



Suffolk County Heroin and Opiate Epidemic Advisory Panel

Public Hearing Date: October 24, 2019

Location: Riverhead Legislative Auditorium, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, NY

Next Meeting Date: November 15, 2019

Members in Attendance:

Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker

Inspector Stan Grodski, Chief of Suffolk County Detective's Office

Dr. David Cohen, Eastern Long Island Hospital

Mary Silberstein, Suffolk County Communities of Solutions

Colleen McKenna, Representative for Suffolk County Sheriff Toulon

Steve Chassman, LICADD

Patricia Ferrandino, Quality Consortium and Family Service League of Suffolk County

Ann Marie Csorny, Suffolk County Division of Mental Health and Hygiene

Pamela Mizzi, Long Island Prevention Resource Center

Richard Rosenthal, Stony Brook University Hospital

Karen Klafter, Representative of Suffolk County Legislator Tom Donnelly

I. Pledge

II. Moment of Silence

III. Introduction of Panel Members

IV. Opening Remarks and Overview of Public Hearing Format

Legislator Anker thanked panel members for attending and present members of the public for their participation in the public hearing. The Heroin and Opiate Epidemic Advisory Panel is required by legislation to hold two public hearings in the year to allow for open communication between concerned residents and the panel members. Legislator Anker instructed each speaker to fill out a public comment card and invited each participant to the podium to provide their statement with question's from the panel to follow.

V. Public Comment

Dr. Kelly S. Ramsey, Olivebridge, NY

Dr. Kelly Ramsey of Hudson River Health Care discussed her concerns regarding the opioid epidemic and the importance of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for patients. She also discussed the HEALing Communities grant.

Stephanie Neidhart, Sound Beach, NY

Stephanie Neidhart discussed the importance of focusing on mental health when providing substance abuse and addiction services. She called for an increase usage of eastern practices of meditation and mindfulness as a powerful and effective tool in treating patients and combating the opioid epidemic.

VI. Closing Remarks

Legislator Anker thanked all of the panel members, speakers, and hearing attendees for attending and participating in the discussion. The next panel meeting will be held on November 15th at the Hauppauge Legislative Building. She also asked panel members to begin sending her office any information they would like to have included in the panel's 2019 final report.

VII. Public Hearing is Adjourned