



Columbia County Board of Supervisors

401 State Street
Hudson, New York 12534

Matt B. Murell
Chairman

Richard Keaveney
Deputy Chairman

Ronald Knott
Deputy Chairman

Telephone: 518-828-1527

Fax: 518-822-0684

www.ColumbiaCountyNY.com

Kelly S. Baccaro
Clerk

Angela L. Rothermel
Deputy Clerk

COUNTY SCHEDULES REGIONAL OPIOID FORUMS

In its continuing effort to confront the heroin and opioid epidemic, Columbia County is scheduling regional Forums designed to detail the addiction treatment and recovery related services available in the County, the steps it has taken since the county board approved the Columbia County Opioid Epidemic Response Plan, and what it plans to combat the issue going forward.

The Hudson Library hosts the first forum, set for Thursday, August 10 at 6:00 PM.

A panel discussion of county officials, and community based service providers will discuss efforts their respective agencies engage in daily to address the crisis, focusing on:

- The County Response Plan
- What the county has done to this point to stem the crisis
- Available services

The Forum Panelists: Hudson 4th Ward Supervisor William Hughes, Jr.; Columbia County Sheriff David Bartlett; Columbia County District Attorney Paul Czajka; Twin County Recovery Services, Inc. Executive Director Beth Schuster; Columbia County Department of Human Services Director Michael Cole; Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties Prevention Education Director Theresa Lux; Columbia County Department of Health Certified Health Education Specialist Victoria McGahan; and, Columbia County Department of Social Services Commissioner Robert Gibson.

Columbia County Sheriff David Bartlett pointed out that “if someone on the street needs help, they can immediately contact the sheriff’s department. We’ll do what we need to do to get them the help they need.”

Bartlett noted that Twin County Recovery Services maintain a full-time presence at the jail: “When an inmate gets out, we’re working to help keep them from re-offending.” At the same time, collaborative law enforcement efforts continue working toward getting drugs off the street.

Adopted at the April meeting of the county Board of Supervisors, the Columbia County Opioid Epidemic Response Plan represented a major step toward the goal of stemming the local opioid crisis, the plan includes enforcement, education, prevention and treatment, and rehabilitation. At that time, said Chairman Matt Murell, “Much work went into the development of the plan, but this is the first step in a long process. The county intends to follow through on this plan until each and every one who has fallen victim to this crisis has been provided with the help they need.”