



City of Lewiston Press Statement September 1, 2021

Encouragement, resources, testimonials, and information will be the focus of “**Rally for Recovery**,” a September 18th event that will be hosted by the Lewiston Area Public Health Committee (LAPHC) in Kennedy Park, Lewiston. The LAPHC has been concerned about the number of opioid related deaths across the nation and decided to bring together different agencies that have a “*heart for recovery*.” Should there be inclement weather, the rain date is September 25th.

The free event is for those struggling with addiction, those in recovery from addiction, those who have lost a loved one to addiction, those seeking help for an addiction, and those who are providing support for a loved one.

During the 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. schedule, attendees will hear from individuals who are in recovery, individuals who have lost a loved one to an addiction, and a substance use disorder presentation by Dr. Paul Vinsel of Tri-County Mental Health Services (TCMHS), a physician prescriber for its Opioid Health Home Service in Lewiston. In addition to his work at TCMHS, Dr. Vinsel practices as an emergency department staff physician at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston and as the physician lead for the emergency induction medication assisted treatment program at Bridgton Hospital in Bridgton.

In addition, Maine Inside Out will perform, and Dave Bilodeau & Charlie Ames will provide musical selections. Taped testimonials will be available for viewing, and a tented area will be on site where individuals can decompress and talk with someone if in need.

Information and resources will be available at tables—which continue to grow in number—from Tri-County Mental Health, An Angel’s Wing, Groups Recover Together, Nar-Anon, Safe Voices, Recovery Connections, The R.E.S.T. Center, St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, Celebrate Recovery, God’s Plus, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, Healthy Androscoggin, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition, Maine Recovery Advocacy, Maine Rap, Blue Sky Counseling, Avalon Counseling, Journey Magazine, Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine, and the Lewiston Area Public Health Committee.

The Green Ladle food truck will be on site, and beverage/food donations have been made by Poland Spring, Dunkin – Main Street, An Angel’s Wing, and Pathway Vineyard Church. Recovery Connections is providing a dunk tank for the day so that attending children can enjoy dunking local school resource officers, law enforcement officials, and a representative from Tri-County Mental Health. The Lewiston Youth Advisory Council will also be providing face painting for children.

The Lewiston Area Public Health Committee, host of Rally for Recovery, was formed on June 7, 2016, by the Lewiston City Council. It is a public health advisory board to municipal elected officials on policy issues and works collaboratively with other municipal committees and community partners on issues related to public health. For more information about the Rally or the LAPHC, please call (207) 513-3018.

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