



Join us for a Candlelight Vigil and Resource Fair.

Each year, Overdose Awareness Week concludes with International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. Communities around the world come together to honor individuals who have lost their lives to overdoses, and to create greater awareness of the resources available to prevent overdoses. It's also a time to share stories and bring hope to individuals who are still struggling with substance use disorders (SUD), letting people know that recovery is possible.

Prevention efforts are essential.

I have firsthand knowledge of the grief involved with losing loved ones to overdose. At the same time, I know that prevention and harm reduction efforts can make a positive difference.

Groups like the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF) have been working tirelessly to develop creative solutions to the opioid epidemic and have made great strides over the past decade.

Celebrations of hope.

This year, the LCOTF and the McCall Behavioral Health Network will mark International Overdose Awareness Day with a special Candlelight Vigil and Resource Fair being held on Thursday, August 29, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Coe Park in Torrington, CT.

It's an opportunity to honor the countless lives that have been lost to the epidemic. It will also be a celebration of recovery and hope. For those who are still struggling, you'll hear about the inspirational and courageous achievements of people who are able to limit their substance use or eliminate it from their lives altogether. These individuals will share their personal experiences on stage during the event.

Many community partners will be present as well, providing information about resources that may help individuals who are using substances, people who may be seeking recovery, or those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Other communities across the state will also hold events to commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day – visit this [link](#) for times and locations.

You can make a difference.

If you can't make it to any of the Overdose Awareness events around the state and feel that you would like to get involved in some way to help combat the opioid crisis, there are many things you can do:

- Reach out to the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force via Facebook to get free training on Naloxone and a free kit.
- Encourage your friends and family members to carry Naloxone and to recognize the signs of an overdose.
- Consider turning your porch lightbulb to purple or light a candle on August 31 to commemorate lives lost.
- Help reduce the stigma surrounding people with substance use disorders by offering your help, encouragement, and acceptance.
- Tell others about your own experiences if you'd like or share the stories of those you have lost to overdose.

To obtain Naloxone, access grief support, or learn about McCall's Family Recovery program, please contact me at 959.229.4814 or Alicia.Peterson@mccallbhn.org.



McCall's Family Recovery Coach Program is grant funded and provided at no-cost to all participants.

For more information contact:

Alicia Peterson, RSS
Family Recovery Coach
Phone: 959.229.4814
alicia.peterson@mccallbhn.org

Resources

McCall Behavioral Health Network

860.496.2100
mccallbhn.org

McCall's Recovering Together Group

Meets every Wednesday,
5:30PM via Zoom.
For more info, email:
leann.mitchell@mccallbhn.org

NAMI CT, Waterbury

Paul Brainerd
860.882.8674 or 860.310.4055
pbrainerd@namict.org

Sound Community Services

New London
Amy Faenza
860.439.6443
amy.faenza@soundct.org

Clifford Beers Clinic

New Haven
Christine Montgomery
203.915.4074
cmontgomery@cliffordbeers.org

Community Renewal Team

Hartford and Middletown
Casie DeRosier
860.549.3350
derosierc@crtct.org

TriCircle, Hope and Support Groups

Hope After Loss Groups
Ana Gopoian
860.349.7074
ana@tricycle.or