

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4/27/17
Springfield Town Library, Springfield VT

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Opiate Drug Abuse Discussion May 11
Short Documentary on Opioid Use

The Springfield Town Library and Vermont PBS are showing the PBS film "The Opiate Effect, Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 6:30 pm, at the Springfield Town Library. Following the film, a panel facilitated by Charles Pizer of Vermont PBS will react, leading a community discussion about opiate drug abuse and its impact on our Vermont community. The movie showing and program are free and open to the public.

The panel includes Police Chief Doug Johnston of the Springfield Police Department talking about the opiate epidemic with specific reference to Springfield. Michael Johnson, Executive Director of the Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield, will discuss how recovery centers work. Stephanie Thompson, Executive Director of the Springfield Prevention Coalition and President of Project ACTION, will provide information on community efforts to explore drug issues in Springfield. All are welcome to listen, respond, and ask questions about opiate drug abuse.

The Opiate Effect, a 22-minute film, tells the story of UVM student Will Gates, who died from a heroin overdose in 2009. His father Skip began a journey to educate people about the dangers of opiate drugs and how society deals with the problems drugs cause. The film uses the voices of Skip Gates, his son Sam, former opiate abusers, Senator Leahy, and Attorney General Holder to bring light to the issues.

The Springfield Town Library is located at 43 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont. For more information, call the Library at (802) 885-3108 or check the website at www.springfieldtownlibrary.org.

