



Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

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Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month Underway in Belknap County

LACONIA: Belknap County has joined in a national recognition of September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, so stated in a Proclamation presented by County Commissioner Christopher Boothby to those attending a special briefing on Wednesday, September 3 at the Laconia Police Department.

Explaining that alcohol and other drug abuse is the “number one public health problem in Belknap County”, Boothby said this Proclamation underscores the “deep concern held by the Commissioners for the high number of families in Belknap County affected by this chronic disease”. He added, “the hopeful note here is that addiction may be a chronic disease, but that it is also a treatable disease.” He cited the efforts of the Belknap County Addictions Task Force “to unify and coordinate resources that call attention not only to the widespread impact of addictions but also to the real potential for recovery”.

The abuse of substances such as alcohol and drugs is a widespread and pervasive problem explains Alan Robichaud, Executive Director of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families, the sponsor of the Addictions Task Force. “There is really no area that is not impacted in some way by addictions. In the workplace, in schools, in family situations, in healthcare, and in the justice system, everyone is affected in some way.”

Robichaud explained that the feedback from the Community Forums sponsored by the Citizens Council in eight of the eleven communities in Belknap County last fall showed that “substance abuse is a top concern everywhere”. He said that “substance abuse has now become a priority for the Council and this Addictions Task Force has become the primary vehicle for addressing this issue.”

Activities for Recovery Month include involvement with Laconia’s MultiCultural Market Day on September 13; the Prevention Fall Festival sponsored by CoRe in Meredith on September 20; a presentation by Riley Regan, Director of NH Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery, at an UpStream meeting on September 23; an Open House on September 24th at the Nathan Brody Chemical Dependency Center at Lakes Region General Hospital; and the Annual Auction sponsored by Horizons Counseling Center on September 27 in Laconia. Additional information on Recovery Month as well as facts and statistics on substance abuse and addictions are available by calling the Citizens Council office at 528-3185.