**Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SAFE Glen Cove Coalition Address Unmet Community Needs and Resources**

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition held their Sustainability Planning meeting on October 27th to review their work from the previous year and strategically plan to recognize unmet community needs and the resources necessary to address them. The mission of the Coalition is to eliminate alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove. The Coalition is overseen by SAFE's Board of Directors and Co-Chaired by Councilman Tony Gallo and SAFE Executive Director, Dr. Sharon Harris.

 The Coalition's four established committees (Community, School, Youth and Parents) each have their own charge based on alcohol and substance abuse use surveys administered to students every two years at the Middle and High School to identify trends and prevent future use.

The Coalition is aware of the community's needs through its ongoing collaborative efforts. It is composed of twelve sectors of the community which are: youth, youth serving organizations, parents, business community, media, school, law enforcement, faith based organizations, civic and volunteer groups, healthcare professionals, state, county and local governmental agencies and other organizations with expertise in substance abuse.

"The community lost vital treatment services to youth and adults when the hospital closed its behavioral health sciences program. Additionally, funding sources have diminished in this depressed economy further reducing services. This, combined with a lack of community based comprehensive bi-lingual treatment services, homelessness, unemployment and a lack of shelter for displaced women and children has put a strain on an already fragile population" said Georgie Connett, SAFE Board Chair and Strategic Planner.

Going forward, the Coalition will continue to provide ongoing prevention education services and events at schools and within the community but will fervently pursue its strategic planning focus to acquire necessary resources to assist Glen Cove's residents.

For more information about SAFE, In c. and the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, contact the office at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at [http://www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org/%20/%20_blank) or our Facebook page at [http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition%20/%20_blank).