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Contacts: Catherine Hart, LMSW D. Ray Ward
Chief Operating Officer Chief Program Officer
Tel.: (631) 385-2451 Tel.:(631) 385-2451

Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) recognizes National Prevention Week.

National Prevention Week takes place annually during the third week of May and is dedicated to increasing public awareness of substance abuse and mental health issues. The three primary goals of National Prevention Week are community involvement, partner engagement, and resource sharing. This year, Prevention Week takes place from May 15 to May 21, 2016 and the overall theme is “Strong As One. Stronger Together”.

According to SAMHSA’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2004), percentages of marijuana, cigarette, and alcohol initiates among youth increase between spring (April and May) and summer (June and July), and the timing of National Prevention Week helps to educate young people and their families at this crucial time of year. According to the New York State Opioid Poisoning, Overdose, and Prevention Report in 2015, there were 128 heroin-involved deaths in Nassau County between 2009 and 2013, and Suffolk County had the highest rate of heroin-involved deaths, with 337 occurring between 2009 and 2013.

The Long Island Association for AIDS Care will be celebrating National Prevention Week by hosting a health fair in collaboration with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Pride for Youth, and Long Island Against Domestic Violence, to name a few, at the Central Islip Public Library on May 17, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Free and confidential testing will be provided. This event is open to the public. The Long Island Association for AIDS Care will also be participating in National Prevention Week’s “I Choose” Project, a social media campaign aimed at sharing personal messages about the importance of prevention and mental health.

For more information about how the Long Island Association for AIDS Care is celebrating National Prevention Week, visit our events page at <https://facebook.com/LIAAC.inc/events> or call our hotline at 1-877-865-4222

SINCE 1986
LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION FOR AIDS CARE, INC.
GAIL BAROUH, PhD, PRESIDENT/CEO
60 ADAMS AVENUE • HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788
business: (631) 385-2451 • fax: (631) 271*5816 • hotline: 1-877-TO-LIAAC
www.LIAAC.org