



Families Against Narcotics

Your **connection** for information, resources, and support.

Northwest Wayne Families Against Narcotics 2021 Public Forum Schedule

January 4, 2021: What Kind of Addiction Treatment Do I Need? Home of New Vision founder and CEO Glynis Anderson and Home of New Vision Clinical Director Curtis Thornton will explain the state requirements that addiction treatment professionals utilize when assessing the appropriate level of care for individuals seeking addiction treatment. Home of New Vision is a comprehensive addiction treatment nonprofit located in Ann Arbor.

February 1, 2021: The Gift of Second Chances. We are excited to welcome Patty Steele, author of the book *The Gift of Second Chances*, as our forum speaker. Patty will share how her battle with addiction, which included a seven-year prison sentence, led to a renewal of hope and success in recovery. Today, Patty is a certified drug and alcohol counselor and a gifted public speaker who shares her story at numerous events and conferences, including a TED Talk in 2017.

March 1, 2021: Making Recovery Support More Accessible. At this forum, you will learn about the amazing FAN Comeback program, through which small teams of professionals reach out to overdose victims to offer recovery support. You will learn about the growth of FAN's Hope Not Handcuffs program, as well as the availability and benefits offered by FAN Peer and Family Recovery Coaches. Learn how YOU can get involved in these programs if you wish!

April 5, 2021: Surviving a Parent's Addiction. We are delighted to welcome Geri-Lynn Utter, a clinical psychologist who works with individuals struggling with drug addiction and severe mental illness. Geri-Lynn grew up with parents who were lifelong drug addicts in Kensington, Pennsylvania, where drug use and addiction is rampant. She is the author of *Mainlining Philly*, a book that tells the harrowing story of how she survived the grim alleys of Kensington to become a respected mental health professional. Geri-Lynn's unique insight into the nature of addiction gives her the tools to offer solutions for those struggling with addiction and the families who love them.

May 3, 2021: Legal Options for Individuals and Families Dealing with Addiction. What legal options are available to family members dealing with an addicted loved one? How have laws changed to benefit individuals seeking treatment or in early recovery? We will explore these topics at our May forum, including a complete explanation of the recent changes in the laws governing expungement of criminal records in Michigan.

June 7, 2021: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Addiction and Mental Health. In the 12 months ending May 2020, over 81,000 people died of drug overdose in this country, eclipsing the record 72,000 overdose deaths in 2019. Suicides, drug use, and alcohol use have all significantly increased since March 2020. Learn the mental health cost of the Covid-19 crisis, and how we can help those struggling to cope.

(See Reverse Side for More Public Forums)



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July 12, 2021: Prisoners and Addiction – Recognizing the Need for Treatment. At this forum, we will welcome experts from the Wayne County Jail and the Huron Valley Prison who will speak about how addiction is treated in Michigan’s jails and prisons. In 2019, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that Michigan would begin offering medication-assisted treatment to opioid-addicted inmates. Learn how this new program is unfolding, and the reasons behind its planned implementation.

August 2, 2021: Addiction in Adolescents. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Brian Spitsbergen, Director of Substance Use Disorder & Recovery Support Services at Wellspring Academy, Michigan’s FIRST Recovery High School. Wellspring Academy opened in January of this year. Dr. Spitsbergen will discuss the unique challenges faced by young people with substance use disorders in achieving and maintaining recovery, and the importance of recovery high schools to support that effort.

October 4, 2021: Addiction, Stigma, and the Media. At this forum, FAN Regional Director David Clayton will demonstrate the ways in which substance use disorder is unfairly stigmatized in the media, and the impact of that stigma on people needing addiction treatment and support. Former Troy Assistant Principal Amy Buchanan will tell her story of addiction and recovery, sharing how media attention during the lowest point in her life devastated her career and family relationships.

November 1, 2021: The Role of Trauma in Addiction and Treatment. Research has demonstrated that addiction and mental health disorders are often responses to trauma. What is trauma? And how does it impact substance use disorder? What is “trauma-informed care”? At this forum, experts will explain the role that trauma plays in substance use disorders, the incorporation of “trauma-informed care” into addiction treatment, and how trauma awareness can strengthen recovery.

December 6, 2021: Inspiration for the Holidays. Our last forum of the year will feature two amazing speakers whose journeys from prison to founding and leading two ambitious social change nonprofits will inspire you to work for change in your own community. Aaron Sukanuma is Executive Director of *A Brighter Way*, a mentoring and social support program for men and women returning from incarceration. Melvin Parson is Executive Director of *We the People Opportunity Farm*, which offers paid internships to men and women returning to the community from prison. Its mission is to break the cycle of incarceration in Washtenaw County by investing in the employment and development of formerly incarcerated men and women through farming and community engagement.