

For Immediate Release: 8/19/2019

Second Annual International Overdose Awareness Day Slated for Fri., Aug. 23 in Mercersburg

Prevention, treatment, recovery and grief support will be the focus at the Second Annual International Overdose Awareness Day this Fri., Aug. 23 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mercersburg Lions Club Park.

Over 12 agencies and organizations will be represented, including the Healthy Community Partnership, which will be conducting OSAL Narcan Training. Others include: Franklin/Fulton Drug & Alcohol, Keystone Community Outreach, Gaudenzia Treatment Services, Pyramid Healthcare, LightHouse Recovery, Franklin County Veterans Affairs "Operation Reach," Noah's House/Gracie's Place, Smart Recovery, Drew Michael Taylor Foundation, Leah's Legacy Bags and GRASP Support Group.

Just added to the event will be a Mock Teen Bedroom. Learn the signs and potential dangers of substance abuse. It's open to anyone 21 years and older until 8 p.m.

Three other important events and times are:

- Narcan Training: 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. at the pavilion
- Grief Support for Children: 7:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
- Remembrance Service: 8 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (you are encouraged to bring a framed photo of your loved one to place on the stage) with Clarence Horst of Celebration Ministries delivering the message: Recovery from Addiction; Living and Coping with Grief.

"We had close to 200 people attend last year's event," said Vicki Rhodes, one of the event coordinators. She lost her daughter Teri in 2015 to an overdose. "This is a free family-friendly educational outreach effort with lots of valuable resources."

The Mason-Dixon Boy Scouts of America will have a rock climbing wall with a certified instructor, sponsored by Romeo's Pizza, for children to navigate, along with rock painting. Free purple Overdose Awareness wristbands will be available while supplies last. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. Food will be available to purchase. You are encouraged to bring your lawn chair to enjoy musician Pete Lancaster.

Franklin/Fulton Drug & Alcohol is helping to sponsor this event.

For more information, contact Mike Straley at 717-552-8885.

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