



Media Contact: Andy Weissberg, Director of Marketing & Communications, CN Guidance
aweissberg@centralnassau.org (347) 933-0273

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CN Guidance Launches New Program to Reduce Drug Overdoses Among Teens and Young Adults on Long Island

State-Funded Initiative Expands Access to Substance Use Treatment, Recovery Supports, and Overdose Prevention Services for At-Risk Youth Ages 12-24

HICKSVILLE, NY – CN Guidance & Counseling Services has launched a new community-based program designed to reduce drug use, overdoses, and related health risks among vulnerable teens and young adults across Long Island.

Funded through a **\$700,000 grant from the New York State Department of Health**, the initiative will provide outreach, engagement, treatment connection, and overdose prevention services to young people ages 12-24 who are experiencing substance use challenges and other adverse health outcomes.

The program utilizes a **mobile, field-based outreach model** that brings services directly into communities where young people are most at risk. Through trust-building interventions, peer support, and strategic community partnerships, the program will help identify youth and young adults in need and connect them to critical treatment, recovery, and prevention services.

Services will be delivered throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties using CN Guidance's specially equipped outreach vehicles, including its mobile RV and service truck. Trained staff will proactively engage adolescents and young adults in neighborhoods and areas with heightened rates of substance use and overdose activity.

Key program services include:

- Outreach and support for youth and young adults who have recently experienced an overdose
- Peer-based engagement by trained Peer Specialists with lived experience in recovery
- Follow-up support for individuals recently discharged from treatment and healthcare facilities to promote continuity of care
- Distribution of naloxone overdose reversal kits and overdose prevention education
- Connection to medical and behavioral healthcare services, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
- Assessment of unmet physical and behavioral healthcare needs and facilitation of connections to treatment supports



- Collaboration with schools, healthcare providers, community organizations, and other youth-serving partners to expand access to services and supports

For more than 50 years, CN Guidance has been a leading provider of behavioral health services on Long Island, operating more than 60 programs and employing over 400 staff members. The nonprofit organization works closely with healthcare providers, schools, government agencies, and community partners to support individuals of all ages and families affected by mental health and substance use disorders.

*"Many young people struggling with substance use face barriers that prevent them from accessing the care and support they need," said **Lindsay Ragona, Program Director at CN Guidance.** "By meeting youth where they are and building trusted relationships in the community, we can connect them to lifesaving resources, reduce overdose risks, and help them move toward healthier futures."*

*"We are deeply grateful to the New York State Department of Health for investing in this important initiative," said **Jeffrey Friedman, CEO of CN Guidance.** "This funding enables us to expand our outreach efforts and provide specialized services that can make a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable young people and their families across Long Island."*

For more information about CN Guidance and its programs, visit **cnguidance.org** or call **516-822-6111**.

About CN Guidance and Counseling Services: Serving children and adults with mental and emotional disorders since 1972, CN Guidance delivers NY-State licensed mental health and substance use treatment services to individuals and families, working in partnership with county government and other community services. With deep, localized knowledge of Nassau County and Suffolk County communities, a 24/7 crisis center, mobile fleet, telehealth capabilities, and a NY State Integrated Outpatient Services license, CN Guidance maintains an exemplary track record of delivering outreach and high-quality behavioral healthcare to more than 25,000 individuals per year. For more information, visit <https://cnguidance.org/>