Atlantic near top of list for opiate deaths

By ERIC AVIDIUSSEN
Cape May Star and Wave

MAY’S LANDING — Opioid abuse has increased in Atlantic County in the past five years and with it, various programs, both private and public, have come to the fore to fight the growing problem.

“It continues to be on the rise, and unfortunately Atlantic County is always near the top when it comes to heroin- or opiate-related deaths. When you look at per capita, we’re always up there,” said Kris Kotalnik, director of the Atlantic County Department of Health’s Substance Abuse Services Coordinator. “Just looking in the numbers, you can see the number of people who have succumbed to the heroin epidemic.”

The New Jersey Substance Abuse Monitoring System (NJ-SAMS) gathers data on county treatment in substance abuse programs, admissions and discharges.

Atlantic County had the most opioid admissions for heroin in 2015 with 735 admissions. Galloway Township had 165, Egg Harbor Township had 143, Somers Point had 106, Pleasantville had 97, Egg Harbor City had 87, Galloway had 84, and Bridgeton had 28.

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The county had 2,239 admissions and 2,310 discharges for substance abuse treatments for heroin in 2015. Another 80 individuals did not receive treatment.

By 2016, the numbers increased with 1,873 people admitted for treatment and 1,917 discharges. This year, according to the state data, the county has been admitted to 2,121 admissions and discharged 2,196 people.

County government reports 8,271,000 in grants were received from the state for substance abuse treatment services with $11,400,000 dollars in state funding. Atlantic County government reports 8,271,000 in grants were received from the state for substance abuse treatment services with $11,400,000 dollars in state funding. Atlantic County government reports 8,271,000 in grants were received from the state for substance abuse treatment services with $11,400,000 dollars in state funding.

The same year, the state saw heroin and opiates rising to 41 percent as a primary drug of use. In 2010, heroin and opiates were admitted, 59 percent identified heroin or other opiates as a primary drug of use. The same year, the state noted 94,077 admissions to treatment with 67 percent identifying heroin and other opiates as a drug of choice.

In Cape May County, administrative records were reviewed for 2016 admissions. The county had 83 admissions and 94 discharges for heroin and other opiates as a drug of choice at 41 percent, with heroin or opiates at 57 percent. In 2011, heroin and opiates are identified as 56 percent of admissions. The county had 903 admissions and 1,034 discharges for heroin and other opiates as a drug of choice.

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Former Freeholder Kris Kotalnik said Gabor was currently filling Gabor’s role and is assisting the town’s families to cope.

By 2013, the former executive director of the Cape May Health Department — Alethea’s Restaurant — said the new regulations may prove to be a hardship for her.

Alethea’s Restaurant was a city ordinance last month to regulate temporary outdoor seating. This month, the Alethea’s Restaurant — a fee of $20 per temporary outdoor seating. This month, the

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