



## **2017 FED UP! Coalition committee members**

### **Chair, FED UP! Coalition**

#### **Judy Rummler – Founder, Steve Rummler Hope Network**

Judy has served as Chair of the FED UP! Coalition since its inception and she chaired the first two FED UP! Rallies held in Washington, D.C. She has worked tirelessly to bring individuals and organizations together to call for federal action to end our nation's epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths. Following the death of their son Steve to an accidental opioid overdose in 2011, Judy and her husband Bill founded the Steve Rummler Hope Network, headquartered in Minneapolis, which has programs focused on providing hope for those with chronic pain and the disease of addiction.

Judy has been widely recognized for her work and was invited by President Obama to the White House to attend the signing of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act which provides \$1 billion in federal funding for addiction treatment. Although Judy and Bill are residents of Florida, they spend several months each year in Minnesota and New Hampshire. Judy is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison and is retired from her work as a Certified Financial Planner. She has previously served as Chair of two other nonprofit boards.

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

#### **April J. Rovero - Founder/Executive Director, 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, based in Northern California, just a few months after Joey's death. NCAPDA's efforts are focused on preventing prescription drug related addiction and overdose deaths through community education, legislative advocacy and policy change. Additionally, April leads her local county's MEDS (Medication Education and Disposal Safety) Coalition and actively participates in other local and statewide coalitions and workgroups in California.

April has received numerous recognition awards for her community service efforts and has been featured in multiple documentaries, newspaper and magazine articles and news segments on TV and radio. She has been a member of the FED UP! Coalition's Executive Committee since its inception and has chaired the steering committee that has organized FED UP! events over the past three years. April believes that addiction and every overdose death is avoidable and has dedicated her life to helping other families not suffer the tragic loss hers has.

### **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. DYC 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 – Director, National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse; member, Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project Coalition**

Following the tragic accidental overdose death of her son in July 2014, Amy Cooper left the Silicon Valley hi-tech software industry where she had been working for 20 years and is now focusing on efforts to bring awareness and education to others about the dangers of prescription drug addiction and opioids through community education and proactive policy change. She partners with high schools, colleges, community organizations, medical professionals, law enforcement, and other agencies to increase awareness about prescription drug addiction, naloxone distribution, and the importance of keeping medications in a safe place while disposing unused ones responsibly. She is passionate about working collaboratively to reduce drug related overdose deaths and addiction.

**Don Flattery – Citizen advocate, Member of the Virginia Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse; Senior Policy Advisor to the Brunswick County Opioid Addiction Task Force**

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.

**Maureen Kielian – STOPPnow**

Maureen is the mother of a young adult son who struggles with a substance use disorder. Her son became addicted in Broward County FL during the height of the “Pill Mills”. Upon becoming aware of her son’s addiction, she began seeking resources and examining the “why” of the grossly negligent narcotic prescribing. Her activism has led her to be either an officer or member of many advocacy and support groups in addition to have being an appointed member of the Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board and a member of the Palm Beach County Sober Home Task Force. She is also working to expand the Steered Straight program of prevention, awareness and education into Florida schools and promoting the Kids Are Dying documentary and curriculum specifically designed to enhance group therapy in treatment centers. Maureen is an active member of the SE Florida Recovery Advocates, Broward County United Way, YPR-FL, and the Palm Beach Coalition on Substance Abuse and most recently has been invited to speak to the Broward County Crime Commission.

Maureen’s personal professional background is that of a health information administrator. She is a graduate of Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Her career has prepared her extremely well to delve into the multiple statutory/regulatory issues/HIPAA and the many concerns that we have with the pharmaceutical industry, the medical industry, and the health care delivery system.

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

Dr. Kolodny is one of the nation's leading experts on the prescription opioid and heroin crisis devastating families and communities across the country. He is Co-Director of Opioid Policy Research at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. He is also the executive director of Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, an organization with a mission to reduce morbidity and mortality caused by overprescribing of opioid analgesics.

Dr. Kolodny previously served as Chief Medical Officer for Phoenix House, a national nonprofit addiction treatment agency and Chair of Psychiatry at Maimonides Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Kolodny has a long-standing interest in public health. He began his career working for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the Office of the Executive Deputy Commissioner. 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.

**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.

#### **Lexi Reed Holtum – Executive Director, Steve Rummier Hope Network**

Lexi Reed Holtum, Executive Director and lobbyist of the Steve Rummier Hope Network (SRHN), has been with the organization since its inception. Lexi was instrumental in the passage of Steve's Law (MN Good Samaritan and Naloxone legislation) and the 2015 appropriation enabling first responders to have the resources they need to implement the law. She is also responsible for the creation of the SRHN Overdose Prevention Program and for fostering partnerships within hospitals, treatment and sober living facilities, and communities in order to reduce opioid overdose deaths. In addition to the contributions Lexi makes in the state of Minnesota she is also a sought out speaker and advocate federally. Lexi's testimonies in Washington DC offer necessary perspectives to agencies like the CDC, FBI, DEA and FDA in order to push for necessary changes to our country's current prescribing practices, treatment of addiction, and available resources. Lexi is a person in long term recovery from the disease of addiction, she is the proud mother of one child, and she was Steve Rummier's fiancé.

#### **Emily Walden – STOPPNOW Kentucky**

Emily is the mother of TJ Walden who lost his life to an Opana overdose in 2012. TJ was a member of the Kentucky National Guard and struggled with addiction for several years. Emily has traveled to Washington DC every year since TJ's death, meeting with elected officials and fighting for changes to prevent future deaths. The FDA approved Opana in 2006, after its being denied in 2003, by changing the system for clinical trials so it produced skewed results. Emily continues to work towards an investigation of these trials and for other changes within the FDA that would play an important role in bringing an end to our nation's epidemic of opioid addiction.

#### **FED UP! Coalition Staff:**

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