Farmingville, NY – The heroin epidemic is a growing issue that has spread throughout the country and in Suffolk County, more people are dying from heroin overdoses than any other county in New York State. According to a recently released New York State report, 337 people died from heroin related overdoses in Suffolk County between 2009 and 2013. The Bronx was second during this same time period with 216 heroin related overdoses. In order to help residents combat this issue, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilman Michael Loguercio and the Brookhaven Youth Bureau held a NARCAN Training Program on June 7 at Brookhaven Town Hall.

For the first hour of the program, several agencies spoke to residents and provided information and resources regarding drug and alcohol abuse. In the second hour, employees from Suffolk County EMS educated residents about what an opioid overdose is, how to recognize signs and symptoms of an overdose, and how to administer Nasal NARCAN; a medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose. They also explained what to do until EMS services arrive. After the training portion of the program, those who participated were provided with a NARCAN packet.

If you or anyone you know is suffering from drug and alcohol related issues, please call the Brookhaven Youth Bureau at 631-451-8011. Licensed professionals will provide information and referrals for those in need of help.

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