

Meet Drug-Free Task Force Member Amy Hicks

Recovery Advocate Coordinator, Open Door Recovery Center



ahicks@njprevent.com



BIOGRAPHY

Amy holds an Associate of Arts degree from Raritan Valley Community College, and is pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Public Service & Public Policy from Arizona State University via online classes. Her view of public policy and enthusiastic drive to enact positive change is informed by her personal experiences with substance use and mental health disorders.

She enjoys running, hiking, and swimming, as well as music, art, and literature. If not working or at a hardcore show she can be found at home with her fiancé and beloved rescue cat.

SERVICE TO THE TASK FORCE

As a Recovery Advocate Coordinator for the Open Door Recovery Center, Amy is dedicated to providing resources & support for individuals dealing with substance use disorder. Her connection to those in recovery affords the Drug-Free Task Force a different perspective allowing for alternate strategies of prevention which contribute exponentially to the effectiveness of initiatives.

Amy's knowledge about harm reduction is second to none & she is a strong advocate for making Narcan accessible in various places in the community. Amy is passionate about creating a stigma-free world & her readiness & enthusiasm to collaborate with the Task Force helps bridge the gap between prevention and recovery, creating a pathway for better outcome opportunities.



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Our 5 Key Questions with Amy Hicks

1

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

I enjoy the challenge of physical activities like weightlifting, hiking, and swimming-I have a competitive streak but have found that I prefer to compete with past versions of myself rather than other people for the sake of my sanity! I also really enjoy live music, reading political theory, and playing Dungeons and Dragons with my friends. As for travel, the White Mountains of New Hampshire hold a special place in my heart.

2

WHAT IS AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU?

I used to play water polo in college (no horses involved, unfortunately).

3

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

Gosh, this one has me stumped- I feel like but I'm supposed to pick an "interesting" historical figure but no one immediately comes to mind. In reality I'd love to be able to sit down and have a good meal and conversation with my late great-grandmother. She was a woman of amazing fortitude and tenacity who passed away when I was young, and I would love to be able to talk with her as an adult.

4

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

I am involved in the coalition because it gives myself, and everyone else involved, the chance to leverage the work we are doing in our various teams, divisions, and agencies for the greatest good in the wider community. If the work we do together can help keep folks safe, healthy, and happy, then I count it as good work! 😊

5

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

I love talking about harm reduction, and encourage folks in all sectors and walks of life to talk about it as well. I think the more work communities in general can do to normalize conversations about harm reduction the better off we all are, both as a community and as individuals.