



Calvert County NEWS

175 Main Street
Courthouse
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
Phone: 410-535-4583 • 301-855-1880
www.co.cal.md.us

Board of Commissioners

Mike Hart
Tom Hejl
Pat Nutter

Evan K. Slaughenhoupt Jr.
Steven R. Weems

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Feb. 23, 2016
Contact: Mark Volland, Marketing/Communications Specialist
410-535-4583 Email: vollanrm@co.cal.md.us
Angela Walters, Public Information Specialist
410-535-4583 Email: walteram@co.cal.md.us

Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse Provides New Resources to Calvert County Pharmacies, First Responders

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Feb. 23, 2016 – The Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA) has developed two new sources of information for county pharmacies and first responders to use in the battle against heroin and opioid abuse.

The CAASA team has provided every pharmacy in the county with a card to attach to customer's prescriptions that lists the medication drop-box locations. Drop-boxes are padlocked receptacles for unused and expired medications and are located outside on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office porch, and outside at the front door of the Maryland State Police Barrack in Prince Frederick, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"These cards will hopefully serve as a reminder to our residents to properly dispose of unused prescriptions," said CAASA Director Candice D'Agostino. "Study after study has shown that prescription drug abuse is a gateway to heroin and opioid addiction. We have to attack our drug crisis from every angle and we are hopeful this card serves as a reminder."

In addition, CAASA has put together packets of information for the county's first responders to give out when they answer the call for a drug overdose. The packets contain information for the user about where to seek help for addiction and numerous other resources available for the entire family.

~ more ~

Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse Provides New Resources to Calvert County Pharmacies, First Responders

Feb. 23, 2016

Page 2

“Continued actions to educate everyone in our community about the risks of opioid use and how to get help for addiction are critical to public health and safety,” said Dr. Larry Polsky, Calvert County Health Department Health Officer. “CAASA’s partnerships with pharmacies and first responders are vital to these efforts.”

CAASA is a grassroots coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to fighting alcohol and other drug abuse in Calvert County.

Learn more about CAASA’s mission and the resources it provides by contacting D’Agostino by email at DAgostCM@co.cal.md.us, or by phone at 410-535-FREE (3733). Visit CAASA online at www.co.cal.md.us/caasa or on Facebook.

###

Calvert County is Maryland’s smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to more than 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, energy, advanced manufacturing and administrative services. Like us on Facebook by searching for Calvert County Government, Calvert County, Maryland.