

## **The BAY Team JOINED 2700 COMMUNITIES LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AT CADCA'S 25<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM**

*Learned new skills to reduce teen drug use in Barrington*

**Barrington, RI** – Representatives from the BAY Team joined nearly 2,700 substance abuse prevention specialists and advocates from across the country at Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual [National Leadership Forum](#), the nation's largest and premier training event for substance abuse prevention and treatment professionals and researchers. CADCA's National Leadership Forum took place Feb. 2-5 in National Harbor, Md.

"We were so excited to be able to spend several days with other similar organizations from across the country, learning and honing our prevention skills so we can improve our community," said Kathy Sullivan, Prevention Director. "We came back reenergized with new strategies to tackle drug use in Barrington."

CADCA's National Leadership Forum featured nearly 80 courses to help participants learn effective strategies to address drug-related problems in their communities. Training sessions addressed some of the most pressing issues facing communities today – from how to prevent prescription drug abuse and marijuana use among youth to how to reduce tobacco use and underage drinking.

The BAY Team was also awarded the "Coalition in Focus" award. The BAY Team was presented a "Coalition in Focus Award" for successful outcomes in reducing underage drinking. By using environmental strategies, the coalition has shifted the inaccurate perception among youth that most of their peers drink. The community has had a 36% increase in youth reporting difficulty accessing alcohol and past 30-day alcohol use decreased by 30% for high school students and 50% for middle school students between 2007 and 2013.

The coalition has recently impacted the community by creating new communication tools for parents with elementary school age children in the form of a healthy recipe card series with prevention tools on the back. The group produces monthly prevention tips for parents and developed the Barrington Challenge, a conversation starter tool for parents to speak with teens about the risks of youth marijuana.

The coalition also met with Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Congressman Cicilline at the CADCA Forum's Capitol Hill Day event on Wednesday, Feb. 4 to educate them about effective ways to reduce substance use and abuse, and about the importance of community-based prevention.

***The BAY Team's mission is a community coalition with a mission to create a safe and healthy community through communication and collaboration.***

###

February 2-5, 2015