

NEED HELP WITH ADDICTION?

BLUE CARES

PROGRAM HOTLINE

(732) 596-4199

"Blue Helping You"

INTERVENTION - TREATMENT - SUPPORT - RECOVERY

Addiction Emergency and Recovery

For: People, family, friends, and community
looking to overcome addiction

"Reach out... we are here for you"



Sponsored by the Middlesex County Law Enforcement Community



Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office

25 Kirkpatrick Street, 3rd Floor, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901 (732) 745-3300

News Release

Date: March 29, 2019

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office announces, "*Blue Cares*," a new program to combat drug use and addiction

Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew C. Carey announces a new initiative in Middlesex County entitled, "*Blue Cares*." Its mission is to coordinate efforts between members of law enforcement and our community partners to most effectively use all available resources to prevent and treat drug addiction.

Through *Blue Cares*, law enforcement officers cultivate an environment that fosters recovery through readily available local and regional addiction recovery networks. Emphasis is placed upon providing family and friends of the addicted with assistance to get their loved ones the help they need. In addition to directly promoting health and well-being, *Blue Cares* aims to reduce the stigma associated with addiction.

"Law enforcement officers routinely administer naloxone (Narcan) to prevent immediate death. We recognize that this is just the beginning of what it takes to truly save the life of an addict," said Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew C. Carey. He further stated that, *"Blue Cares identifies those individuals in the community who require intervention, and offers them and their families a network of providers that are immediately available to assist them in the recovery process."*

Blue Cares has a 24-hour hotline (732) 596-4199, which is answered by Peer Recovery coaches who can assist callers with referrals or immediate services, regardless if they have insurance.

John McCormac, Mayor of Woodbridge Township stated, *"I am confident that the coordination between Prosecutor Carey and Dr. Bonnie Nolan, Woodbridge Township's Addiction Service' coordinator, will lead to success in our continuing efforts to provide education and addiction counseling to those and their families who need it."*

The Prosecutor's Office has initiated this new collaborative partnership with the Middlesex County Public Health Department, Middlesex County Office of Human Services – Division of Addictions and Mental Health Planning, Middlesex County Chiefs of Police Association, Woodbridge Township Health and Human Services – Addition & Recovery, the Wellspring Center for Prevention, and Mainstream Recovery.

Those seeking help with addiction can call the *Blue Cares* 24-hour hotline (732) 596-4199.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew Carey is grateful for this funding opportunity, which is provided by the Honorable Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal. *Blue Cares* is financially supported by the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (“NJ CARES”) grant program, and is based on the Attorney General’s “Operation Helping Hand” initiative.

The grant funding originally came from federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and was passed through to NJ CARES by the state Department of Health.

This collaborative partnership is managed by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. If you would like more information about promoting the *Blue Cares* program in your community, please contact Lieutenant Melissa Terpanick of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office at (732) 745-3982.

Note to editors: Questions may be directed to Andrea Boulton, Public Information Officer, at (732) 743-5336 or mcpopress@co.middlesex.nj.us