

Press Release

October 7, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Dr. Sharon Harris

516-676-2008

safeglencove@yahoo.com

RECOVERY MONTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TRENDS

Every September, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) sponsors Recovery Month to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use issues and celebrate the people who recover. Recovery Month spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective and people can and do recover.

According to SAMHSA, in 2014, an estimated 66.9 million people aged 12 or older were current tobacco users.

SAFE Inc. is the only prevention agency in Glen Cove dedicated to the elimination of alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove. The agency continues to work to change societal norms about alcohol and substance abuse through ongoing prevention, intervention and education activities and events. Through the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, local substance abuse trends are identified and addressed to maintain an ongoing prevention effort.

Executive Director-Dr. Sharon Harris said, "SAFE's goal is early intervention and prevention education." Dr. Harris continued, "According to the 2014 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, administered to students in the 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades, Glen Cove's youth showed a rise in lifetime and 30-day Tobacco Use. Lifetime cigarette use continues to rise into the 10th grade (18.8%) and 12th grade (39.3%)."

According to Carol Meschkow, Coalition member and Nassau Project Coordinator for the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island, "For our youth, reducing initiation is the greatest weapon in the effort to prevent addiction. The New York State Tobacco Control Program continues to focus their efforts on youth for a very clear reason. 90% of smokers smoke their first cigarette by the age of 18. It is during these formative years that our youth are most vulnerable to Tobacco Marketing especially at the Point-of-Sale and we are grateful to partner with SAFE and their Coalition Members to prevent the next generation of smokers."

For more information on the Tobacco Action Coalition visit: www.breathefreely.org To get help quitting follow the icon for the NY New York State Smokers' Quitline or call 1-866-NY-QUITS.

For further information on SAFE, Inc , the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition and their initiatives contact SAFE at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at www.safeglencove.org