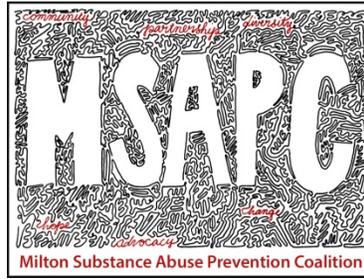


## PRESS RELEASE



### **New Funding for Milton to address Behavioral Health**

For Release: December 19,2017

Contact: Laurie Stillman, 617-721-1662

The Milton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is pleased to announce that its grant application to the Blue Hills Community Health Alliance (aka CHNA20) has been funded to support *MiltonCares!*

*"MiltonCares!* will work to support youth and adults impacted by substance abuse and mental health issues in both the school and community settings", said Laurie Stillman, Director of MSAPC, who wrote the grant. "It will fund the planning of two important, yet innovative new programs in town: a *Milton Cares Response Team* through the Milton Police Department and the *Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT)* at Milton High School. Caroline Kinsella, Milton Health Department Director explained another key component. "Largely because of the stigma associated with behavioral health and substance use disorders, only a minority of those people impacted seeks out and receives the treatment they need. To reduce this stigma, , MSAPC will create a communitywide anti-stigma campaign to foster an environment where mental illness is better understood and where families feel less reluctant about getting help."

Chief John King is pleased that the Milton Cares Response Team will become a reality at the police department, a drug overdose program he has admired in other municipalities such as in Plymouth and Arlington. The program will include a home visit or phone call to a family's home the day following a 9-1-1- overdose call, a window when the victim and/or surviving family members are most traumatized and open to receiving help. A trained plain clothed Police Officer, who makes introductions at the home, will be accompanied by a trained Outreach Partner who provides

support, information, resources and linkages to treatment and family support. “The goal is to help them get into treatment,” said Chief King

The BRYT program has been a dream for high school principal James Jette and guidance director Karen Cahill for many years. BRYT is a nonprofit organization based in Brookline, Massachusetts. BRYT received the American Psychological Association’s Gold Achievement Award for its innovative approach for helping schools across Massachusetts to implement clinical, academic, social and family supports for teenagers for several critical weeks following their return to school, primarily after a behavioral health crisis. The program helps students get back on track and complete high school with their peers by addressing their academic, social and emotional needs. Principal Jette said, “We were impressed by the programs we researched at Hingham and Brookline. Bringing it to Milton has been on our wish list for a number of years now. We are thrilled to now have the opportunity of working with BRYT staff to help make this happen.”

Kym Williams, from CHNA 20, said, “MSAPC has created important partnerships to confront and address behavioral health issues in Milton with our funding in the past. We are eager to watch MSAPC’s progress as they use this new grant to plan and implement three important programs in 2018.” Ms. Williams said that Milton was one of three grant recipients from eleven applicants.

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