

Stamford Officials Discuss Drug, Alcohol Abuse

By Nora Naughton | June 17, 2016



Alan Mathis (file photo)

STAMFORD — Local and state officials discussed on Friday the growing threat of drug and alcohol abuse in the city and across Connecticut.

Liberation Programs, the Stamford-based addiction treatment center, aims to forge a stronger partnership between health care providers and policy makers

to more effectively combat what the organization's CEO, Alan Mathis calls an addiction crisis.

"The time for action is now," Mathis said. "We need to explore together with our community leaders what plan should be implemented, and we need to act quickly. ... I don't want to sit around and make a plan to make a plan."

Rep. Jim Himes, D-4, Mayor David Martin and Stamford Hospital representatives attended the meeting on Friday. Mathis said this diverse approach to community organizing will be more effectively reach at-risk members of the public. "I think we can find a better solution when all community leaders have been part of the conversation," he said.

Martin said Friday he plans to join Mathis and his team to combat drug and alcohol abuse in the community. "Drug and alcohol abuse is this insidious thing we have begun to accept. I don't want it to be that way," Martin said. "The city can effectively respond to (addiction-related) emergencies, but that doesn't solve the problem. We will work with Liberation Programs to find a more complex solution."