



# Community Coalition of Forest County

working together to identify and address community goals

[www.communitycoalitionofforestcounty.org](http://www.communitycoalitionofforestcounty.org)

715-478-7797

Issue 1 – February, 2018

## Drug Take Back

The Community Coalition of Forest County has been working with the Forest County Sheriff's Department to promote the National Drug Take Back Days that occur every April and October.

**In 2017, more than 160 pounds of prescription medications were collected at the Take Back events and from the permanent drop box at the Sheriff's Department.**

As a reminder, the Sheriff's Department has a permanent drug drop box that is available 24/7 in their lobby for community members to dispose of expired and unwanted medications.



### DOSE OF REALITY:

**More than 70% of people who abuse prescription painkillers get them through friends or relatives**

## Who are we?

The Community Coalition of Forest County (CCFC) is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that was formed in 2008 for the purpose of informing and engaging all age groups and cultures in our diverse county in a collaborative effort to measurably improve the health and well-being of our residents with a focus on substance abuse and prevention.

We meet monthly to make an impact in our community.



### Vision Statement

A healthy safe, substance free, literate community that empowers all to achieve their maximum potential.

### Mission Statement

The Community Coalition of Forest County shall inform and engage all age groups and cultures of our community in a collaborative effort to measurably improve the health and well-being of our residents with a focus on youth substance abuse and prevention

---

**The DOSE OF REALITY Prescription Painkiller Abuse Prevention, Education, and Awareness effort is a statewide call-to-action aimed at preventing Wisconsin residents from abusing and becoming addicted to prescription opioids (or narcotics).**

The Community Coalition received a Partnerships for Success grant to help combat the opioid crisis that is affecting our community, the state of Wisconsin, and the nation as a whole. Some of our efforts include bringing awareness to this crisis using **Dose of Reality** materials and information through billboards, movie theatre previews, hand outs, display boards at various health fairs and events in the community, and Healthy Living Pow Wows at local schools. To learn more about Dose of Reality visit [www.doseofrealitywi.gov](http://www.doseofrealitywi.gov)



### DOSE OF REALITY:

**In the U.S., prescription painkillers are involved with more overdose deaths than heroin and cocaine combined**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Free Overdose Prevention (Narcan) Training

To respond to the increase in opioid overdoses locally and statewide, the Community Coalition of Forest County is partnering with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin to provide free Overdose Prevention (Narcan) training to Forest County residents.

Staff of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin will lead the training.

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**  
in the Forest County Courthouse Board room.

The training is recommended for anyone at risk of an opioid overdose, friends and family of someone at risk, healthcare, social services, law enforcement and emergency response providers. Concerned community members are also encouraged to attend.

## "Written Off" Documentary

The Community Coalition of Forest County is currently making plans to bring "Written Off", a documentary featuring a former Crandon High School student who ended up addicted to prescription medications, and eventually died from a heroin overdose at the young age of 25.

"Written Off" reveals Matt's struggles and journey through his addiction in his own words through his journals.

Our coalition will be working with local partners to provide this documentary at different locations throughout the county. **Please stay tuned for future dates and locations.**

## National Drug Take Back and Sharps Collection

### Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

is National Drug Take Back Day.

The Forest County Sheriff's Department and the Community Coalition of Forest County are encouraging community members to clean out any expired or unwanted medications from their cabinets and bring them to the Sheriff's Department drop off that day.

**Reminder:** The Sheriff's Department has a 24/7 drop box in their lobby.

The Forest County Health Department will also be hosting a **Community Household Sharps Collection on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am – 5:00pm**

Please bring your sharps in a Sharps container or other puncture proof container (i.e. laundry detergent container). We cannot accept milk jugs or other non-puncture proof containers.

## How Can I Make a Difference?

Drug addiction is one of the greatest health epidemics of our time. Overdose deaths have more than doubled in the past 6 years and continue to rise, especially deaths attributed to opioid overdose. You may think there is nothing you can do, but there is.

1. Know the signs of addiction.
2. Educate yourself and those around you, especially kids

3. Support people in recovery or those seeking recovery.
4. Properly dispose of unused medications.
5. Encourage family and friends to lock up their prescription medications.

### What are opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, and morphine.

## Membership

Crandon Public Library  
Forest County Government  
Forest County Health Department  
Forest County Office on Aging  
Forest County Potawatomi Community  
Forest County Sheriff's Department  
Forest County Department of Social Services  
Forest County UW-Extension  
Kovar Consulting Company, LLC  
New Hope Shelter and Wasmogishek Food Pantry  
School District of Crandon  
School District of Laona  
School District of Wabeno  
Sokaogon Chippewa Community