

New Bedford Area Chamber Addresses the Opioid Epidemic at the October Good Morning SouthCoast

The October edition of Good Morning SouthCoast! will focus on the opioid epidemic the community is currently facing. A panel of professionals and experts who have worked closely with the prevention and treatment of opioid abuse will interact with attendees and inform the audience as to how opioids are effecting both the community and businesses within the community. This extremely informative and relevant Good Morning SouthCoast! will be held on Thursday, October 20th at 7:30 am at the Waypoint Event Center in Downtown New Bedford and will be moderated by New Bedford's Chief of Police, Joseph C. Cordeiro.

The panel of experts and professionals will consist of

- Dr. Craig Longo, a local emergency department physician at St. Luke's and Dr. Michael Rocha, a Cardiologist with Hawthorn Medical Associates** who together co-founded the newly-formed Physicians to Prevent Opioid Abuse (PPOA). Dr. Longo, Dr. Rocha their colleagues and the PPOA have been a driving force behind bringing awareness to the opioid epidemic and the dire need to focus on alternative treatments and prevention of opioid abuse.

- Mr. Jeff Stone, the Director of Programs at the Massachusetts Health Council.** Mr. Stone was the Principal Researcher on the Massachusetts Health Council Report for the Governor's Opioid Addiction Working Group, "Local Approaches to the, Opioid Overdose Epidemic: How Massachusetts Communities Are Responding Today". This report shows the effects opioid abuse

has on communities throughout the state of Massachusetts.

- Ms. Valerie C. Samuels, Esquire, Posternak Blankstein & Lund LLP** who delivers informative lectures and presentations on Managing Opioid Addiction in the Workplace to both local and state wide audiences. Ms. Samuels will offer information on recognizing opioid abuse at work, and how it personally, professionally and legally effects the employer and employee.

- A representative from the newly implemented Gloucester Police Volunteer ANGEL Program for Addicts.** This program has proved to be successful in moving towards a proactive way to treat those addicted to opioids who are actively seeking help.

The event will bring to light new ideas, opportunities and programs that will help curve the ever growing opioid epidemic.

This popular breakfast series is a high-profile, fast-paced and educational program geared towards executives, senior managers, professionals and small business owners. Each of the programs has a business-oriented focus and features a popular speaker to present on a topic of interest to local businesses. The Good Morning SouthCoast! breakfast program is also a great way to network with other Chamber members!

The cost, which includes a buffet breakfast, is \$27.50 for members, \$55 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To reserve a seat for the Good Morning SouthCoast, please contact Deven Q. Tillman, Programs & Events Manager, at the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce at 508-999- 5231, ext 26 or **dtillman@newbedfordchamber.com**

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit business association based in the City of New Bedford, MA. Chartered in 1885, the Chamber serves nearly 1,000 member businesses of all sizes from virtually all industries in the ten communities of New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoissett, Marion, Rochester, Wareham,

and Westport. The Chamber supports and promotes the local business community through leadership in public advocacy, education, networking, information, and community development.