

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Healthy Cattaraugus County has engaged in a funding opportunity from the Western Regional Addiction Resource Collaborative (WRARC). This is an entity that is sourced from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Ultimately, OASAS has provided grants for 5 years of funding for outreach projects in these counties, covering prevention, treatment and recovery projects in alcoholism and substance abuse. A coalition was formed for our Western Regional Addiction Resource Center (WRARC) that contains individuals from across the region, coming together for a common purpose: to work together to stem the devastating issues that surround substance abuse. This coalition meets every month in the centralized location of Springville to review applications for funding of the outreach projects as well as other stipulated facets of the OASAS grant.

There are 10 of the "RARCs" statewide. The Western Region RARC includes 5 counties and is managed by Tim Smykowski of WNY United in Buffalo. The group also is directed by two coordinators: John Gaeddert in the north towns (Niagara and Erie County) and Andrea Hollamby in the southern tier (Allegany, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus County).

The progressive plan from OASAS was to put planning, decision making and executing into the hands of the people that know the abuse and addiction climate of their counties best. Rather than making sweeping decisions from Albany, to instead put forth effective and engaging outreach suited to each county and community.

This is a tremendous opportunity for our local communities. If you are a member of a local coalitions and you have a viable project, you can apply for a funding opportunity at www.wnycdc.com where there are some guidelines to assist your application effort. You must be a not-for-profit, school, etc. or be hosted by one. Upon approval, you would need to submit the required documentation and then you would receive a check up front and then would be expected to provide a follow up to your outreach. There are approximately 12 funding opportunities each year at approximately \$1,200-\$1,500 each. There are also 3 High Risk Outreach opportunities each year with a higher funding amount available. The application process is simple, brief and easy. If you have an outreach idea, we encourage you to go to the website and apply. While you are there, please make note of the vast resources available at www.wnycdc.com .