

LUNCH 'N LEARN VIRTUAL MEETINGS

PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT April 5, 2024

SEK Recovery Resources, a project of Thrive Allen County, will host a virtual series of speakers on substance use disorder topics of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. The Lunch 'n Learn virtual meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays in May, from 12-1 pm CST. Each meeting will focus on a specific topic and feature a guest speaker.

- On May 8, the topic will be 'Prevention' and the guest speaker will be from Johnny's Ambassadors.

Johnny's Ambassadors is on a mission to educate teens, parents, and communities about the dangers of today's high-THC marijuana on adolescent brain development, mental illness, and suicide. They focus on youth marijuana awareness, prevention, and education. Their goals are to keep youth from using marijuana and increase their perception of harm in using.

- On May 15, the meeting will cover the 'Treatment' topic, Neurobiology of Addiction, Stigma and Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), and will be addressed by Dr. Fred Rottnek, MD, MAHCM, as a speaker representative with the Opioid Response Network (ORN).

Dr. Fred Rottnek, MAHCM is a Professor and the Director of Community Medicine at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and the Program Director of the Saint Louis University Addiction Medicine Fellowship. His clinical practices currently include addiction medicine and correctional healthcare. He teaches in the School of Medicine, the Physician Assistant Program, and the School of Law. Board-Certified in Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine, he is the Medical Director for the Assisted Recovery Centers of American (ARCA) and Juvenile Detention in Family Court for the City of St. Louis. He serves on the boards of the Saint Louis Regional Health Commission, the ARCHway Institute, and Alive and Well Communities.

- The meeting on May 22 will focus on 'Recovery' and the speaker will be Seth Dewey.

Seth has been an advocate for social change in the substance use arena since 2017. He is a co-founder of the Kansas Recovery Network, a grassroots Harm Reduction coalition and has been working in public health since 2020. His passion revolves around the health, rights, and well-being of people who use drugs, people in recovery (no matter the path), and for the populations disproportionately affected by substance use due to the antiquated policies surrounding the issue. Seth is actively involved in recovery housing efforts including serving as the Oxford House World Council Chairman. Recently he was appointed to the Governors Behavioral Health Services Planning Committee for the State of Kansas. Seth is a student at Fort Hays State University pursuing his BS in organizational leadership.

The meetings can be accessed via Zoom using the Meeting ID: 864 6894 9978 and Passcode: 3806008. For any queries, contact April at 620-380-6008 or email april@thriveallencounty.org.

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