

**Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA)
to Host Conference on Opioid Substance Use Disorder**

Bennington, VT: On **Tuesday, April 16 from 4:00-8:00 pm**, Bennington College's Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) will host a conference on [Addressing Stigma and the Social Determinants of Opioid Substance Use Disorder](#).

Conference events are free, open to the public, and will take place in the **CAPA Symposium** on Bennington College's [campus](#).

"CAPA was established to respond to the urgent problems confronting our communities, locally, nationally, and globally. The opioid crisis is a national crisis, and it will only be solved by bringing together ideas from a range of approaches," said CAPA Director [Susan Sgorbati](#). "Vermont is providing significant solutions to this important problem. Bennington College is part of this affected community, and by bringing together experts in their fields, we have an opportunity to support their work and provide a forum for them to share their latest thinking."

From **4:00-5:30 pm**, a **panel of local experts**, moderated by **Jennifer Fels MS, RN**, will discuss how stigma impacts multiple sectors across a community and what strategies can prevent and mitigate stigma against persons living with Opioid Substance Use Disorder.

Panelists include **Leitha Cipriano**, executive director, Bennington Center for Restorative Justice; **Paula Johnson, DA, RN**, director of quality, safety, and value, Dartmouth/SVMC; **Nels Kloster, MD**, Hawthorn Recovery Center; **Lorna Mattern**, executive director, United Counseling Service; **Jill Maynard, RN**, director of nursing emergency services, SVMC Emergency Department; **Chad Schmidt**, Bennington County Sheriff; and **Elizabeth Tanzman**, executive director, Vermont Blueprint for Health.

From **7:00-8:00 pm**, **keynote speaker Shannon Monnat, Ph.D.**, will summarize recent geographic and demographic trends in drug mortality rates and related deaths of despair (i.e. suicide, alcohol) across the US and Vermont, highlight large differences in rates across different types of communities, and describe relationships between place-level conditions (e.g. economic, social, infrastructural) and overdose rates.

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Rooted in an abiding faith in the talent, imagination, and responsibility of the individual, Bennington invites students to pursue and shape their own intellectual inquiries, and in doing so to discover the profound interconnection of things. Learn more at bennington.edu.