

# Meet Drug-Free Task Force Member Michael DeMatos

Navigator for the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program



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## CAREER OVERVIEW

Michael worked in finance for many years before deciding on a career change. He obtained his counseling degree from Rider University and worked as both a school counselor and crisis counselor before landing at Hunterdon Medical Center. Michael is currently the Navigator for the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP) in Hunterdon County, a grant funded initiative in all 21 NJ counties that connects people with needed treatment and resources. While working as the OORP Navigator, Michael obtained his LCADC (Licensed Clinical Alcohol & Drug Counselor.) Michael lives in Somerset County with his wife, Carolann, and their pug, Frank.

## SERVICE TO THE TASK FORCE

As the Navigator for the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program, Michael's contribution behind the scenes at Hunterdon Medical Center and as a participant in our monthly meetings, is a tremendous asset to the Drug-Free Task Force. Through his lens, we are able to gain insight as well as valuable information with regards to what the hospital is experiencing and the direction of current trends. Michael champions the work of the coalition by offering ideas during the planning phase as well as supporting ongoing initiatives.



HUNTERDON  
COUNTY'S  
HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES  
INITIATIVE



# Our 5 Key Questions with Michael DeMatos

1

## DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES OR FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS? IF SO, WHAT/WHERE ARE THEY?

I love motorsports. I enjoy driving/riding and working on anything with wheels and a motor. One of my favorite travel destinations is Charleston, SC. My wife and I love the food, the architecture, the history, the people; I can definitely see a move down there in the future.

2

## WHAT IS AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU?

Counseling is a second career for me. I previously worked in finance but wanted to make a move to something more fulfilling.

3

## IF YOU COULD EAT A MEAL WITH SOMEONE PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Teddy Roosevelt. He was incredibly influential in the development of national parks and protected lands in the U.S. As an avid outdoorsman I would love the opportunity to converse with him.

4

## WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN OUR COALITION? WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

My job deals primarily with assisting people after they've experienced a crisis. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute on the prevention side of the equation. What motivates me? I enjoy being able to help others; to be an advocate for those who may lack support and resources. It's what led to a career change, and every day I know I made the right decision.

5

## DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE OUR COALITION MORE EFFECTIVE AND CONTINUE TO GROW?

I believe it's vital to get the youngest generation involved in this work. I know that anyone is capable of recovery, but if we can stop a person from developing a substance use disorder it would change everything.