

For Immediate Release
Lakes Region Substance Awareness Coalition
Media Contact: Cathy Finck
c_finck@icloud.com
(770) 356-4348

Chief Stillman To Attend PAARI National Law Enforcement Summit at Harvard

The Lakes Region Substance Awareness Coalition is happy to report that Rick Stillman, Bridgton's Police Chief, will attend the 2nd Annual Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI) National Law Enforcement Summit at Harvard University Medical School this week.

The PAARI summit is a one-of-a-kind gathering of law enforcement leaders, focusing on their collective work to stem the tide of America's opioid epidemic. Approximately 400 police leaders from 32 states and from agencies of all sizes will be in attendance at the summit. It will provide law enforcement leaders with a platform to share ideas on how to build upon, or launch, a pre-arrest recovery referral program that can provide lifesaving resources to individuals battling substance use disorders in their communities.

U.S. Surgeon General Vice Admiral Jerome Adams, Stephen McConachie U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, and Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker are some of the featured speakers for this years summit.

PAARI is a community policing movement aimed at creating non-arrest pathways to treatment and recovery, creating entry points to treatment, and lending voice to the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative. PAARI programs have saved thousands of lives, changed police culture, and reshaped the national conversation about the opioid epidemic.

Chief Stillman will join other law enforcement leaders who are working towards a collective vision where non-arrest diversion programs become a standard community policing practice, thereby reducing overdose deaths, expanding access to treatment, improving public safety, reducing crime, diverting people away from the criminal justice system, and increasing trust between law enforcement and their communities.

“We are so lucky to have Rick Stillman as Bridgton’s Police Chief. He’s also a founding Board member of the Lakes Region Substance Awareness Coalition and he has been instrumental in supporting collaborative efforts to stem the tide of opioid related public health and safety incidents in the Lakes Region”, said Dani Mooney, LRSAC Director. “This PAARI movement is a great fit with our coalition’s policy and enforcement goal and we look forward to hearing from Chief Stillman about what he learned at the summit at a future LRSAC meeting”, said Mooney.

LRSAC works to facilitate community action, create meaningful strategic partnerships, and recognize progress toward achieving community-wide prevention, treatment, policy and enforcement goals to help stem the tide of opioid tragedies. YOU can help! We want to hear from you if you have an idea or a success story to share! Follow us on Facebook at LRSACMaine, send us an email lrsacoalition@gmail.com, call us at 207-803-9987 or join us at one of our regularly scheduled monthly meetings, held the 2nd Thursday of each month from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Bridgton Municipal Complex, downstairs. (*Note: The December Annual Meeting has been moved to December 6th, same time, at Bridgton Municipal Complex, downstairs.*)

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