



WE ARE THE BCSO

Partner Profile

Even the best jail-based treatment can only go so far. The Barnstable County Sheriff's Office depends on our community partners to support formerly incarcerated people post-release.

One such partner, the Bourne Substance Free Coalition, comes to mind during this season of giving because the nonprofit gives resource bags to people leaving jail. The bags contain items for those lacking stable housing including warm socks, and toiletries. They also contain overdose prevention tools, namely Narcan and fentanyl test strips. Formerly incarcerated people are 12 times more likely to die of an overdose because their tolerance is so low when first released.

"It's a lonely time, they may not have support, so we want to make sure that they have the basics," said the Coalition's Executive Director Beth Griffin, an adjustment counselor at Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School. "We want them to know, 'The community cares about you, and here are some resources.'"

The Bourne Substance Free Coalition has been battling the opioid epidemic since 2010, when the early founders Retired Barnstable County Sheriff's Youth Programs Director Shaun Cahill, Retired Bourne Police Detective John Doble, and Griffin held a Narcan training and 100 people attended, Griffin said.

In 2015, members of the business community, fire department, law enforcement, schools, and parents of people with addictive disorders officially formed the Coalition.

The Coalition members are educated and engaged. They are key in deciding the best use of Bourne's Opioid Settlement Funds, which come to \$1.4 million through 2038. This is money allotted to every municipality in the Commonwealth through court settlements paid by the

pharmaceutical industry for its harmful sale and distribution of medications containing highly addictive opioids.

We are so thankful to the Bourne Substance Free Coalition's 25 engaged members. They are focused on prevention and care about those already addicted.