

SAFE Coalition Works To Combat Addiction

The mission of the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is to eliminate alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove and is aware of the community's needs through ongoing collaborative efforts.

Overseen by SAFE's board of directors, co-chaired by health teacher Tony Gallo and SAFE executive director Dr. Sharon Harris and led by SAFE board chair and strategic planner Georgie Connett, the coalition is composed of 12 sectors of the community. These include 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.

Over the last few years, Glen Cove has experienced treatment gaps in the area of alcohol, mental health and substance use. According to a survey created by the coalition in 2016 to gather support for reinstatement of services, alcohol, depression and anxiety were the top three areas of concern for the community, followed by marijuana, tobacco and prescription drugs.

Addiction can happen to anyone, any family and at any time. It can

be intimidating and overwhelming to identify a substance use disorder (SUD) and even harder to admit when there is a problem. Learning to recognize the signs of addiction is critical. Educating and empowering oneself with tools and resources about addiction will help someone you know who is in need.

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) launched an informational media campaign to combat addiction. The campaign provides information, help and support services, fact sheets, links to helpful websites and videos with real New Yorkers sharing their stories about addiction, support and recovery. These resources can increase awareness and empower someone to have a conversation about addiction and offer help, guidance and support. The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition encourages anyone directly or indirectly affected by addiction to go to www.oasas.ny.gov/CombatAddiction/index.cfm for assistance when helping others. For more information about SAFE, Inc., visit www.safeglencove.org or call 516-676-2008.

—Submitted by SAFE, Inc.