

Meet Drug-Free Task Force Member Kim Blanda, RN, BSN, BS

Director of Community Relations at Hunterdon Health



kblanda@hhsnj.org



CAREER OVERVIEW

Kim is a true advocate for the health and well-being of the community.

Under the department of Strategic Planning & Business Development, Kim analyzes the health status of populations within Hunterdon County to develop strategies to optimize resident's health and allow businesses to thrive. Kim is also the Partnership for Health Coordinator (PFH). The PFH mission is a community collaboration dedicated to achieving optimal health for all residents.

SERVICE TO THE TASK FORCE

As the Partnership for Health coordinator, Kim is the liaison between the Drug-Free Task Force and the health coalition of over 70 multi-sector organizations. Her involvement is vital to the success of our vision and mission. Kim's professional background in healthcare provides the task force with perspective on trends within the medical community, specifically Hunterdon Medical Center, as the Director of Community Relations, Hunterdon Health.



HUNTERDON
COUNTY'S
HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES
INITIATIVE



Our 5 Key Questions with Kim Blanda

1

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

I love to play golf and am an avid reader (especially favor historical fiction). I like country music much to my family's disapproval & enjoy any place that takes me near or on the water. I grew up summering at Lake Wallenpaupack- boating, fishing and going on outdoor adventures with my 2 brothers. I hope to travel more & play more golf with my husband Joe, now that our kids (Ashley & Ethan) are in college.

2

WHAT IS AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU?

I've written 2 children's book manuscripts & am a former member of the NJ Society for Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. I've never been published and hope to someday get back to writing. Also a lover of GREEN mint chocolate chip ice cream (with chocolate sprinkles) and will not stray no matter how many flavors are offered.

3

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

My Aunt Joy. She was my mother's sister and my Godmother who passed away far too young from pancreatic cancer. She was the life of the party and the most compassionate person. She was a great listener and taught me the importance of that skill. She was a bright light- beautiful inside & out. I miss her dearly.

4

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

Seems cliché, but you don't become a nurse unless you are motivated by helping people. I am involved with the coalition because they are about preventing substance misuse and support those who suffer from substance use disorder. This disease can affect anyone & we need to spread awareness, especially among our youth so that they are well-informed & get the support when they need it.

5

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

I would encourage the coalition to continue hosting town halls & community brainstorming sessions. It is these venues that give the community a voice and inform us on what really matters & how we can make the greatest impact.