



BRIGHTER DAYS

Behavioral Health Tips and Tools

August 2024

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. This month, we focus on The Brien Center's **Patrick Miller Youth Substance Use Prevention Program** and **International Overdose Awareness Week**. These initiatives are complimentary and intersect in their goals of reducing substance abuse and preventing overdose.



Patrick Miller Youth Substance Use Prevention Program

The Brien Center's Patrick Miller Youth Substance Use Prevention Program provides education, prevention, intervention, screening and outpatient services to address substance use and misuse among Berkshire County youth. Prevention services are available to all Berkshire County School Systems. For youth with substance use disorders, the Brien Center's treatment team provides comprehensive assessment, individual and group counseling, and intensive addiction treatment. Evidence base programming, such as the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA) are offered. Staff includes a psychiatrist and licensed counselors who are trained in both mental health and addiction treatment, with a specialty in adolescents.

About Patrick Miller

Patrick Miller was raised in a loving family that was devoted to his well being. He died of an accidental heroin overdose. According to a 2018 Berkshire Eagle editorial, "Little did grieving parents John and Rosaleen Miller know in 2005, when they created the Brien Center's Patrick Miller Youth Substance Use Prevention Program in memory of their son's death, that the program

they established would eventually become so critical to the welfare of Berkshire adolescents. Since then, the Brien Center's Miller Program has become the go-to agency for all matters involving youth drug treatment and prevention, and the center's evidence-based approach has proved to at least slow the increase of youth substance abuse where it has been implemented.”

[Visit our Website](#)



International Overdose Awareness Week

International Overdose Awareness Week, running from **August 26 to September 1**, with its key event on **International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31**, is a global campaign dedicated to reducing substance use and preventing overdose. This observance seeks to raise awareness about the severity and impact of drug overdoses, highlight the importance of harm reduction strategies such as naloxone distribution and supervised consumption sites, and provide education on substance use disorders. By hosting educational events, public forums, and memorials, the week aims to challenge the stigma associated with addiction, promote effective prevention and treatment approaches, and honor those who have lost their lives to overdose. Through these efforts, the campaign works to foster a more compassionate and informed response to the overdose crisis and enhance community support for individuals affected by substance use.

[Overdose-Prevention Information](#)

Events:

On behalf of the agencies and individuals involved with the Berkshire Overdose and Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC), we would like to

invite you to several upcoming events.

Overdose Prevention Standout

Thursday, August 29

12:00 – 1:00pm Park Square: Berkshire Harm Reduction and the BOAPC partners hold a “standout” to increase awareness of the risk of overdose, particularly the growing presence of fentanyl in cocaine and counterfeit pills. They will be educating and handing out naloxone, test strips and related materials. Signs will be available, and participants are encouraged to bring their own.

Remembrance Vigils: Saturday, August 31

NORTH ADAMS

6:00pm City Hall: The Brien Center's Have Hope Peer Recovery Center hosts a standout in front of City Hall with guest speakers and a walk through downtown to show support for those who have been impacted by overdoses in this community and around the world.

PITTSFIELD

6:30pm The Common: Living In Recovery hosts a memorial in The Common, followed by a processional to Park Square, in remembrance of the lives we lost and to honor the friends and family members left behind.

GREAT BARRINGTON

67 State Road: Rural Recovery Resource's South County Recovery Center hosts a vigil to remember those gone too soon and commit ourselves to preventing these losses. Time to be determined.

Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative

Thank you for reading our August edition! Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of young people and build a healthier, safer community. For more information about our programs, please visit our website.

[Visit our Website](#)



Make A Positive Impact

Together, we can make every day a brighter day!

[Donate Today](#)

Keep in touch!



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