



MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Brenton Davis,
County Executive

Chris Carroll
Public Information Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2024

Media Contact: Chris Carroll
Phone: 814-860-0794
Email: ccarroll@eriecountypa.gov

ERIE COUNTY TO HOST FIRST RECOVERY WALK & CELEBRATION

ERIE, PA – In 2023, The Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse established itself as a Regional Recovery Hub. This initiative was funded by a grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programming (DDAP). Recovery Hubs, of which there are nine located throughout the state, aim to enhance resources for individuals in recovery and promote holistic recovery within communities.

The Recovery Hub recently conducted a thorough needs assessment regarding recovery support services in Erie County, partnering with Mercyhurst University's Thomas J. Gamble Civic Institute. This assessment is being used to inform our community's strategic recovery services plan aiming to bolster the local recovery community and related supports. To celebrate and unify the community, Erie County's Regional Recovery Hub will host its 1st Recovery Walk & Celebration on June 23, 2024. The event will take place at Perry Square (west side) from Noon to 4:00 PM. On-site sign-up for the Walk starts at 11:30 AM, with a Butterfly Release at Noon to honor loved ones lost to addiction. The Walk will proceed up State Street to 11th Street, returning to Perry Square for music, free food, family activities, and information from local Recovery and Social Service agencies.

Speakers:

Keynote speakers include Elizabeth Hirz and Robert Oliver from the Erie County District Attorney's Office and the Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative project (LETI). Additionally, several local Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) will share their personal and professional recovery journeys.

The event aims to reduce stigma, provide education, and support individuals and families impacted by Substance Use Disorders.

Event Details:

- Date: June 23, 2024
- Time: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Sign-up starts at 11:30 AM)
- Location: Perry Square (west side), Erie, PA
- Activities: Recovery Walk, Butterfly Release, Music, Free Food, Family Activities, Resource Information

About DDAP: The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) is committed to enhancing resources and support for individuals in recovery across Pennsylvania, promoting recovery within communities through strategic initiatives and partnerships.

About Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol: The Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol provides resources and support for individuals and families impacted by Substance Use Disorders, working to reduce stigma and promote recovery within the community.

Please contact the Erie County Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse for information on this event or to ask any questions.

Contacts:

Scott Coughenour, PhD, Erie County Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Director
SCoughenour@eriecountypa.gov

Jeanette Redenius, PhD, LSW, Erie County Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Program Director
JRedenius@eriecountypa.gov

Brandy Cortes, M.S., Erie County Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Regional Recovery Hub Lead Project Coordinator
bcortes@eriecountypa.gov

Kaylee Stone, MS, CADC, Erie County Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Regional Recovery Hub Project Coordinator I
kstone@eriecountypa.gov

###