



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

News Release

CONTACT: Cherish McMillan
Public Information Officer
Office of Planning, Assessment & Communication
301-600-3112
TTY: 800-735-2258
cmcmillan@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 18, 2021

Candlelight Vigil Commemorates Overdose Awareness Day

FREDERICK, MD -- The public is invited to attend an outdoor candlelight vigil and the opening of the Frederick 2021 Outdoor Commemorative Photo display to memorialize lives lost to overdose or substance use. The ceremony will take place on Sunday, August 29, commemorating International Overdose Awareness Day, which is a global event aimed at raising awareness of overdose and reducing the stigma of drug related deaths. From 2020 to present, Frederick County has lost over 100 people to substance-related overdose deaths. Of those deaths, at least 86 involved fentanyl.

The event will begin at 6 pm with an outdoor reception at Frederick Health Village, 1 Frederick Health Way (off Monocacy Blvd. between Rt. 26 and Rt. 15). The program and candle lighting is scheduled for 7 pm. Speakers at the event will include Robin Rickard of the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center (OOC) and The Honorable Judge Julie Solt. Proclamations will be given by both the City of Frederick's Mayor Michael O'Connor and Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner.

Those wishing to have a loved one memorialized in a commemorative photo display can submit a photo [here](#). The photo should be a picture of that individual, with no one else in the picture. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, August 24. The outdoor exhibit will be on display until September 30.

The event is hosted by S.O.U.L. (Surviving Our Ultimate Loss), in partnership with the City of Frederick, Frederick County, Frederick Health Hospice, and Frederick County Health Department and Circuit Court Adult Drug Court. S.O.U.L. is a grief peer support group comprised of mothers and their families who have lost a child to substance use.

For more information, email soul2021load@gmail.com or call 301-514-3546.

###

Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702

Phone: 301-600-1029 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3111 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

