

WARREN COUNTY NEW YORK

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The Warren-Washington counties “Hometown vs. Heroin” organization has merged with the bi-county Community Services and Criminal Justice Task Force as the organizations look to combine their resources to offer more assistance to those struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues.

Recognizing that members of their organizations overlapped, the organizations have come together under the Community Services and Criminal Justice Task Force name. They merged shortly before the community shutdown that stemmed from COVID-19, and are working together as community treatment programs re-open during the pandemic.

“We have been meeting as a merged group since June and have had great participation, but we are still looking to engage more community members,” said Carrie Wright, co-chair of Community Services and Criminal Justice Task Force.

The pandemic temporarily halted a number of the programs that the organizations had been offering, but four key programs have resumed as gathering guidelines have been amended.

The Drug Treatment Court Outing Program, Adolescent Challenge Program, Alternatives to a Better Living Experience and The Hope and Healing Recovery Center are all up and running again to provide valuable services for those battling addiction.

“We wanted to highlight that programs are back open and that help does exist for all individuals,” said Allison Reynolds, assistant director for The Council for Prevention in Hudson Falls.

Below are updates on the four programs as they resume operations after pandemic-related shutdowns/slowdowns:

The Hope and Healing Recovery Center, located at 2 Maple Street in Hudson Falls, provides resources to build recovery capital, instill hope and help sustain long-term recovery. Staff provide virtual help as well as in-person assistance. Contact Hope and Healing at 518-480-5499.

Drug Treatment Court Outing Program offers therapeutic partnerships with local Drug Treatment Courts at the Glens Falls city and county level. Participants in the Glens Falls City Drug Treatment Court and the Warren County Drug Treatment Court participate in regular, free prosocial outings designed to support their recovery from addiction. These include guided activities such as hiking, rock climbing, yoga, and kayaking, which allow participants to rediscover strengths and develop new ones, connect with peers in a supportive environment, and identify meaningful avenues for lifelong sober recreation. Any questions about the program can be directed to Spencer Morris, the Adventure-Based Programs Coordinator at 518-746-1527.

Adolescent Challenge Program began in 2007 and is a combination of prevention and treatment services for Warren and Washington counties youth with substance use disorders, ages 13-18. During the program's four-month "cycle," teens will attend weekly group sessions, individual treatment with a LMSW, and enriching outings which vary in length, activity, and challenge. The program uses a strength-based model and is intentionally designed to use adventure experiences to foster social emotional learning and reflection, which help to overcome substance use disorders, addiction, and behavioral changes, and to inspire goal setting related to reducing substance use. It also addresses challenges in life at home, school, work, and in relationships. For more information, call (518) 747-8001, (518) 746-1527 or email caitlinrighi@councilforprevention.org.

A.B.L.E (Alternatives to Better Living Experience) is a partnership between the Baywood Center, Warren & Washington Association of Mental Health, Office of Community Services, and Adirondack Health Institute set up to help those who are incarcerated or at risk of being incarcerated. The program offers case management services directed for those with substance abuse and mental illness. Assistance is available for:

- Access to food
- Housing Options
- Treatment
- Transportation
- Employment
- Temporary Assistance
- Health Care

Referrals are preferred, and those who know someone who may benefit from the program can call 518-798-4221. Anyone can refer a client to this program, but most are referred through the jail staff, lawyers, or judges.