is open to the public. There will be a number of speakers, who will give families struggling with addiction resource options for help and a discussion on what to look for if you suspect one of your family members is suffering from an addiction problem.

The meeting will also include resource tables for people and families struggling with addiction, information on Narcan distribution and a panel discussion on what Haverhill is doing to address the heroin overdoses and addiction in our community. This meeting was put together by the following agencies: clinic providers, the Essex County District Attorney's Office, Haverhill Police Department, a representative from the Haverhill District Court Probation Department, members of the Haverhill Board of Health and the Essex County Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Fiorentini stated:

“Opiate addiction and opiate overdoses is a critical issue that is facing our city, our state and our nation. Haverhill is not alone in this struggle. I salute the fact that Governor Baker has made this problem a key element of his administration.

“I created this task force to combat the heroin problems we have in our city, but we can only make progress if we have a coordinated approach that includes State, Federal and local agencies. That coordinated approach must include the police, but it cannot be limited to them. It must also include making certain that there are adequate treatment resources available to all who need them. It must also include a general public that is engaged on this issue. This community meeting is the start of many educational public seminars to do exactly that. Our goal is to educate the public on the signs and use of heroin.

“The HOPE Task Force is collaboration with many agencies throughout our city and I thank them for their commitment to help us fight this addition problem.”