CAAP Forum:
Community Action Response

to the
Opioid Crisis

October 18, 2018
Radisson Hotel
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
CAAP gratefully acknowledges the funding provided for this forum by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Center for Community Services.
CAAP Forum: Community Action Response to the Opioid Crisis

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Refreshments

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Welcome: Lynette Praster, Director, Center for Community Service PA Department of Community and Economic Development

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Keynote: Gary Tennis, President/CEO, National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL)

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Kim Early, LSW, Policy Director, DOH, Office of Policy; and, Derrick Pelletier, Policy Director, Executive Office, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch/Luncheon Speaker Eric Kocian, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law, and Society, Saint Vincent College

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Community Resources

- DDAP – SCA: Colleen D. Hughes, M.S., CAADC, Executive Director, Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.
- Centers for Excellence: Stephanie Welc, Certified Recovery Specialist, Highlands Hospital Center of Excellence
- Certified Recovery Specialist: Darren Fickes, CRS
- Workplace Initiatives: Tim Phillips, Director, Westmoreland Drug Overdose Task Force
- Reality Tour: Norma Norris, Executive Director, CANDLE, Inc.

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Kenneth A. Bacha, Coroner, Westmoreland County; and, Tony Marcocci, Detective, Westmoreland County Detective Bureau

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Panel: Communities in Action – Moderator: Tay Waltenbaugh, CEO, Westmoreland Community Action

- Tim Phillips, Director, Westmoreland Drug Overdose Task Force
- Megan Shreve, CEO, South Central Community Action Program
- Darlene Bigler, CEO, Blueprints

4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks
SPEAKERS BIOS

Gary Tennis, President/CEO, National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL)

Gary Tennis serves as NAMSDL’s President and Chief Executive Officer. In 1992-1993 he served as Executive Director of NAMSDL’s predecessor entity, the President’s Commission on Model State Drug Laws. Gary specializes in drafting and developing treatment, intervention, and prevention model laws, policies, guidelines and strategies. Except for his two years’ service with the President’s Commission, Gary was a prosecutor in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office from 1980 - 2006, the last 20 years of which he served as the Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association. In 1987, as Chairman of the Hiring Committee for the District Attorney’s office, Gary created the Minority Hiring Recruitment Committee. Gary was appointed as Pennsylvania’s first Secretary of Pennsylvania’s Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs from 2012-2017, during which time he served as an Officer on the NASADAD Board. He still serves on the Board for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Gary was awarded the NASADAD Award for Exceptional Leadership and Support of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment in 2014 and the National Ramstad-Kennedy award in 2015. Gary is also a co-founder of NAMSDL.

Kimberly Early, LSW, Policy Director, Pennsylvania Department of Health | Office of Policy

Kimberly Early serves as the Director for the Office of Policy and is responsible for directing policy development activities for the department. Most recently, Kimberly served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Policy Development in the Department of Human Services. She is a licensed social worker, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Social Work at Temple University. She began her career in the mental health field before working in child welfare as a child protective services caseworker. In 2002, she joined the commonwealth as a Human Services Program Specialist in the Department of Human Services. She later worked for the Department of Health managing grants related to children’s health, before returning to the Department of Human Services’ as a Legislative Specialist. Kimberly also served as a Public Health Program Manager in the Department of Health preparing for public health accreditation.

Derrick Pelletier, Policy Director, Executive Office, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Derrick Pelletier serves as the Policy Director for the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). Derrick is a public policy analyst with experience researching complex problems and recommending solutions to drive political and social decisions. In his current role, he is focusing on strengthening Pennsylvania’s drug and alcohol treatment landscape through key policy initiatives such as developing a certification process for Pennsylvania’s Recovery Homes and expanding access to drug take-back opportunities. As a member of the Wolf Administration’s Opioid Command Center, Derrick works to ensure that fighting the opioid crisis remains a priority on the federal, state, and local levels. Recently, he co-authored the $55 million Federal grant received by Pennsylvania to fight the epidemic. Derrick’s public career began in the Rhode Island Office of Regulatory Reform. As Deputy Director, he approved all agency regulations related to health and human services. Derrick authored a comprehensive update to Rhode Island’s rulemaking processes which removed burdensome, outdated, and duplicative regulations and led to a 31% reduction of all state regulations. Prior to his work in state government, Derrick spent 12 years working with and on behalf of children with special health care needs. Derrick holds a Bachelor’s in Psychology and a Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Rhode Island. He has recently relocated to his wife Stacey’s home state of Pennsylvania and lives with her in Hummelstown.
**Eric Kocian, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law, and Society, Saint Vincent College**

Dr. Eric Kocian has a true passion for the field of criminology, law, and society and continually makes efforts to expand his knowledge and teaching abilities in all areas of the discipline. He is an assistant professor of criminology, law, and society at Saint Vincent College. In 2000, Kocian graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg as a dual major in psychology and administration of justice. He earned a master’s degree in criminology in 2002 and a Ph.D. in 2010 from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Kocian is a prior service United States Marine Corps Reservist and was trained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2012. He recently completed the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizen Academies. Kocian continues to research the opioid epidemic and has briefed various local, state, and federal agencies and departments on his findings.

**Colleen D. Hughes, M.S., CAADC, Executive Director, Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.**

Colleen D. Hughes is the Executive Director at Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. (WeDAC). She holds a MS degree in Business and Industry Counseling, as well as being a Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Ms. Hughes brings 30 years of experience to her position, which involves overseeing the development and implementation of necessary operational activities regarding the planning, organization, direction and administration of the Drug and Alcohol service delivery system. This system includes intervention, prevention, treatment, case management and recovery support services. She also supervises the use of all funds for the administration and provision of services under the authority of the Single County Authority (SCA). She is a member of the PA Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators (PACDA). Ms. Hughes is also on the board of directors and serves as the president for Southwest Behavioral Health Management, Inc.

**Stephanie Welc, COE Certified Specialist, Highlands Hospital Center of Excellence**

Stephanie Welc is a Certified Recovery Specialist and a Certified Peer Specialist who has been working at the Highlands Hospital Center of Excellence since they first opened early last year. Stephanie, who is herself an individual in long term recovery, has a passion for helping those struggling with the disease of addiction. She provides support and assists individuals throughout their recovery journey, instilling a sense of hope, encouragement, and motivation.

**Darren Fickes, Certified Recovery Specialist, Franklin County**

Darren Fickes is a Certified Recovery Specialist with Pennsylvania Counseling Services who is contracted by the local SCA to work with South Central Community Action Programs. Darren went through his training to become a CRS in the fall of 2017, was certified in the spring 2018, and began working with PA Counseling Services to support those in the community who are in the recovery process from substance use. He has been integrated into SCCAP spending time with their Re-entry program, the homeless shelter, their Circles program, and multiple other programs they have initiated in Franklin County.
**Timothy Phillips, C.A.D.C., Executive Director, Westmoreland Drug Overdose Task Force**

Tim Phillips has been in the field of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug treatment and prevention since 1988. Prior to becoming involved in Prevention he worked in various treatment facilities as a counselor/therapist. He is a Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (C.A.D.C.) Certified Forensics Counselor, SBIRT (Screening & brief intervention to treatment) and a NAADAC Recovery Coach. In his current role as Executive Director of the Westmoreland Drug Overdose Task Force, Tim works with community members and coalitions to facilitate replication of principles of North Carolina’s successful Project Lazarus with the goal of reducing substance use & overdose deaths in Westmoreland County, PA. Tim serves on the Pennsylvania Recovery Based Issues Committee, is a member of the Coalition for Leadership Education Advocacy & Recovery (CLEAR), and an original appointee to the Diocese Of Greensburg Bishop’s advisory board for addiction/recovery. Tim is active in the local and regional community and a frequent guest lecturer for Higher Education classes, schools, & community organizations. A person in long term recovery from addiction himself, he is active in a 12 Step Fellowship and is an advocate on all levels for the Recovery Community and their families. He also is a regular participant at the Greensburg Reality Tour Drug Prevention program and a regular contributor/trainer to Sage’s Army. Tim is also a founding member of the Young People in Recovery (YPR) Pittsburgh Chapter. Tim received the 2015 Community Action Association of Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Award, which award honors individuals who demonstrate selfless service to the community. In 2015, Tim was awarded the Mental Health America Innovations award for Recovery & Advocacy in recognition of his efforts in the Community.

**Norma Norris, Executive Director, CANDLE, Inc and developer of the parent/child Reality Tour Drug Prevention Program**

Norma Norris is a social entrepreneur. Her most recent endeavor is developer of the parent/child Reality Tour Drug Prevention Program as a response to the drug epidemic. One teen's comment, on his resolve not to experiment because, he “could always see beyond the next 10 minutes” became a driving force to deter experimentation via a parent/child prevention program.

Reality Tour now has a 15-year history with replications in 6 states and Canada and is the recipient of the National Acts of Caring and the national Community Crime Prevention Program awards. Listed on NREPP in 2011, it remains as a Legacy Program. Ms. Norris addressed many social concerns over a span of 30 years. A campaign she created in 1988, the White Ribbon Campaign, was adopted by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. In 1990 she produced the ‘Break the Cycle of Abuse’ resource video for her community and in 1999, Norma presented her Teen Mom Mentoring program at the Soroptimist International Conference in Hawaii. ‘Heroes of the Homeland’ in 2003 was her project to send care packages to soldiers. Norma enjoyed a 22-year career in radio prior to becoming the executive director of the nonprofit CANDLE, Inc. that oversees Reality Tour replications. Norma and her husband, Charles, reside in Butler, PA and are the parents of three sons and grandparents to seven grandchildren.
Kenneth A. Bacha, Coroner, Westmoreland County

Ken Bacha began his career in the Westmoreland County coroner’s office in 2000, as a deputy coroner. In 2001, Ken was elected to the position of coroner and is currently serving his fifth four-year term. The coroner is a life-long resident of Westmoreland County. Ken is the Funeral Director/Embalmer at the Bacha Funeral Home in Greensburg. He is also the Deputy Chief/Safety Officer with the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Company. Ken has a degree in Safety Engineering from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. Ken and his wife have three daughters and they currently reside in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Tony Marcocci, Detective, Westmoreland County Detective Bureau

Det. Tony Marcocci began his law enforcement career in 1975 when he received extensive training in classifying and identifying fingers through the FBI and worked as a Latent Fingerprint Examiner in the Allegheny County Crime Laboratory. From 1985 to the present, he has worked in the Westmoreland County District Attorney’s Office in the Vice and Narcotics Unit in an Undercover capacity. Over the years, he has been involved in thousands of investigations involving violations of both Federal and State Narcotics Laws. Det. Marcocci is qualified as an Expert in Narcotics in the Federal Courts of the Western District of Pennsylvania along with the Courts of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County, Pa. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Career Service Award from the County and State Detectives Association of Pennsylvania. He has been an Advisory Board member for the Westmoreland County Overdose Task Force and a founding member of the Drug Court Team for Westmoreland County where he helps select and oversee individuals enrolled in Westmoreland County Drug Court. He helped establish the Magisterial District Judges Diversionary Program for Westmoreland County. He regularly organizes and conducts drug talks with the various communities in Westmoreland County to help educate and increase awareness of addiction in our county.

Tay Waltenbaugh, Chief Executive Officer, Westmoreland Community Action

Tay Waltenbaugh’s diverse career path landed him, in 1990, at Westmoreland Community Action, formerly known as Westmoreland Human Opportunities. In just two years, he managed to rebuild the organization’s reputation with funders, the community, and the Westmoreland County Commissioners. Under Tay’s strong leadership, the agency continues to see steady growth with regularly expanding services. As CEO, Tay has been responsible for growing the budget from $1.2 million to $15 million and increasing the programs and staff. He has improved foundation support from zero to ten percent of total budget and formed Westmoreland Human Services, Inc., a separate non-profit to assist other low-income non-profit agencies. WHS Inc. now owns seven large office buildings, a construction company and a parking lot and has $5 million in assets. In 2005, he was the recipient of an award from Mary Riegler-Chislaugh Friend of the Poor Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. In 2007, he was presented with a community service award from the Greensburg/Jeannette NAACP. In 2009, Tay received the Seton Hill University Entrepreneurial Excellence Award, and in 2013 he received the Top 100 People in Central Pennsylvania and Beyond award from Pennsylvania Business Central. Tay also hosts two radio shows, Talking Action and High and Wide Outdoors. Even with a full plate, Tay manages to find time for volunteering. Currently he focuses his efforts on the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), Bridgeway Capitol Advisory Board, Workforce Investment Board Transportation, Westmoreland Coalition on Housing, Hempfield Youth Commission, Community Action Association of Pennsylvania, SWPA Community Development Corporation, the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs, the S & T bank Advisory Board, the PNC Bank Advisory Board, Keystone Hope Development and Penn Regional Investments President.
**Megan Shreve, CEO, South Central Community Action Programs, Inc. (SCCAP)**

Megan Shreve worked as a Program Director in community action for nearly 14 years before taking a 4-year venture into the private sector doing training, implementation and business process analysis for a large consulting firm. She returned to the non-profit world in 2005 as the CEO of South Central Community Action Programs, Inc. (SCCAP), a community-based program serving 32,000 low income individuals. Megan utilizes her extensive experience with low income families and the analytical work she did in the private sector to look for solutions to help families move completely out of poverty. SCCAP’s mission is to empower families and engage the community to pursue innovative and effective solutions to break the cycle of poverty.

**Darlene J. Bigler, CEO, Blueprints**

Darlene J. Bigler is CEO of Blueprints, the community action agency serving Washington and Greene counties in Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia. Blueprints employs 350 people, managing an annual budget of $23 million to serve close to 20,000 people each year, by helping them to break barriers and build futures. During her 25-year tenure at Blueprints, Bigler created affiliate corporations including a nonprofit property holding and management company, a for-profit commercial office building corporation, and founded several social enterprises. In 2015, she led Blueprints through the acquisition and merger of a nonprofit agency providing foster care and adoption in PA and WV. Bigler serves as a board member of CAPLAW, a membership organization that provides consultations, training and resources to enable 1,000 community action agencies to operate legally sound and well-governed organizations. She is a trustee of the Washington Health System, a member of the Southwest Corner Workforce Investment Board, and is past president and long-time board member of the CAAP board. Blueprints prides itself on early adoption of emerging trends, evidence-based practices and high-quality services leading to great outcomes for the people they serve.
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