



## **FED Up! Coalition committee members**

### **Chair, FED UP! Coalition to End the Opioid Epidemic**

#### **Judy Rummler – Founder and President, Steve Rummler Hope Foundation**

Judy is the mother of Steve Rummler who died on July 1, 2011 of an accidental drug overdose. Steve had suffered with chronic pain for fifteen years and had become addicted to the medications that were prescribed to him for his pain. Shortly after Steve's death, Judy and her husband Bill founded the Steve Rummler Hope Foundation whose mission is to heighten awareness of the dilemma of chronic pain and the disease of addiction and to improve the associated care process. Judy received her B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and had a career as a Certified Financial Planner. She has served in many nonprofit capacities in both Minnesota and Florida, including as Chair of the Methodist Hospital Foundation (now the Park Nicollet Foundation) and as Chair of the Colonial Church of Edina Foundation. In her role as President of the Steve Rummler Hope Foundation, Judy has been widely recognized for her efforts to increase awareness of the epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths. She is passionate about finding ways to improve care for the many who are currently suffering with chronic pain and the disease of addiction. She is an advocate for needed changes in legislation and policy and a supporter of education on responsible opioid prescribing.

### **Chair, FED UP! Rally Steering Committee**

#### **April J. Rovero - Founder/CEO, National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse (NCAPDA)**

On December 18, 2009 April and her family received word that her 21-year old son and college student, Joey, had died in his off-campus apartment of what was later determined to be an accidental prescription drug overdose. This devastating loss led to the founding of NCAPDA just a few months after Joey's death. NCAPDA's efforts are focused on reducing prescription drug addiction and overdose deaths through community education, legislative advocacy and policy change on all levels. April has worked to educate thousands of youth and adults in numerous settings. She has testified in state and federal legislative and other hearings and worked with SAMHSA to define how prescription drugs are being abused on college campuses. She leads her county's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition, is a co-lead of California's Prescription Drug Abuse Work Group and leads the San Ramon Valley Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force. April and her family have been featured in several documentaries and numerous newspaper, magazine, radio and TV segments, including The Doctors program in 2012. April has received multiple recognition awards for her community service efforts. She views one of her organization's greatest accomplishments as having been instrumental in the establishment of March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month throughout California. She believes that every overdose death and addiction is avoidable has dedicated her life to helping other families not suffer the tragic loss hers has.

#### **Barbara Allen – Executive Director, James Place, Inc**

#### **Daniel Busch, M.D. -**

#### **Karen J. Carlini, CASAC – Dynamic Youth Community, Inc.**

Karen Carlini is Associate Director of Dynamic Youth Community, Inc., a New York State licensed and funded adolescent drug rehabilitation program dedicated to the comprehensive treatment of adolescent alcohol and substance abusers. NYC was founded in 1970 and Ms. Carlini, a credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counselor, has been with the organization since 1974. Ms. Carlini is a board member of Therapeutic Communities Association of New York (TCA), NYS Association of Substance Abuse Providers (ASAP), and The Coalition for Community Services, an alliance of New York community-based substance abuse agencies. She is the co-chair of the NYSASAP Adolescent/Young Adult Committee. Ms. Carlini is co-author of Chapter 10, "Dynamic Youth Community, Inc.: A Multiphase, Step-Down Therapeutic Community for Adolescents and Young Adults" part of *Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment In The United States: Exemplary Models From A National Study* (Haworth Press, 2003).

**Amy Cooper –**

**Michael DeLeon – Steered Straight, Inc.**

**Don Flattery – Citizen Advocate, Virginia Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse**

Don is an impacted parent, having lost his twenty-six year old and only son to an opioid-related overdose. He has dedicated himself to pursuing needed policy and legislative changes which ensure a return to more cautious prescribing, save the lives of those already afflicted by addiction and expand access to improved treatment, especially wider acceptance and use of medication-assisted therapy. He continues to speak and write on these topics and has provided policy support to PROP, Shatterproof and Virginia Change Addiction Now.

**Ada Giudice-Thompson – Vice President, Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids, Inc. (ARPO)**

Ada is a retired High School teacher living in Ontario, Canada. On June 10, 2004 Ada's life was changed forever. Michael, her only child, died suddenly and unexpectedly from hydromorphone, a narcotic prescribed to him by his doctor. Ada did not return to teaching but became a full-time advocate for the reform of prescription opioids. Her advocacy includes: Vice President, Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids (ARPO), a bi-national organization in the United States and Canada advocating for prescription opioid reform to end the epidemic by ensuring that opioids are used with care and selectively, and only when all other options, as well as the known risks of opioids, have been fully considered, as indicated and supported by research, Member of the Canadian National Advisory Council on the strategy development and implementation of "First Do No Harm Responding to Canada's Prescription Drug Crisis", Member of the Patient Advisory Committee (PAC) acting as a research consultant with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) – "Evaluation of a Health Plan Initiative to Mitigate Chronic Opioid Therapy Risks", and Member of the FED UP! Coalition and Steering Committee to Rally for a Federal Response to the Opioid Epidemic.

**Scarlet Gleeson – Client Services Consultant, Lakeview Health**

Scarlet Gleeson has been a recovery advocate for decades. She has her own story of recovery from drugs and alcohol, during which time she has witnessed thousands recover, while also losing many friends and family members to substance use disorders. She is an activist and passionate supporter for recovery rights, and a proud member of the FED UP! Coalition. By occupation, Scarlet is a marketing professional presenting three decades of experience. She currently works in the addiction treatment field as a Client Services Consultant for Lakeview Health.

Her professional experience also includes, Director of Operations for Lynda Carter's production company for eight years. She was instrumental in branding Ms. Carter's new identity as a singer; moving her forward and reinventing her image from the infamous Wonder Woman character. She also enjoyed ten years as a consultant at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Scarlet's community service work includes serving on the Board of Directors for Father Martin's Ashley in Havre de Grace, MD for twelve years.

Whether she is at work at Lakeview Health or in her private practice, Scarlet's purpose is to connect each person with their own innate ability to heal and flourish; emotionally, spiritually, mentally, physically and more. She continues her work by sharing her story and passing on the many recovery solutions she has embraced; one person at a time, one day at a time.

**Peter W. Jackson – President, Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids, Inc. (ARPO)**

On August 18, 2006 Mr. Jackson suffered an unspeakable tragedy when he lost his sweet, 18 year-old daughter Emily to one OxyContin pill in an accidental overdose. She was three days from her first day in college, her life ahead of her. Mr. Jackson subsequently learned that many other young people (and many not-so-young people, including pain patients who were prescribed opioids by their doctor) have died or become addicted to these drugs. Mr. Jackson began to attend FDA meetings to advocate for safer prescribing indications for opioids, and his advocacy work led to co-founding ARPO, a 501©(3) non-profit corporation in 2011. ARPO's mission is to end the epidemic of death and addiction caused by prescription opioid drugs by ensuring that opioids are regulated, marketed, prescribed and used in an evidence-based manner. ARPO is bi-national, advocating in support of its mission in the U.S. and Canada. Mr. Jackson is a biologist by trade and holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in biology.

**Maureen Kielian - STOPPnow**

**Andrew J. Kolodny, M.D. – President, Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP)**

Dr. Andrew Kolodny is the Chief Medical Officer of Phoenix House, a nonprofit addiction treatment organization and he is President of Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP). Dr Kolodny was previously the Chair of Psychiatry at Maimonides Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Kolodny has a long standing interest in Public Health. Prior to his position at Maimonides, he was the Medical Director for Special Projects in the Office of the Executive Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. For New York City, he helped develop and implement multiple programs to improve the health of New Yorkers and save lives, including city-wide buprenorphine programs, naloxone overdose prevention programs and emergency room-based screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) programs for drug and alcohol misuse.

**Cindy Koumoutzis – Co-Founder, Change Addiction Now (C.A.N.)**

**Sandra Kresser – Treasurer, Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids (ARPO)**

In 2004 Sandra's son Josh, then 22 years old, injured his back at work resulting in two herniated discs. His doctor first prescribed Methadone to him for the pain and two weeks later switched him to OxyContin. Four days after receiving the prescription for OxyContin he overdosed for the first time. From that point forward he plunged headfirst into an addiction so powerful that no matter how hard he tried he couldn't break free. Over the next 2.5 years he spent over 404 days in treatment trying to overcome his addiction. He overdosed five different times and for a brief time switched to heroin. After completing his third and final inpatient treatment, where he spent six months, he went to see a neurologist to see if he was a candidate for disc replacement surgery because his back was still bothering him. Josh shared with this doctor his complete history of opiate addiction, heroin use, multiple overdoses, rehabs and relapses and the fact that he was taking Ativan, which was being closely monitored. This neurologist ignored all of this and prescribed Vicodin and Soma to Josh. Two days later on September 30, 2006 Josh passed away from a lethal combination of Vicodin, Soma and Ativan, all taken as directed and at therapeutic levels.

From that point forward Sandra vowed to do whatever she could to spare another mother from suffering the devastating loss of a precious child due to the inappropriate overprescribing of powerful narcotics. She is very involved on a local and national level fighting the prescription drug epidemic. Shortly after Josh's death Sandra and her husband Layne started an endowment fund in his name at the University of

Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute to help pay for outpatient treatment for young people ages 18-25 suffering from addiction to opiates.

**Teri Kroll - Coordinator, PUSH/LICADD**

Teri Kroll's interest in LICADD and now PUSH stems from her desire to ensure that families in the throes of heroin addiction and recovery have a place to turn for help. In August of 2009, Teri's 23 year-old son, Tim lost his courageous battle with heroin addiction in her arms. The Kroll's had endured a tumultuous three year journey to bring Tim to a sober place. As he neared a point of steady recovery, gainful employment, active maintenance of his sobriety, and working hard to rebuild the family ties that had been stretched thin, Tim expressed a desire to make sure other young people could avoid the chaotic and terrifying ordeal he had experienced. Armed with details from Tim and Teri, an undercover police task force was initiated to arrest and convict a Massapequa man who was selling drugs from his medical office. While Tim did not survive to see the outcome of his brave and unselfish act, that drug dealer was caught, arrested, tried and convicted. Teri and her husband Frank followed every detail of the case and worked closely with the District Attorney to cement the conviction. Many present in the courtroom were brought to tears as the prosecutor shared victim impact statements written by Teri and Frank. Unable to heed advice from family and friends to be satisfied by the conviction and get back to 'normal life', Tim's legacy has inspired Teri to share not only his story but her own. With Teri as Public Advocate, PUSH will become a household word in Long Island and the hidden story of the local and deadly heroin epidemic will be unearthed and attended to. Teri and Frank have been married for 37 years and live in Lindenhurst near their daughter, son-in-law and beautiful grandsons Brendan and Brody.

**Diana Lunas, Founder, Love Ever After**

Diana is the mother of four children, who became a bereaved parent in 2008, when her eldest child, Josh, died from an overdose following months of residential treatment and sobriety. Her experience with the disease of substance use disorder (SUD) did not end there. After struggling with depression, withdrawal and anxiety following the loss of his brother and best friend, the youngest, Logan, self-medicated through his emotional pain and became addicted to prescription pain medications. He also succumbed to an overdose passing in 2014 at age 22 following months of sobriety and residential treatment. Diana is devoted to creating opportunities for healing hearts through service as demonstrated by her advocacy efforts and nonprofit, Love Ever After: Losing A Child to SUD. The disease of Substance Use Disorder has taken half of her family. Her dedication to education and healing hearts through service following substance loss is now her passion. Diana believes strongly that it is necessary to put our children's faces on the subject of SUD to change the way society views addiction. She is lending Josh and Logan's voices in an effort to eliminate shame, secrecy and stigma in order to encourage communities to see SUD with a different set of eyes. She is retired from a 30 year career as a paralegal and 10 years as a volunteer producer of local high school musicals. Diana continues a lifetime of community leadership, as the founding member and chapter leader for the only The Compassionate Friends organization in her area. In addition, she now serves the organization at its National Conference level as a panel and workshop presenter. Her efforts are focused on continuing educating for youth and parents on the subject of substance use/abuse, as well as working to put an end to the shame and stigma associated with SUD.

**Janis McGrory - Founder, Lower Cape Community Anti-drug Network**

In 2011, Janis lost her beautiful 23 year old daughter, Elizabeth LeFort, to an accidental heroin overdose. After experimenting with prescription opioid drugs while in high school, Liz quickly became addicted which led to her heroin use and her ultimate death. Eight weeks later, Jan and her daughter, Amy LeFort, were asked to speak at a legislative breakfast in support of Independence Recovery High School in Brockton, Ma. which began their activist work in drug education and awareness. Janis is a facilitator for Learn to Cope, a parent support group and she is on the steering committee of FED UP. Most recently she was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Humanitarian Award from Massachusetts College of Liberal Art for her work. In addition, she received 2015 Harwich Citizen of the Year Award for her advocacy work in drug abuse and addiction. She has been asked to speak in many venues, including schools, cable and radio shows. In January 2015, Janis participated in a drug addiction reenactment documentary movie produced by the Wahlberg brothers, called

“If Only”. Also as part of Massachusetts declared public health crisis in opioid overdoses and deaths, Governor Baker asked Jan and Amy to share Liz’s story on WCVB-TV Public Serve Announcements recently as well as join him at his press conference, announcing his initiatives to stop this epidemic.

Janis has a Bachelor’s degree in Physics and a Masters in Education. She is currently a high school math teacher in Harwich, Ma after spending 20 years as an engineer in the private sector.

**Michele McTiernan-Gleason, AADP - Advisory Committee, Public Relations for Connect the Pieces (CTP)**

Connect the Pieces was founded by Executive Director Melanie Curtis, after tragically losing her beloved son Michael Campbell to an accidental prescription overdose on November 10, 2011. Mike was prescribed and then became addicted to, pain medication after breaking both wrists playing sports. In 2012 the CTP campaign was launched to raise awareness as to the misuse and abuse of prescription medications. Rutter joined forces with Curtis and CTP in 2012, after a 10 year struggle with her own son Samuel, who was prescribed OxyContin after sustaining severe injuries in an automobile accident. He became addicted almost immediately and thus began his decline. Samuel is currently in recovery. Rutter received her B.S. Magna Cum Laude in Speech Communications and Public Relations from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. She has served in many nonprofit capacities in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Idaho; including Caron Hospital at the Caron Foundation. Caron is a non-profit leading provider of drug and alcohol addiction treatment. Currently, Rutter serves as Communications Council Manager for the Junior League. Certified by the American Association of Drugless Practitioners she attended the Institute of Integrative Nutrition at SUNY and is the founder of BioDistinct Wellness, LLC. Rutter is committed to absolving the prescription drug epidemic and helping those in recovery lead happier and healthier lives.

**Joanne Peterson - Founder and Executive Director of Learn to Cope**

Learn to Cope was started in 2004. Joanne is also a parent of a son in long term recovery from opiate addiction which began with OxyContin. Learn to Cope, a nonprofit organization is a unique solutions-based support, advocacy and educational peer led organization for family members of those addicted to opiates and other drugs. Learn to Cope has a website which provides a support forum with over 4000 registered families locally and nationally as well as nine chapters in Massachusetts with 3 more opening in Cape Cod, Springfield and New Bedford in the fall of 2013. LTC provides peer support and education with the focus on coping with the danger, stress and emotions related to this situation.

LTC provides informational resources regarding the disease of addiction and realistic strategies for treatment and recovery based on the real-world experiences of members. LTC provides training on Overdose prevention and how to save the lives of family members if they should see the symptoms. LTC is the first parent network to provide the overdose reversal antidote Narcan (Nasal Naloxone) at each chapter. To date 13 members have saved a life since December 2011. LTC has been successful in getting many young people the treatment they need and off the streets and also helps families to cope and recover. Learn to Cope has been recognized Nationally by Time Magazine, the New York Times, Renew magazine, A&E’S Intervention, NPR Radio, Cape Cod Times, Brockton Enterprises Wasted Youth” series, Geraldo at Large, Fox News, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, WCVB TV’S Chronicle and most recently participated in a follow up documentary for the Emmy winning Current TV’S OxyContin Express which aired in May 2011. Joanne has testified numerous times at the State House in Boston as well as in Congress in Washington DC. LTC has received awards for its advocacy regarding the dangers of Prescription drugs in many communities in Massachusetts.

**Lexi Reed Holtum – Executive Director, Steve Rummler Hope Foundation**

Lexi Reed Holtum is Executive Director of the Steve Rummler Hope Foundation and has been dedicated to the work of the Foundation since its inception. Her responsibilities include: overseeing the Foundation’s programs, coordinating special events, building relationships and creating collaborative efforts with other organizations, managing and training volunteers and interns, and public speaking on behalf of the Foundation. Lexi is also a master massage therapist and educator having worked in the field for over twenty years. She has an extensive background in education which includes writing curriculum, and teaching anatomy, physiology, pathology,

professional development, and various hands on massage and spa techniques. Lexi has also had the privilege of working in an integrative medicine clinic, The Mind Body Spirit Clinic, within Fairview Riverside Hospital, where she was able to contribute to a powerful medical model of care. Lexi believes firmly in the benefits of an integrative medical approach in the treatment of chronic pain and addiction. Lexi is grateful to be living in long term recovery. She is the mother of one child and was Steve Rummeler's fiancée.

**Emily Walden – STOPPNOW Kentucky**

Emily is the mother of TJ Walden who lost his life to an overdose in 2012. TJ was a member of the Kentucky National Guard and the most respectful young man you could have ever met. He struggled with addiction after experimenting with Oxycontin and then moving to the drug Opana. By 2011 there were 33 deaths from Opana in the City of Louisville. Emily met with the Louisville Medical Society in November 2011 only to find out they had not heard of drug Opana. She started researching and meeting with Government Officials in the State of KY and in the last three years has worked to meet with Officials on a Federal level, including the Senate Majority Leader to push for change and prevent future deaths.