



June 14, 2017

Dear Community Members, Advocates, and Providers:

Mission Statement

To facilitate person-centered recovery by empowering people of all ages with behavioral health needs and developmental disability challenges to strengthen relationships, establish independence, and enhance their ability to improve their physical health and emotional wellbeing.

Board of Directors

Ascension

Christy Burnett
Becky Katz, Chair

East Baton Rouge

Dana Carpenter, PhD
Gerri Hobby
Victoria King
Virginia Pearson
Thomas Sawyer

East Feliciana

Kay Andrews
Barbara Wilson

Iberville

Kathy D'Albor
Rev. Louis Askins

Pointe Coupee

Laverne Aguillard
Gail Hurst

West Baton Rouge

Stacey Morales
Gary Spillman

West Feliciana

Amy Betts, Vice Chair
Sandi Record

Executive Director

Jan M. Kasofsky, PhD

At our next Behavioral Health Collaborative meeting, Capital Area Human Services will kick-off a community project to create a grassroots-driven response to the addiction crisis in Baton Rouge guided by the national advocacy group Facing Addiction. * Our community was selected through a competitive process as one of 15 cities to participate in this national initiative to positively affect alcohol and drug abuse locally through the efforts of the BH Collaborative.

Please make every effort to attend the meeting on Friday, June 23, 2017, 8:30AM to 10:30AM in Room 200 at 4615 Government Street, Building 2, Baton Rouge LA 70806.

The meeting will include a telephonic introduction to Michael King, National Director of Outreach & Engagement, and a Facing Addiction presentation of its mission, prior successes, roles, and the organizational structure for working together. We will focus on building the advocate base and identifying 2 to 5 individuals in targeted constituencies to serve as Captains/Leaders of constituency teams that consist of Recovery Advocates, Affected Families, Prevention Leaders, Law Enforcement, Faith Leaders, Business Community, Treatment Providers, and the Medical Community.

This project, through Facing Addiction, will work to secure increases in localized funding to adequately address the crisis, train advocates on proper organizational and advocacy techniques to reform the community's response, invest time and resources in communication opportunities with elected officials and other policy makers, provide media guidance to garner press and broadcast coverage to further highlight the solutions to the problem, and develop political strategies and aid community stakeholders in the development of an overarching "campaign strategy."

Since 2004, the BH Collaborative has been responsible for many successful initiatives including police de-escalation training for over 1000 officers, prenatal substance use screening and intervention, integrated disaster response team development and deployment, jail in-reach placing social workers in EBR Parish Prison and re-entry connection to treatment services, and crisis systems development and implementation responses to disasters including the highly successful Mental Health Emergency Room Extension (MHERE) at EKL Hospital. I intend for this initiative to empower our community to fully accept the challenge of addressing the addiction epidemic that we are currently experiencing.

I look forward to initiating this work together with you on June 23rd at 8:30AM.

Sincerely,


Jan M. Kasofsky, PhD, Executive Director

*Facing Addiction is a national non-profit organization dedicated to unifying the voices of the more than 45 million Americans and their families directly impacted by addiction. Facing Addiction is bringing together the best resources in the field to reduce the human and social costs of addiction, every year, until this public health crisis is eliminated. The organization was launched in historic fashion on October 4, 2015, in front of tens of thousands on the National Mall at the "UNITE to Face Addiction" rally and concert, and recently was co-sponsor of the launch of the U.S. Surgeon General's seminal report on the addiction crisis in America, in Los Angeles this past November.

CAHSD is proud to be nationally recognized and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities



Outpatient Treatment: Alcohol and Other Drugs/Addictions (Adults)
Outpatient Treatment: Alcohol and Other Drugs/Addictions (Children and Adolescents)
Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Adults)
Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)
Residential Treatment: Alcohol and Other Drugs/Addictions (Adults)

4615 Government Street, Building 2 • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Telephone (225) 922-2700 • Fax (225) 362-5319

www.cahsd.org

"Equal Opportunity / Equal Access Employer"