

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 2, 2018

**THE STEUBEN PREVENTION COALITION IS HEADED TO CADCA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM TO LEARN NEW SKILLS TO INCREASE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EFFORTS**

Bath, NY – Representatives from Steuben County are headed to the Washington, D.C., area to join approximately 3,000 substance abuse prevention specialists and advocates from throughout the country for CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's) 28<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum.

“We are so excited to be able to spend several days with other similar organizations from across the country, learning and honing our prevention skills so our community can be a better place, one that doesn't suffer from the harms of drug and alcohol abuse,” says Colleen Banik, Assistant Program Coordinator for the Steuben Prevention Coalition. “We plan to come back reenergized with new strategies under our belt to tackle underage drinking and drug use in Steuben County.”

CADCA's Forum will cover a wide range of topics – everything from how to prevent prescription drug abuse and the abuse of synthetic drugs and marijuana to how to create tobacco-free environments and develop policies to reduce underage drinking.

The Coalition and the Underage Drinking Task Force has recently impacted the community by holding a Town Hall Meeting focusing on the effects of Alcohol on the Teenage Brain and also with the Marijuana Prevention Task Force will be holding a Town Hall Meeting on “Today's Marijuana: How It's Affecting our Youth” on February 6, 2018 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Hornell High School.

The coalition representatives will hear from several federal leaders including Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Richard Baum and Dr. Bertha Madras, Harvard Medical School, who both bring their expertise and insights to share. The Steuben Prevention Coalition will also meet with U.S. representatives and senators at the Forum's Capitol Hill Day event on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The Steuben Prevention Coalition will be discussing with legislative members the need to fully fund the DFC (Drug Free Communities) Grant Program as well as the STOP Act Grant Program and the CARA Enhancement Grant Program. We will also be asking for their assistance with community engagement, awareness and education on the need for prevention efforts at an early age.

CADCA's National Leadership Forum, the nation's largest training event for community prevention leaders, treatment professionals and researchers, will take place at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center Feb. 6-9. Visit the Forum website for details about training sessions, speakers, and special events at [cadca.org/events/forum2018](http://cadca.org/events/forum2018)

Our mission and vision is to promote healthy and safe communities in Steuben County by reducing alcohol and drug use among teens and young adults and to have a county where our youth are healthy and drug free.

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