

September: Addiction and Controlled Substances Community Forums

To Be Held Throughout Elk County

As a continuation of the community anti-drug programs held throughout Elk County over the past fifteen months, Shawn T. McMahon, Elk County District Attorney, Todd Caltagarone, Elk County Sheriff, and Alcohol Drug Abuse Services, Inc. (ADAS) in partnership with WDDH The Hound, the Ridgway Record, St. Marys Daily Press, and The Kane Republican shall be holding community forums throughout the month of September on the following dates and locations beginning at 6 P.M.:

Monday, September 11, 2017:	Ridgway Area High School
Tuesday, September 12, 2017:	Johnsonburg Area High School
Monday, September 18, 2017:	South St. Marys Street Elementary School
Wednesday, September 20, 2017:	Wilcox/Jones Township Municipal Building
Monday, September 25, 2017:	Bennetts Valley Elementary School
Wednesday, September 27, 2017:	Fox Township Senior Center

The purpose of the community forums is to allow the community the opportunity to provide vital input and suggestions on effectively addressing addiction and controlled substances use within our communities and county, ultimately, improving the health and safety of our communities and county. The impact of addiction and controlled substance use in our communities and counties is broad effecting individuals, families, neighborhoods, schools, employers, healthcare providers, treatment service providers, mental health service providers, the court system, law enforcement, correctional facilities, government agencies, taxpayers, the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government as well as local, county and state governments.

Given the broad effects and prevalence of addiction and controlled substances use in our communities and county, everyone in the community and county is a stakeholder and vital partner in effectively addressing the issue, consequently, it is important that everyone be engaged and participate in addressing the issue. The forums are intended to engage everyone in the community to participate in the dialogue of providing valuable and diversified input to effectively address the issue of addiction and controlled substances use within our communities and county.

Ultimately the input from the community forums shall be used to develop policies, assist treatment providers, schools, law enforcement, local and state governments and all stakeholders to effectively address addiction and controlled substances use within our communities and county.

The timing of such forums is most appropriate in the month of September given that it is National Recovery Month which is intended to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance abuse disorders.