

## **Program to Teach Parents How to Talk About Drugs**

ERMA- Lower Township is looking to strengthen parent-child communication on the topic of substance abuse with heroin use on the upswing.

“Parents and educators have the key role in getting information to kids about the effects of drugs and helping them stay away from it,” said Lower Township Police Chief William Mastriana. “In the last year, there’s been between 18 to 25 year olds, a 24 percent increase in heroin deaths in New Jersey.

Lower Township and the Lower Cape Alliance are hosting a one-hour, interactive multi-media presentation entitled the “15 Minute Child Break.” The presentation will tell parents, grandparents and caregivers how to talk to their kids about drugs and alcohol.

The free program will be presented by the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. at Lower Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Rd., Villas. The program is for adults only.

“We take seriously our obligation to protect you and your family from the evils of substance abuse in all forms,” said Mayor Michael Beck. “This one hour program will give you the chance to become your child’s first line of defense against substance abuse by providing tips of how to speak frankly with your child about making correct choices.”

The program will explain how to notice the signs of drug use, current terminology and trends of use. Participants will receive age specific information and communication skills concerning substance abuse.