

Independent Perspective #1918

Lockport Overdose Awareness Day Rally with Erin Zych and Doug Bischer

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:00:05 Speaker 1

I'm your host, Tracy LeBlanc, Chief Community Engagement Officer at Western New York Independent Living.

00:00:11 Speaker 1

International Overdose Day is observed globally on August 31st each year.

00:00:18 Speaker 1

It is the world's largest annual campaign to remember loved ones lost, acknowledge the grief of family and friends, and spread awareness about evidence-based overdose prevention to save lives.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

In recognition of the day, the team from Addict to Addict at Independent Living of Niagara County are hosting an Overdose Awareness Day rally on August 31st in the city of Lockport.

00:00:42 Speaker 1

Joining us today to talk about the upcoming Overdose Awareness Day Rally in Lockport are ILNC Recovery Peer Services Coordinator Erin Zych and Addict to Addict Peer Support Specialist Doug Bischer.

00:00:56 Speaker 1

Welcome to the show.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

Glad to be here.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:01:00 Speaker 3

Thank you so much.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

This is your 10th year hosting the Overdose Awareness Rally in Lockport.

00:01:05 Speaker 1

So, let's start with the discussion with a basic overview of what the rally is and how it got started.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

Absolutely.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

So, it's hard to believe that we're celebrating the 10th annual International Overdose Awareness Day rally here in Lockport.

00:01:19 Speaker 2

And what started as a small gathering of people who had been impacted by addiction and overdose has grown into

00:01:25 Speaker 2

what I would say is the largest community awareness event in Niagara County, undoubtedly.

00:01:30 Speaker 2

The Rally was created to honor those that we've lost to overdose, support the families and friends who continue to grieve, celebrate the lives of those in recovery, and educate our community about prevention, treatment, and hope.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

Over the past decade, we've watched our community come together in incredible ways.

00:01:48 Speaker 2

We've seen people who once attended seeking help now return several years later, year after year,

00:01:54 Speaker 2

sharing their own stories, and that's what this event is really all about.

00:01:58 Speaker 2

Remembering, educating, reducing stigma, and reminding people that recovery is possible and they're not alone.

00:02:06 Speaker 1

Can you give us an overview of what activities will take place during the event?

00:02:10 Speaker 2

Absolutely.

00:02:11 Speaker 2

There's truly something for everybody, even if they think that they might not leave with more resources when they got there.

00:02:17 Speaker 2

We'll have community agencies from across Western New York providing

00:02:21 Speaker 2

a plethora of information about treatment, recovery support, mental health services, housing, veteran services, family supports, and many other community resources.

00:02:32 Speaker 2

Throughout the evening, we'll even hear from guest speakers who have their own lived experience, family members who have been impacted by overdose themselves, and professionals working every day to save lives and impact people.

00:02:44 Speaker 1

Narcan training is one of the opportunities offered at the event.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

Can you tell us what Narcan is and what the training entails?

00:02:51 Speaker 3

Of course.

00:02:52 Speaker 3

Narcan is the brand name for naloxone, which is a medication that can rapidly reverse an opioid overdose.

00:02:58 Speaker 3

It's safe, easy to use, and has saved hundreds of thousands of lives across the country and several throughout here in Niagara and Erie County.

00:03:04 Speaker 3

During the training, participants can learn how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose,

00:03:09 Speaker 3

how to properly administer Narcan, what to do while waiting for emergency responders, and why it's so important to always call 911 first, even after Narcan is given.

00:03:19 Speaker 1

What can you tell us about the remembrance table at the event?

00:03:22 Speaker 3

The remembrance table is one of the most meaningful parts of the evening.

00:03:25 Speaker 3

Families are invited to bring photographs or memorial items honoring loved ones they have lost to overdose.

00:03:31 Speaker 3

Throughout the event, people quietly visit the table, read the names, look at the pictures, and remember the lives behind the statistics.

00:03:38 Speaker 1

Why is it important that we hold an event like this one annually?

00:03:42 Speaker 2

That's a great question, Tracy.

00:03:44 Speaker 2

It's because addiction doesn't take a year off or a day off, and neither should our efforts to educate our community to support those in recovery and family members and bring more hope to our community.

00:03:55 Speaker 1

Great.

00:03:56 Speaker 1

Can you remind us again of the date, time, and place for the event?

00:03:59 Speaker 3

Of course.

00:04:00 Speaker 3

Everyone is invited to join us for the 10th annual International Overdose Awareness Day Rally.

00:04:05 Speaker 3

on Monday, August 31st at Veterans Memorial Park in Lockport.

00:04:09 Speaker 3

And that's 400 East Ave.

00:04:11 Speaker 3

Lockport, New York, 14094.

00:04:14 Speaker 3

The event is completely free and open to the public.

00:04:16 Speaker 3

Whether you're in recovery, supporting someone you love, honoring someone you've lost, or simply want to learn more, we'd love to have everyone join us.

00:04:24 Speaker 3

For any more information, please contact Addict to Addict at 716-398-4333 or follow the Lockport International Overdose Awareness Day rally on social media for events.

00:04:36 Speaker 3

Together we can remember those we've lost, support those still struggling, celebrate recovery, and continue building a healthier, stronger community.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

Great.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

Well, that's all the time we have for this week.

00:04:47 Speaker 1

Thank you for joining us.

00:04:48 Speaker 1

And thank you for tuning in to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:04:55 Speaker 1

Today's guests were ILNC Recovery Peer Services Coordinator, Erin Zych, and Addict to Addict Peer Support Specialist, Doug Bischer.

00:05:05 Speaker 1

And I have been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.