



Living Well.

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Thursday, February 24, 2011 | The Herald News

Relate Well.

Grant aims to reduce drug overdoses

Debra Gosselin
Special to Living Well

Many members of our community are affected by drug abuse in some fashion, whether through their own personal involvement or that of a friend or loved one. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Substance Abuse Services reported that, in the years from 2004 to 2006, there were 265 overdoses due to opiates, such as heroin, OxyContin, Codeine and other related opioids prescriptions in the city of Fall River. Sixty of them were fatal. The MassCall2 grant was developed by BSAS to offer training, education, and outreach for opiate users throughout the commonwealth, both in and out of treatment.

The goal of the grant is to conduct comprehensive assessments of the issue in 11 communities and to put prevention strategies in place in each of them to reduce the occurrence of overdoses. MassCall2 supports BOLD's mission to prevent and reduce alcohol and drug abuse among youth through MassCall2's mission to collaborate with the community to provide interventions, prevention strategies, and education to reduce opiate overdoses.

Many drug abusers are fearful of contacting emergency services in drug related situations. Therefore, the project is working with first

responders to decrease barriers to contacting emergency services in the event of an overdose. Some of the strategies include police in-service training on overdose prevention and the appropriate response an overdose.

To assure that your prescription drugs are not being stolen regularly take inventory of your medications and keep them in a secure, locked cabinet. Always be sure you are taking the proper precautions when disposing of medication; mix them with coffee grounds or cat litter when throwing them out or take them to a prescription buyback program.

As part of a Training of Trainers strategy, the staffs of Stanley Street Treatment and Resources, Habit Opco, and Steppingstone are being trained to provide overdose prevention training that can then be taught to others. MassCall2 is also working with Charlton Memorial Hospital and Saint Anne's Hospital medical personnel. Each hospital has health promotion advocates that screen overdose patients who come to the emergency room and who work to provide services and referrals to both inpatient and outpatient treatment centers.

A major function of MassCall2 is to facilitate active referrals and linkages to substance abuse treatment facilities including



the Narcan pilot project. Narcan is an opiate blocker that will stop an overdose.

Anyone can be trained to carry Narcan, including friends, family and loved ones who are concerned about

someone they know who has an opiate addiction.

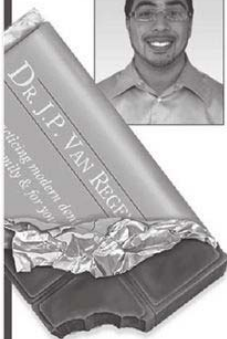
For more information on opiate overdose trainings, education or Narcan contact Debra Gosselin at 508-324-2228, dgosselin@fallriverma.org, or log onto www.Power2SaveLives.org

DEBRA GOSSELIN IS THE MASSCALL2 COORDINATOR FOR THE CITY OF FALL

RIVER AND AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE BOLD COALITION. TOGETHER WE CREATE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOR THE YOUTH OF GREATER FALL RIVER.

BOLD, BUILDING OUR LIVES DRUG-FREE, IS A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION COMPRISED OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES, EDUCATORS, CITY GOVERNMENT, SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUTH.

MODERN DENTISTRY FOR YOUR FAMILY



IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE we welcome Dr. Aaron Campini to our practice. Dr. Campini attained his dental degree at University of Connecticut in 2009 and completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010. Dr. Campini's family is from Acushnet, MA and his roots are in the East Bay area.

Dr. Campini has been with us since July and is a proven asset who shares our philosophy of quality and care in a relaxed environment. I would like to thank all of our patients for letting us provide your dental care. We appreciate each and every one of you! — Dr. J.P. Van Regenmorter

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