

KN**UCK** OUT OPIOID ABUSE



Partnership for a
Drug-Free New Jersey



Knock Out Opioid Abuse Town Hall
Toms River

Ocean County Library
Toms River Branch, Mancini Hall
Wednesday, September 25, 2019

KNOCK OUT OPIOID ABUSE



In joint collaboration with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey's philanthropic arm - The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey - the Partnership for A Drug-Free New Jersey and Horizon BCBSNJ are embarking on a new two-year Knock Out Opioid Abuse initiative to address the opioid epidemic through community outreach, prescriber education, parent education and a statewide awareness campaign.

Town Hall Series

The town hall series will focus on tackling the opioid crisis at the community level by educating residents and gaining a more detailed understanding of how this issue is affecting towns and their residents.

Prescriber Education

An online safer prescribing course for Continuing Medical Education credit in compliance with New Jersey law will be available for all prescribers – doctors, nurses, dentists and nurse practitioners – to provide guidance essential for safe and effective opioid prescribing. Visit knockoutopioidabuse.drugfreenj.org for information on how to participate in this course.

Parent Education

A Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey study found that nearly one in three parents of New Jersey middle school students do not believe there is a link between prescribed opioids and heroin use. The 5th Grade Parent Alert is a resource guide for parents of New Jersey's fifth grade students to educate and raise awareness of the current opioid crisis, the signs and symptoms of opioid dependency and abuse, and prevention and intervention strategies.

Awareness Campaign

An awareness campaign will be featured across New Jersey throughout 2019 and 2020, generating participation in the Knock Out Opioid Abuse initiative and raising awareness of how the opioid epidemic impacts every community in New Jersey and how every resident can be part of the solution.

AGENDA

Moderator: Angelo Valente, Executive Director, Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Welcome:

- Pam Capaci, CEO, Hope Sheds Light
- Rachel Goldberg, Manager, Implementation Behavioral Health Solutions, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey
- Alessandra Sophia Regenye, Girl Scout Cadette Silver Award Candidate, Toms River Resident

Panel Discussion: The Opioid Epidemic's Impact on Toms River

- Toms River Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher
- Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
- Heather Price, In Long-term Recovery, Volunteer Coordinator, Hope Sheds Light
- Rev. Susan S. Jones, Holy Cross Lutheran Church
- Beverly Prima, Hope Sheds Light

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PANELISTS



Mayor Thomas Kelaher

After stepping down from his five-year appointment as the Ocean County Prosecutor in June 2007, Thomas F. Kelaher won sworn into his first of three terms as Toms River's mayor on January 1, 2008. Mayor Kelaher has been a major force in Ocean County's community service and legal affairs, practicing as senior partner in the local firm Kelaher, Garvey, Ballou, Van Dyke and Rogalski. After graduating from St. Peter's Preparatory School, he received his bachelor of science degree in business administration from St. Peter's College in Jersey

City. He then studied at Seton Hall University School of Law and graduated with his Juris Doctor degree in 1960. While attending college, Mayor Kelaher enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1951 and reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island. He spent a total of 28 years of active and reserve duty in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, retiring in 1979 as a lieutenant colonel. Well-versed in hospital and health care matters, Mayor Kelaher served as a volunteer member of the Community Medical Center Board of Trustees for 25 years, 15 of which he acted as chairman of the board. While serving as chair, he helped oversee the consolidation of Community Medical Center and Paul Kimball Medical Center and then with the St. Barnabas Health Care System, which consisted of 10 hospitals, nearly 4,000 beds and a complex array of programs and services. Presently in his voluntary capacity, Mayor Kelaher is Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the St. Barnabas Health Care System. He and his wife, Carol, are the parents of four children, and they have eight grandchildren.



Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer

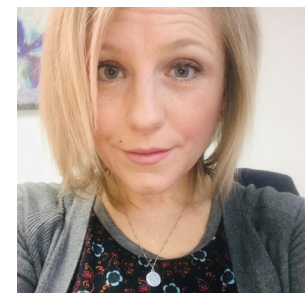
A native of Ocean County, Prosecutor Billhimer was sworn into office on October 9, 2018. He earned an associate's degree in general education from Ocean County College before transferring to Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and earning a bachelor of arts in political science in 1994. The prosecutor served as an intern in the Washington D.C. offices of then-United States Senator Frank Lautenberg in 1994. He attended Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware, where he was Vice President of the Student Bar Association, campus liaison for the American Bar Association

– Law School Division, and Vice President of the Sports & Entertainment Law Society. Prosecutor Billhimer earned his law degree in 2000, and was the recipient

of the Dean Arthur A. Weeks Outstanding Service Award for his graduating class. The prosecutor began his legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Barbara Ann Villano, J.S.C., in Ocean County for the 2000–2001 court term. Following his judicial clerkship, he worked as an associate with the Law Offices of S. Karl Mohel, and then as a partner in the Law Offices of Mohel & Billhimer in Toms River from September 2001 through February 2010. Prosecutor Billhimer opened his own private law practice in February 2010 with a focus on criminal defense litigation in both the superior and municipal courts. Additionally, he was an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure at Ocean County College from 2005 through 2018. The Prosecutor served two consecutive terms on the District IIIA Ethics Committee, as well as the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Character for applicants to the New Jersey State Bar. He is a former member of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointment Committee for the Ocean County Bar Association. He proudly served on the Board of Trustees for the Community Medical Center Foundation and the People's Pantry.

Heather Price

My name is Heather and I am a person in long-term recovery. I have not had a drink or a drug in 2 ½ years. I grew up in Manchester, N.J., and started using drugs when I was a teenager. I moved to California to be with my father, who passed away due to his alcoholism at the age of 45 when I was 23. I had two small children at the time and I was drinking and taking a lot of pills. Shortly after my uncle died of an overdose, I started using heroin. In 2009, after returning to New Jersey, I went to my first Narcotics Anonymous meeting and remained sober for about nine months in the program. I went back to California to be with my sons and began drinking and using drugs again. In November 2011, my aunt killed herself under the influence of alcohol. This experience drove me further into my addiction. I became pregnant with my third child and managed to stop using during my pregnancy, but as soon as I got home I started drinking again. At my lowest point, I was in a car accident with my boyfriend at the time with my daughter in the car. The Division of Child Protection and Permanency told I needed to go to treatment or lose my daughter. While I was in treatment, I received a notice that the state was taking custody of her. Thank goodness my parents were able to foster her. Losing my daughter to the state was my bottom. I knew I was at a crossroads and I am here to say that I chose recovery. In my fellowship, with the support of my family, friends and sponsor, I learned that I could not keep running away. I learned to hold myself accountable for my past actions in a forgiving way. I know now that addiction is a disease of the brain and it affects your behavior. Today, my daughter, Madison, and my oldest son, Nick, both live with me in Bayville. My son Zack continues to reside in California. I am in a loving relationship and a stepmom of his three children. I am blessed to work as the Volunteer Coordinator at HOPE Sheds Light, and I am excited to help grow and serve families. I am looking forward to changing the face of addiction and to let the world see my face of recovery.



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Rev. Susan S. Jones

Rev. Susan S. Jones serves as solo pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Toms River. The congregation is part of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. After a successful 25-year career in Engineering and Management, Pastor Sue followed a call to ministry and was ordained in February of 2011. Holy Cross is her second congregation but her first call as a lead pastor. As part of her ministry, Pastor Sue is passionate about being active in the community of Toms River and beyond. With this in mind she serves as Secretary of the Interfaith Clergy Association

of Greater Toms River, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Hope Center, as President of the newly formed Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition, and is active with a number of other community groups, including Hope Sheds Light. Addressing the opioid crisis, and addiction in general, are particularly near and dear to Pastor Sue's heart from both personal experience and in providing care to those impacted in her congregation and the community. She would love to see the day when she never again has to work with a family to bury a loved one as a result of addiction, and she is deeply committed to supporting accessible healing and recovery programs and services for all those afflicted with, or impacted by, this disease.



Beverly Prima

Beverly Prima is a resident of Toms River, NJ where she has lived for the past 37 years. Mrs. Prima is mother of three children one of whom struggled with substance use disorder for nine years before losing his life to a drug overdose on April 5, 2017. Beverly's husband is one of the co-founders of Hope Sheds Light, a Toms River-based nonprofit dedicated to helping other families impacted by the disease of addiction. Mrs. Prima volunteers a significant amount of time in service to her community. She is a member of the Hope Sheds Light Board of Directors,

a trained peer family support facilitators and co-facilitates a weekly grief and bereavement group assisting other families who have also lost a loved one to this disease. Beverly is also an active congregation member at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, in Toms River, where she serves on the Discipleship and Community Outreach committees. Beverly is the Marketing Director for Pr1ma Corporation, which is a family-owned and operated business also located in Toms River. In her spare time, Beverly enjoys caring for her horse and miniature donkeys on her homestead. She is a graduate of Glassboro State College with a degree in psychology specializing in family life studies.

A TOWN HALL SERIES

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Partnership for a
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**Wednesday,
September 25, 2019**
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 10 a.m.)

**Ocean County Library
Toms River Branch**
Mancini Hall
101 Washington St.,
Toms River, NJ 08753

Hear from local leaders about how the opioid epidemic is affecting your community and what can be done to address the crisis.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

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