

Bucks coalition attends anti-drug conference in Washington

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Bucks County coalition members visited Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick in Washington Jan. 12 in conjunction with a conference for Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Lois Dodson, Ray Fox, Lee Rush and Ann Wong, members of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition, were among 3,000 individuals from across the country who attended the CADCA National Leadership Forum earlier this month.

Dodson is chair of the

Pennridge coalition; Fox is chair of the Quakertown coalition; and Wong is chair of the Palisades coalition.

Rush serves as community mobilizer for the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition. The group's mission is to make the community safe, healthy and drug-free.

Members of the Central Bucks Healthier Community Team also attended the conference and met with the area's lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

The CBHCT representatives were Barbara Gross, outreach



From left are Ray Fox, chair of the Quakertown Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth Coalition; Lee Rush, community mobilizer of the Upper Bucks HCHY Coalition; Ann Wong, chair of Palisades Promise; Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick; and Lois Dodson, chair of the Pennridge HCHY Coalition.



Barbara Gross, outreach coordinator of the Central Bucks Healthier Community Team, visited with Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick in conjunction with the CADCA conference.

coordinator, and Eve Berger, youth activities mobilizer.

The CADCA Forum offered insights on emerging trends and techniques in drug abuse prevention and coalition building in local communities.

CADCA represents more than 5,000 coalition members nationwide. The coalitions bring multiple sectors of the

community together to gain a more complete understanding of the community's drug and alcohol related issues.

Forum participants went to Capitol Hill to discuss the issue of substance abuse with newly elected Congressman Fitzpatrick.

"At a time when critical budget and policy decisions will determine the future of

anti-drug programs in Upper Bucks and the rest of the country, it was essential to emphasize to our lawmakers the need for their continued support of our efforts," Rush said.

More than ten individuals from other community coalitions in Bucks County attended the conference.

Visit www.cadca.org and www.drug-freekids.org.