



Woodstock Outreach Initiative Program

Town of Woodstock— Woodstock joins a shift in municipal policing policy aimed at ushering heroin and opiate addicts into recovery and treatment, rather than jail cells and courtrooms. The policy to establish an “ANGEL” Program models the Gloucester Initiative, instituted by Police Chief Leonard Campanello of the City of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and implemented by communities across the United States, including Police Chief Michael Covert of Cooperstown, New York.

Woodstock Police Chief Clayton Keefe, echoing sentiments expressed by other police officials, states, “Drug addiction is a disease, and drug addicts need help. The Woodstock Police Department will take direct action. The stigma associated with heroin and opiate addiction is over. Police officers are here to help you, not judge you. That said, this policy in no way diminishes the Police Department’s role in pursuing the arrest and conviction of those who sell narcotics. Woodstock police, using their own resources and those made available by other police agencies, will work to fight drug dealers.”

The Chief went on to say, “If you or anyone you know in the Town of Woodstock appears to be suffering from an overdose, please, do not waste time trying to hide evidence of drugs or drug paraphernalia; call 679 2422, Woodstock Dispatch, immediately and report a drug overdose. Qualified personnel will be dispatched immediately to try to save the patient’s life with Narcan. Under provisions of the Good Samaritan Law, the patient and those attending the patient will not be charged with a drug offense. Time is of the essence, call 679 2422 immediately.”

Under the Program:

Any person who enters the police station between the hours of 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM to request help with their addiction to opiates shall be deemed a participant, and will be immediately screened into the Woodstock Outreach Initiative Program. If a participant entering the police station requesting help is in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia (needles, etc.), the items will be seized and marked for destruction, but the participant will not be charged. Officers having contact with participants entering the Woodstock Police Department will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times. The attending Officer will immediately notify the Police Chief or his/her designee that a participant is requesting help with their addiction, pat down the participant for drugs or weapons, and then take the participant into the interview room or designated area. [NOTE: If an Officer makes initial contact with a potential participant in the community that Officer has the discretion to refer the individual to the Woodstock Outreach Initiative Program.]

- The Officer will perform a check for wants and warrants.
- Assuming the participant's record allows, an intake form shall be completed and a Program Participant Agreement shall be signed with the Police Department.
- Assuming the participant's record allows, the Officer shall contact the Angel on call.
- Program Participant Agreement shall be signed with the Police Department.
- If appropriate, the Officer shall then contact rehab facilities while awaiting the ANGEL. [NOTE: If the Officer is called away he will escort the participant to the Dispatch Lobby to await the arrival of the ANGEL.]
- The Police Chief or his/her designee will try to place the participant in a rehab working with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI).

Exceptions:

These are exceptions to the policy:

- The subject has an outstanding want or warrant.
- The Officer, the Chief of Police or his/her designee has a reasonable belief that the ANGEL could be harmed by the subject.
- The individual is under age 18.
- Notwithstanding the above, an Angel will be available to assist the participant.

PAARI Program:

The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the Gloucester Police addiction initiative, to aid other police departments to implement similar programs, and to foster a dialogue around the unique opportunity for police departments to take direct action against the disease of drug addiction in their communities. (Web Site at <http://paariusa.org>)

The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (P.A.A.R.I.) was started to support local police departments as they work with opioid addicts. Rather than arrest our way out of the problem of drug addiction, P.A.A.R.I. committed police departments:

- Encourage opioid drug users to seek recovery
- Help distribute life-saving opioid blocking drugs to prevent and treat overdoses
- Connect addicts with treatment programs and facilities
- Provide resources to other police departments and communities that want to do more to fight the opioid addiction epidemic.

Mission Statement:

For decades, municipal police officers have been on the front lines of the war on drugs. Until now, they have been solely called upon to attempt to disrupt an ever-increasing supply chain. That meant police officers often found themselves arresting drug addicts as much, if not more so, than drug dealers and traffickers. In most cases, the addicts were only guilty of possessing an illegal, life-ruining substance and they faced arrest, prosecution and prison terms. In the meantime, heroin and opioid addiction has become a severe public health concern in the United States, destroying and often ending lives.

In 2015, Gloucester, Massachusetts Police Chief Leonard Campanello developed a revolutionary new way to fight the war on drugs by doing something about the demand, not just the supply. Under his plan, drug addicts who ask the police department for help will be immediately taken to a hospital and placed in a recovery program. No arrest. No jail.

The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the Gloucester Police addiction initiatives, to aid other police departments to implement similar programs, and to foster a dialogue around the unique opportunity for police departments to take direct action against the disease of drug addiction in their communities. Working in conjunction with the medical community and science-based recovery programs, police departments can make a difference in their communities by saving lives from drug overdoses, reducing the number of drug addicts and opioid drug demand, thereby devaluing a seemingly endless drug supply.

We also work to remove the stigma associated with drug addiction, turning the conversation toward the disease of addiction rather than the crime of addiction. We work directly with treatment centers to secure scholarships and fully-funded in-patient programs for addicts while working with police departments, pharmacies, and families to put nasal Narcan into as many hands as possible, recognizing that while it is not a panacea, Narcan can save the life of an overdose patient and give that person another opportunity to get into treatment and fight their disease.