



## Ounce of Prevention Newsletter

### Inside this Issue:

- Message to Coalition – 2021 Graduate Congratulations
- What's Happening in Your Community
- Underage Drinking Town Hall Meeting
- Opioid Community Perception Survey 2021
- Coalition Activities
- Prom & Graduation Safety Awareness
- Jim Bassage Retirement Celebration
- Upcoming Events

### Message to Coalition Members:

The Steuben Prevention Coalition would like to congratulate all our 2021 Steuben County Graduates. You have every right to be proud of your accomplishments. Good luck to all of you on all your future endeavors!



### COALITION WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

Don't forget to visit our Website and our Facebook Page and invite your friends to view and like our page as well.

[www.steubenpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.steubenpreventioncoalition.org)

### Steuben Prevention Coalition

23 Liberty Street  
Bath, NY 14810  
(607) 776-8085

#### Website:

[www.steubenpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.steubenpreventioncoalition.org)

#### Email:

[steubenpreventioncoalition2017@gmail.com](mailto:steubenpreventioncoalition2017@gmail.com)

#### Staff:

Colleen Banik  
Program Coordinator  
[colleen.banik@dor.org](mailto:colleen.banik@dor.org)



We are asking all Coalition Members and Community Partners to let us know of any upcoming events, activities, public meetings, etc. that are or will be happening in your communities. Please contact us at the information provided.

[colleen.banik@dor.org](mailto:colleen.banik@dor.org)

## Underage Drinking Town Hall Meeting

The Steuben Prevention Coalition sponsored a UAD Town Hall Meeting on May 20, 2021 and invited all school districts with 150 participants from Steuben County attending virtually featuring speaker Kathi Sullivan with a powerful message to our teenagers.

After a night of binge drinking and poor choices at a series of underage parties, Kathi's 17 year-old daughter Taylor wandered away alone in the woods, and drowned in only two feet of water. They found her 3 days later.

Kathi started sharing Taylor's story with students and parents in hopes that her message would enlighten others on the dangers of underage drinking and poor choices. Passionate about reaching students hearts and minds, she simply shared with students what happened that night, how it could have been prevented and how Taylor's death has affected her family, Taylor's friends and the community.

Kathi's presentation is heart-wrenching but ended with an inspirational message of hope, love and a new-found power for students to deal with peer pressure and tough choices they face every day. Her honesty, openness, and heartfelt message was packed with powerful take-aways and it is a presentation that will not be soon forgotten.

Kathi's husband, Chris, also presented. Chris, who formerly played for the New England Patriots, told his personal story of how alcohol and substance abuse robbed him of his dreams and opportunities – including his professional football career.

<https://www.letsengage.com/talent/kathi-sullivan>



## Opioid Committee Community Perception Survey 2021 Two Key Findings

Connie Terry  
Program Assistant  
Opioid Committee  
June 2021



In February 2021, the Steuben Prevention Coalition Opioid Committee began surveying residents of Steuben County to measure their knowledge and opinions regarding opioid use within the county. The results were tabulated on March 31st, resulting in some key data points that will be used to create committee goals relevant to what's happening in Steuben.

One hundred sixty-one people participated in the survey. When asked about the ease of obtaining prescription pain killers not prescribed to them, such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Tylox, and Vicodin, 23.27% of respondents said they these drugs are very easy to get in Steuben County. 47% said they are easy to get. This information is relevant to the opioid committee because it reinforces the need to teach people about the importance of removing unwanted and expired prescription pain relievers from their homes and to lock up those medications that are still being used. It's important to prevent these medications from getting into the wrong hands. The committee will continue to provide medication disposal packets, encourage people to participate in drug take-back programs, ask people to use local medication drop boxes, and provide medication lockboxes upon request. Safer handling of prescription opioids can reduce the likelihood that someone starts using illicit opioids, like heroin.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 80% of people who misused heroin first misused prescription opioids. When surveyed, 48.95% of residents in Steuben County believe that heroin is very easy or at least easy to get in the county. Heroin is a natural opioid drug made from the seed pod of the opium plant. It is many times stronger than morphine and carries a very high risk of addiction and overdose. Access to heroin in Steuben County has serious implications to all first responders, police agencies, medical staff at emergency rooms, families, and friends.

Looking at the key data points tells us that we can help limit unnecessary access to and misuse of prescription opioids and by doing so, we can reduce the number of people who begin seeking heroin for their opioid addiction. We can save lives.



### Coalition Activities

#### Pizza Box Prevention Messaging

Thank you once again to all of our participating Pizza Shops and volunteers for Round 3 of our messaging project bringing awareness to the Social Host Law in Steuben County.



#### Sticker Shock Events

Also thank you once again to all of our volunteers and students participating in this years Sticker Shock Events providing labels to cases of beer at points of sale to remind purchasers to NOT provide alcohol to minors.



#### UAD Poster Contest

Congratulations to the 2021 Underage Drinking Task Force Poster Contest Winner! Emma's design will be used to help educate students across Steuben County about the dangers of underage drinking.



### Prom & Graduation Safety Awareness

While we take the time to celebrate our school districts proms and upcoming graduations, we also want to take a moment to focus on underage drinking safety awareness.

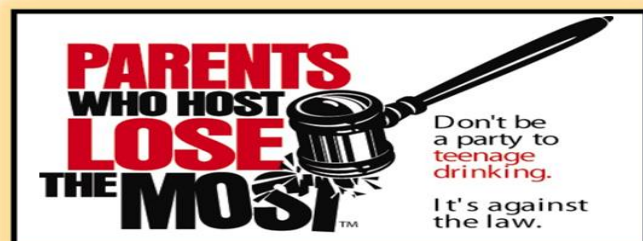


#### Prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs by minors on private premises in Steuben County

- 1st offense a violation**  
*\$250 fine & up to 15 days jail*
- 2nd offense a misdemeanor**  
*\$500 fine & up to 60 days jail*
- 3rd / subsequent offenses**  
**misdemeanor**  
*\$1,000 fine & up to 1 year jail*

For every offense completion of a court-approved alcohol and drug awareness program is required.

**It is NEVER legal for any adult to provide alcohol to someone else's child even with the permission of that child's parent.**



**Upcoming Events:**

**Next Coalition Meeting**  
 July 14, 2021  
 11:00 am – Currently Virtual

**UAD Town Hall Meeting**  
**Presentation**  
**August 25, 2021**  
**Time – TBD**  
**Location – TBD**

Kathi & Chris Sullivan will be returning to our community for an additional presentation to our parents and athletes on the dangers of underage drinking.

<https://www.letsengage.com/talent/kathi-sullivan>



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**Retirement Honor & Celebration**



Jim Bassage is officially retiring on July 2nd. Thank you to Jim for his many wonderful years of service to the Steuben Prevention Coalition, Steuben Council on Addictions and to Catholic Charities Steuben/Livingston. His leadership has taken the Coalition to a whole new level and he will be missed terribly. If you see this awesome man, congratulate him!



Steuben Prevention Coalition (SPC) is a federal Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant funded program in Steuben County. The "Ounce of Prevention" Newsletter is a regular monthly update of activities of the Coalition relative to alcohol, marijuana and other drug use and abuse prevention.

For more information or to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, please contact Colleen Banik, Program Coordinator at [colleen.banik@dor.org](mailto:colleen.banik@dor.org) or at (607) 776-8085 (temporary number as of 1/2021).



**MISSION:**

To promote healthy and safe communities in Steuben County by reducing alcohol and drug use among our youth!

**VISION:**

To have a county where our youth are healthy and drug free!

**Steuben County Underage Party & Drug Information Tip Line**

Anyone with information relating to underage drinking such as parties, underage sales, etc. or information relating to illegal drugs, such as sales, dealers or other suspicious activities are encouraged to use the tip line.

**The Tip Line will be monitored seven days a week, 24 hours a day. All call are anonymous.**

**Do your part to help make our communities safe for everyone.**

**1-844-378-4847**