



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

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### MEDIA NOTICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2016**

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## **Substance Abuse Prevention and Peer Education Trainings Provided to Salem County Students**

*Salem, NJ-* A series of substance abuse prevention and peer education trainings will be provided through funding by the Salem County Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Drug and Alcohol Services, to six Salem County middle schools and high schools.

The trainings will include three evidence-based programs: Peer Mentoring, Peer Mediation, and Cross-Age Mentoring. The programs focus on the benefit of older students mentoring and educating younger students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, they highlight the importance of good character and decision making, while also empowering students to positively influence peer behavior within their schools.

“Education to prevent substance abuse among our children is of critical importance. These grant funds are proven to have an impact,” said Freeholder Bob Vanderslice, who chairs the County Health and Human Services Committee.”

“Our County Office of Drug and Alcohol Services has been very active in helping families in coping with substance abuse. They have offered NARCAN trainings and staged ‘Hidden in Plain Sight’ sessions at schools to help families see the signs of substance abuse,” said Julie Acton, Freeholder Director.

These substance abuse prevention and education trainings will be provided by Lori Tedesco Singley, of Educare, Inc. Ms. Singley is a certified prevention specialist and has been providing trainings to youth and adults for over 30 years.

Trainings are scheduled as follows:

September 20 – Upper Pittsgrove School, Cross-Age Mentoring

September 21 – Schalick High School, Cross-Age Mentoring

September 28 – Lower Alloways Creek School, Peer Assistance and Leadership

September 29 – Alloway School, Peer Assistance and Leadership

October 4&5 - Olivet School, Cross-Age Mentoring

November 1&2 – Penns Grove High School, Peers Making Peace

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