

Make an Impact at 2013 RX Drug Abuse Summit

The second annual 2013 National Rx Drug Abuse Summit is the largest national collaboration of anti-drug professionals. It's a source for the most up-to-date and relevant information on reducing prescription drug abuse.

By Karen Perry

“Make an Impact.”



It's a phrase we all have to remember and live by these days in our fight against prescription drug abuse.

So it's no wonder this phrase is the focus of the upcoming 2013 National Rx Drug Abuse Summit, which is being held April 2-4 at the Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate in Florida.

The second annual Summit is the largest national collaboration of professionals from local, state, and federal agencies, business, academia, clinicians, treatment providers, counselors, educators, state and national leaders, and advocates impacted by pharmaceutical drug abuse. It's a source for the most up-to-date and relevant information on ways to reduce prescription drug abuse.

As Karen Kelly, whose organization Operation Unite in Kentucky is organizing the Summit, explains, by bringing together professionals from many disciplines, the Summit provides all stakeholders timely, relevant and evidence-based information. This type of collaboration enables bringing impactful solutions to communities across the United States.

Many positive and impactful efforts are occurring across the nation, but until last year's Summit there had been no national dialogue among all stakeholders. Many people want to make a difference, but aren't necessarily equipped with information on ways they can collaborate to implement initiatives at local, state and national levels.

This concern, combined with quality sessions and knowledgeable presenters, enabled the Rx Summit to attract more than 700 participants from 45 states to address this public health crisis to the inaugural conference in 2012. In addition, the Summit programs are high quality and most sessions qualify for Continuing Education credits.

Among the presenters are: U.S. Representative (KY-5th) Harold "Hal" Rogers; R. Gil Kerlikowske, director of White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg, commissioner of Food and Drugs, U.S. Food and

Drug Administration (FDA); and Dr. Nora D. Volkow, director of National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).



I am a big supporter of the Summit. NOPE Task Force is an active participant. I serve on the Advisory Board and will be speaking about advocacy. This year, once again, we will display our memorial wall, which is covered with the faces of those who died of drug overdoses.

I encourage you to attend the Summit. Our communities need to get educated on what prescription drug abuse is doing to our youths and adults.

Prescription drug abuse remains a national epidemic and public health concern. Accidental prescription overdose deaths are now occurring at 1 every 15 minutes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, Rx drug abuse has resulted in emergency room visits nearly doubling in the past five years and hospital admissions have increased 400 percent over the past decade.

The Summit is critical in addressing this problem. Here's all the information about the Summit, including how to register: <http://nationalrxdrugabusesummit.org>.

I hope to see you there. Let's all "Make an Impact."

Karen Perry is the executive director of NOPE Task Force.