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Five Counties Come Together for Hope in Recovery

Easton, MD, September 14th, 2024 - Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. (MSBH), in collaboration with Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot County health departments, successfully hosted the fifth annual "The Mid-Shore is Going Purple Together" event on Saturday, September 14th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Preston, MD. Going Purple Together (GPT) once again provided a supportive space for the community to unite in promoting recovery from substance misuse.

Free and open to the public, GPT welcomed individuals in recovery, those seeking recovery, families and friends who have lost loved ones to overdose, and anyone wishing to show their support. This year's event featured speakers from the recovery community, free food for the first 200 attendees, music, games, raffles, behavioral health resources, and more! Attendees also had the chance to win exciting giveaways, including Lego Sets, a Yeti Cooler, a Kitchen Mixer, and a children's ride-on car.

Aligned with the 2024 National Recovery Month theme, "The Art of Recovery," the event encouraged attendees to recognize that recovery is not a linear process and that while the

journey looks different for everyone, recovery is possible for all. Going Purple Together highlighted powerful personal stories of recovery through motivational speakers and an interactive exhibit run by peers in recovery

MSBH was proud to host over thirty resource vendors and many attendees, including key local officials. Among them were Bill Webb, Kent County Health Officer; Roger Harrell, Dorchester County Health Officer; Savannah Winston, Mayor of Preston; and Caroline County Commissioners Larry Porter, Travis Breeding, and Franklin Bartz. Their presence, along with Caroline County Sheriff Donald Baker; Sloane Franklin, State's Attorney and Chair of the LDAAC; and Dana and Tammy Stofa from the Public Defender's Office, highlighted the importance in supporting recovery efforts in the community.

When asked about the event, Ashley Strazza, CPRS, RPS, Recovery, Crisis, & Services Supervisor at MSBH stated: "Substance use, misuse, and abuse affect countless individuals across our region, and the stigma that surrounds it can be overwhelming—not just for those using drugs, but for their loved ones, friends, and neighbors as well. The 'Going Purple Together' event brought the community together to break down that stigma and reinforce the message that recovery is possible. This event is rapidly becoming a cherished tradition on the mid-shore, where we not only honor those in recovery but also provide critical resources and peer support to individuals seeking their own path to recovery."

Each year, the GPT event rotates to another mid-shore county. Next year look for the Mid-Shore is Going Purple Together in Queen Anne's County. More information about The Mid-Shore is Going Purple Together and other Go Purple events can be found at www.midshorebehavioralhealth.org/training-and-events/midshore-goes-purple.

As the Core Service Agency for the mid-shore, MSBH's mission is to continually improve the provision of behavioral health services for residents of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties through effective coordination of care in collaboration with consumers, their natural support systems, providers, and the community at large. For more information about MSBH, visit www.midshorebehavioralhealth.org.

MSSBH Staff Member Trish Todd helps event attendees decide which raffle prize they want.



Event attendees enjoy making balloon animals and bracelets with MSBH staff members Sarah Fegan, Shannon Joyce, and Lisa Short.





From left to right: Michelle Dahlman, owner of Shore Love Cleaning Service; Ashley Strazza, CPRS, RPS, Recovery, Crisis, & Services Supervisor at Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc.; DJ Dave, Group Facilitator and Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist; Katie Dilley, LCSW-C, Chief Executive Officer at Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc.; Sloane Franklin, State Attorney for Caroline County Circuit Court; Nichole Meredith, Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist for Caroline County Behavioral Health and Grace Street; Lulu Garland, Interpreter (Haitian Creole); Kristie Thompson, Peer Recovery Support Specialist at Caroline County Safe Station; Larry Porter, Caroline County Commissioner; Jessica Tuel, MSW, LCSW-C, Director of Behavioral Health, Caroline County Local Addiction Authority.