



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Middlesex County's Coalition for Healthy Communities Awarded Regional Coalition Contract by State

Coalition is one of 17 statewide organizations to receive award

East Brunswick, November 2011. The Coalition for Healthy Communities with NCADD of Middlesex County, Inc. as fiscal agent, were recently awarded an addiction prevention contract to develop regional, evidenced-based addiction and substance use prevention strategies that target at-risk groups in Middlesex County.

“This award reflects the hard work of the Coalition’s members,” said NCADD Executive Director Steve Liga. “It recognizes efforts that were started over five years ago and the Department of Human Services’ desire to see the Coalition focus its efforts on reducing rates of use and abuse among youth and adults across the County.”

“We are very excited about this award because it will enable us to impact the communities we serve in more ways than we’ve been able to do in the past,” add Liga.

It is estimated that one in nine New Jersey residents - about 1 million - are abusing prescription drugs or illegal substances. This includes youth, ages 12 through 18. Several studies have shown that alcohol, marijuana and over-the-counter or prescription medications can be gateway drugs. They are cheap, readily available or accessible mood enhancers that can lead to experimentation with ‘harder’, more potent drugs, according to some studies.

Continued



Coalition Release – Page 2

“Our Coalition will need to engage residents, local government, law enforcement, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, youth and other key groups,” said Coalition Coordinator Linda Surks. She added “we have to work together with these entities to identify, collect, analyze, and assess data on regional problems and assess the County’s capacity to effectively address the identified problems.”

Funding for this effort are being provided by The New Jersey Department’s Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services which received funding for the project from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. A total of 16 additional Coalitions in New Jersey were awarded funds.

About NCADD of Middlesex County

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. is a not for profit public health agency whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities through the elimination or reduction of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug-related problems. Services focus on prevention, education, advocacy, and support for personal recovery, and are based on rigorous evaluation and documented positive outcomes. Additional information is available at www.ncadd-middlesex.org.