

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**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) 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum.

"I am 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 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 representatives will hear from several federal leaders including Michael Botticelli, former director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) who will both receive CADCA's National Leadership Award at the event. The Steuben Prevention Coalition will also meet with U.S. representatives and senators at the Forum's Capitol Hill Day event on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

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/forum2017](http://cadca.org/events/forum2017)

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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**For more information, please contact:**

Colleen Banik

Assistant Program Coordinator

Steuben Prevention Coalition

Phone: (607) 776-6441 ext. 202

Email: [cbanik@dor.org](mailto:cbanik@dor.org)