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### **Local Coalition Provides Representation at National Conference**

Oceana County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (OSAPC) coordinator, Kortni Garcia, is recently visited Washington, D.C., and joined approximately 3,000 substance abuse prevention specialists and advocates from across the country for CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's) 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum.

"This was a great opportunity to learn new prevention skills from similar organizations from across the country. I was able to bring back new skills to the coalition to utilize in protecting our community from the harms of drug and alcohol abuse," says Kortni Garcia, MS, CHES, coalition coordinator. "This experience was energizing!"

CADCA's Forum provided many tools to improve the efforts of OSAPC – everything from how to prevent prescription drug abuse and the abuse of synthetic drugs and marijuana to how to create tobacco-free environments and develop policies to reduce underage drinking.

OSAPC first met in April of 2016. Throughout the last year the coalition worked to develop a five year strategic plan with the goal(s) to reduce the percentage of high school students using alcohol and marijuana and decrease the number of opiate related overdoses in Oceana County. The coalition has developed strategies to address these goals including: making alcohol and marijuana less attainable for youth, encourage parents to talk with their children about expectations when it comes to alcohol and other risky behaviors, reduce the number of opiate prescriptions written in Oceana County, increase education and availability on Naloxone, and increase the number of people receiving mental health services.

To learn more about knowledge and resources gained at the National CADCA Forum or the projects OSAPC is working on consider attending the coalition's next meeting:

Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Time: 8:00-10:00am  
Location: Hart Community Center

For more information about the Oceana County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition please contact Kortni Garcia at [kgarcia@dhd10.org](mailto:kgarcia@dhd10.org).

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