

August, 4 2014

Chautauqua County

Community Drug Forum

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jamestown Community College, Carnahan Bldg. Theater
525 Falconer Street, Jamestown, NY 14702

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1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

JCC, North County Conference and Training Facility
10785 Bennett Road Dunkirk, NY 14048

8:30 / 12:50

Refreshments / Doors Open

9:00-9:15
1:30-1:45

Introductions—Patricia Brinkman, Department of Mental
Hygiene Commissioner
Vince Horrigan, County Executive

9:15-9:50
1:45-2:20

Michelle Spahn, DEA, Special Agent in Charge, Buffalo Office

9:50-10:35
2:20-3:05

Dr. David Withers, Associate Medical Director at the
Marworth Treatment Center, Waverly, PA

10:35 / 3:05

Break

10:45 / 3:15

Drug Task Force Update

10:50-11:35
3:20-4:05

Avi Israel, Parent Advocate

11:35-11:55
4:05-4:25

Q & A, Moderated by Vince Horrigan and Dale Robbins

11:55-12:00
4:25-4:30

Closing Remarks

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Michelle Y. Spahn, Resident Agent in Charge, Buffalo Office, DEA

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Resident Agent in Charge Michelle Y. Spahn began her law enforcement career in January 1996 when she was hired by the United States Border Patrol (USBP) as a Border Patrol Agent assigned to the Brown Field Station in San Diego, California. In September 1997, Ms. Spahn was hired by DEA as a Special Agent assigned to the San Diego Field Division. In 2003, Ms. Spahn transferred to the El Paso Field Division in El Paso, Texas where she conducted a number of investigations targeting high-level Mexican drug-trafficking organizations. In 2005, Ms. Spahn deployed to Baghdad, Iraq for 90 days in support of the Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO). During her deployment, Ms. Spahn worked alongside Iraqi judges and prosecutors to investigate crimes committed by Saddam Hussein against the Iraqi people. Due in part to Ms. Spahn's investigative efforts, evidence was presented to the Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST) which resulted in the successful prosecution of Saddam Hussein. In 2006, Ms. Spahn successfully completed the Foreign-Deployed Advisory Support Team (FAST) Assessment and Indoctrination Course (FAIC). Ms. Spahn is the only female to date who has successfully completed this 8-week rigorous physical training program led by U.S. Army Special Forces, qualifying her to become a member of the DEA FAST Team with foreign deployment to Afghanistan. In April 2009, Ms. Spahn was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent at the Buffalo Resident Office in Buffalo, New York. As the Task Force Supervisor, Ms. Spahn commanded a Drug Task Force Group comprised of 16 Special Agents and Task Force Officers representing 11 different local, state and county law enforcement agencies. Recently, Ms. Spahn was promoted to the Resident Agent in Charge of the Buffalo Resident Office where she currently oversees the daily operations of three (3) Enforcement Groups, as well as a Diversion Group and an Intel Unit.

Ms. Spahn holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Saint Bonaventure University. Ms. Spahn is also active in martial arts, holding a red belt in Krav Maga. Ms. Spahn is an active member of Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE) and she currently serves as a Board Member and the Western Regional Representative for New York Women in Law Enforcement (NYWLE).

David Withers, MD

Dr. Withers is a Chautauqua County native. He attended undergraduate school at SUNY Binghamton, medical school at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse and completed surgical internship at Indiana University. Dr. Withers practiced Emergency Medicine before practicing Addiction Medicine. He is Board Certified in Addiction Medicine and founded the Addiction Medicine Fellowship at Marworth/Geisinger. Dr. Withers has a variety of teaching appointments and has long been active in medical education.

Dr. Withers will provide an overview of addiction/chemical dependency including neural pathways, genetics, prevalence, treatment, and prevention.

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Avi Isreal

Avi Israel is a retired electrician, turned full time advocate. Avi has 30 years industry experience, and most recently was a General Forman working for Frey Electric Construction Company Inc. Avi is the father of Michael David Israel and with his wife Julie Israel, is co-founder and President of Save The Michaels of The World. Avi is the recipient of several recognitions and the 2012 WNY Chemical Dependency Consortium Community Award for his activism. Some of Avi's accomplishments to date are; he was a driving force behind the I-STOP Legislation and the Michael David Israel Laws. He worked with US Attorney Bill Hochul on a Call to Action Public Awareness Forum at the University of Buffalo, which included the NY Attorney General, DEA and local law enforcement agencies. He testified before the US Senate on the dangers of prescription drug abuse, and gave testimony in front of several FDA Panels on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. Avi has constant communication and collaboration with local and Federal Legislators on advocating for a full range of improved services for the community, and was an initiator of local CME Classes for the 8 Counties of WNY. He is currently working with National Groups like ARPO (Advocates for Reform of Prescription Opioids) and PROP (Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing) on a National Awareness Campaign, while simultaneously collaborating with Blue Cross & Blue Shield on Doctor's Education & Public Awareness in New York State, and Integrated Health System's informational call centers. Avi's mission is altruistic in that he never wants another parent to experience what he and his family have with the needless passing of his son.

Keynote Speakers

