



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SARATOGA COUNTY WELCOMES NATIONAL SPEAKER STEPHEN HILL TO AREA SCHOOLS TO TALK ABOUT ADDICTION**

*Presentations made possible as part of Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Commitment to Addressing the Opioid Epidemic Through Prevention, Education, Treatment, and Response Efforts*

BALLSTON SPA, NY – Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr. today announced the Board is providing area high schools with a special presentation by renowned national speaker, Stephen Hill. Hill will share his personal story of addiction and redemption with students at Ballston Spa, Corinth, Saratoga Springs, and Schuylerville High Schools.

Hill will spend two days in Saratoga County, presenting on November 1<sup>st</sup> to Ballston Spa High School students at 8:45am and to Corinth High School students at 1:25pm and presenting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saratoga Springs High School students at 8:15am and to Schuylerville High School students at 12:45pm.

Stephen Hill is the founder of Speak Sobriety, a young person in recovery, bestselling author, recovery coach, and a defense attorney. He is a renowned national speaker on substance use prevention & mental health awareness with a truly inspiring comeback story that everyone must hear. Stephen has presented in front of thousands of people for more than 500 schools, drug free community coalitions, alliances, and organizations across the country, sharing his cautionary tale of addiction to recovery and beyond, leaving people better educated, feeling hopeful, and motivated to make smart choices and positive change.

Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr. (Moreau), Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman said, “We are proud to bring Stephen Hill’s cautionary story to high school students in Saratoga County as part of our ongoing efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. We hope through educating our young residents about the dangers of drug use, we can prevent more people from succumbing to the perils of addiction. I thank our participating schools for allowing us to provide Stephen’s inspiring presentation to Saratoga County teens.”

(more)

Supervisor Phil Barrett (Clifton Park), Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Health and Human Services Committee said, "Saratoga County is addressing the opioid epidemic through multiple prevention, education, treatment, and response efforts. By providing area schools with engaging presentations like Stephen's true-life story of addiction and recovery, we hope Saratoga County teens will better understand the consequences of drug use and be empowered overcome challenges and temptations they may encounter. I thank our participating schools for hosting this important presentation."

Saratoga County is utilizing a multi-department approach to address the opioid epidemic through prevention, education, treatment, and response efforts and continues to make investments in a wide range of programs, equipment, and professional personnel to help communities battle the harmful grip of drug addiction that affects every municipality.

Some initiatives to address the opioid epidemic include:

- Meeting with families and advocates to better understand their needs and priorities, which has aided in developing programs and services for County residents.
- Establishing Family Navigator and Certified Recovery Peer Advocate positions in partnership with the Prevention Council.
- Conducting 21 Naloxone training events throughout the County, distributing more than 5,000 Narcan Rescue Kits and training more than 1,000 individuals.
- Distributing Naloxboxes throughout the County in areas with a higher need for Naloxone as identified by the County's Substance Use Surveillance Dashboard.

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