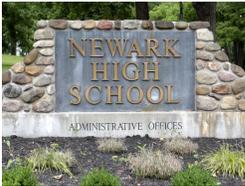


Addiction Town Hall: We're coming together to solve a problem.

Kate Dengg, Reporter Published 5:06 p.m. ET June 1, 2018



(Photo: .)

Opioid and amphetamine addiction continues to ravage Licking County. Yet current treatment resources can only help about 30-40 percent of the afflicted population, according to experts at The Newark Think Tank on Poverty.

Without sustained change, they believe overdose deaths and drug-related crimes will only continued to rise.

The Newark Think Tank on Poverty and Newark City Schools, however, are taking steps to counter this public health crisis.

On June 7th, mental health experts, local law enforcement, and individuals impacted by addiction will come together for an Addiction and Recovery Town Hall Meeting at Newark City Schools. Doug Ute, superintendent of Newark City School, noted that the school system is "happy to do anything we can to bring the community together on this issue."

Talks will focus on spreading awareness on available recovery resources and bringing attention to the still unmet needs of those struggling to return to sobriety.

"We can't arrest our way out of this crisis," said Allen Schwartz, a founding member of the Newark Think Tank on Poverty. "It will take the community."

Among the experts invited to speak are Kay Spergel, Executive Director of Mental Health and Recovery for Licking County and Jim Takacs of Licking County Alcohol Prevention Program. Members of the community that are most intimately impacted by addiction have also been invited to share their stories.

"We're coming together to solve a problem," Schwartz explained. "Not to judge, not to condemn, but to solve a problem."

The Town Hall Meeting will occur on June 7th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Newark High School on 314 Granville Street. The event is free to attend.

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