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**Commonwealth Prevention Alliance Celebrates Virtual PA Prevention Week**

*Online events* for communities to come together to celebrate their successes and advocate for prevention

**STATE COLLEGE, PA (April, 2020)** - [The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance](#) (CPA), a private non-profit whose mission is to support prevention professionals in PA in eliminating substance abuse and risk-related behaviors, is proud to announce [PA Prevention Week](#) taking place through [virtual events](#) from May 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 2020. The effort — part of National Prevention Week (NPW) hosted by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) — is an annual public education platform that promotes prevention year-round through providing ideas, capacity building, tools, and resources to help individuals and communities make substance use prevention happen every day.

Each year around this observance, communities and organizations across the country come together to raise awareness about the importance of substance use prevention and positive mental health. Throughout the week events will encourage and equip individuals and prevention specialists to advocate in their communities for the importance of primary prevention programs, PA Youth Survey, policies, and practices to prevent substance use issues. Providers and coalitions will be provided with tools and resources to plan an implement local advocacy or community events virtually.

“PA Prevention Week aims to promote prevention year-round through providing ideas, capacity building, tools, and resources to help individuals and communities make substance use prevention happen every day,” says **Jeff Hanley**, CPA Executive Director. “While we are unable to gather together in person, we are pleased to host and support virtual events that will further our cause and keep prevention on top of mind during this time.”

Alongside partners including Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS), the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center at Penn State; and the Pennsylvania Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators, CPA will facilitate online conversations with a state leader and preventionist working in the field. Other virtual activities that prevention professions can plan and facilitate in their communities include:

- Contact city or borough council members and county commissioners to draft a proclamation recognizing May 11-15 as National Prevention week in PA
- Staff Skills Training about a topic relevant to your community and to share the 2019 PAYS data results
- Virtual Leadership Call inviting your county and community leaders to participate in a virtual call that highlights prevention and PAYS data results
- Involve **communities** in raising awareness of substance use and mental health issues and in implementing prevention strategies, and showcasing effectiveness of evidence-based prevention programs

“EPIS encourages prevention program providers and coalitions to connect with their local policy makers to share local success stories and outcomes data,” said **Roger Spaw**, *Evidence Based Practices (EBP) Project Manager* Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, Penn State University, Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS).

To learn more about PA Prevention Week and its virtual events, please visit

<https://commonwealthpreventionalliance.org/pa-prevention-week/>.

**About The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance**

CPA is a member-driven, grassroots organization whose mission is to support prevention professionals in eliminating substance abuse. We are a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Since 1976, CPA has kept the needs and concerns of the prevention professional and the field of substance abuse prevention as its key focus, and today it continues to be the foremost voice for prevention in Pennsylvania.