



E-NEWSLETTER

ASSEMBLYMAN

**KEITH P. BROWN**



***A Message from Keith:***



Hope spring's eternal! With the arrival of spring it's a time of renewal and optimism. During this season, I'm optimistic for what we can achieve together.

It is my honor to serve as your Assemblyman and I am energized to continue to work towards lasting, positive changes. As always, my focus is on getting legislation passed that will benefit not only those within my District but all of New York State. I am hopeful that the five Awareness days I have worked on this past year will become a reality: Vape Awareness, Co-Occurring Disorder Awareness, Opioid/Fentanyl Awareness, Marijuana Awareness, and Alcoholism Awareness, all of which will help get legislation passed that will benefit those who suffer through these issues or care for someone who does. I am also looking forward to our Annual Co-Occurring Disorder Conference on April 11, 2024 where we will bring together government and healthcare partners to tackle the problems of prevention, treatment and recovery.

With spring comes the promise of summer, which brings to mind our beautiful coastline. I have been working diligently towards finding funds and grants connected with the Environmental Bond Act to help improve our waterways and keep them healthy and vibrant for years to come.

As we move forward, I am filled with the hope of the spring season and feel renewed in my promise to work towards new ways to better help the community and the citizens of New York State.

Warm regards,

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING**

# OF 2024

3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

## Strengthening the System of Care for Co-Occurring Disorders Long Island Conference



Integrating Care Models

Eliminating Barriers

Co-Occurring Trends & Recommendations

Innovations & Strategies for Schools

### Thursday, April 11, 2024

8:00AM – 4:30PM

In-Person Only Conference will be held at the

**Radisson Hauppauge Long Island**

110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY. 11788

**REGISTER TODAY**



<https://tinyurl.com/suffolkcod24>

FREE CONFERENCE Courtesy of Conference Partners & Sponsors

**Af Catholic Health**

**Northwell Health**

### LONG ISLAND CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:00 - 7:45AM Vendor Table Set-Up

8:00-9:00AM Sign-In Registrants, Breakfast & Networking

9:00-10:00AM  
**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**  
*Grand Ball Room*

Emcee - Mary Silberstein, LCSW-R - CN Guidance & Counseling Services

**Where We Came From, Where We Are & Where We Are Headed**

2 film shorts - "You don't know the Half of It" (3 minute),  
Case study on "You Don't Know the Half of It" (2 minute)

**Presenters:** Keith P. Brown, NYS Assemblyman Member of Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
...and other guests

10:00-11:00AM  
**KEYNOTE I**

**Changing the World: Welcoming Integrated, Recovery Oriented Systems Services for Adults and Adolescents**

Grand Ball Room

### with Co-Occurring MH & SUD Conditions

**Presenter:** Kenneth Minkoff, MO - ZiaPartners, Inc.; Private Consultant & Trainer

11:00-12:00PM  
KEYNOTE II  
Grand Ball Room

### Health, Equity & Recovery

**Presenter:** Chacku Mathai, CPRP - Center for Practitioner Innovation; Chacku Mathai Consulting LLC

12:10-12:30PM  
KEYNOTE III  
Grand Ball Room

### Lunch & Learn with the OMH & OASAS Commissioners

**Moderator:** Sandeep Kapoor, MD - Northwell Health  
**Presenters:** Ann T. Sullivan, MD - NYS OMH Commissioner  
Chlnazo Cunningham, MD - NYS OASAS Commissioner

1:00-2:00PM  
BREAKOUT I

CHOOSE ONE TOPIC TO ATTEND:

TOPIC 1:

### Introduction to Engagement, Assessment & Treatment of Co-Occurring Disorders

Encore Lounge

**Presenters:** Patricia Ferrandino, LCSW-R - Family Service League  
Steve Chassman, LCSW, CASAC - Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

TOPIC2:

### Co-Occurring Disorders & The Impact on Family Dynamics

Vanderbilt Room

**Presenters:** Anthony Rizzuto, LMSW, CASAC - Seafield Center  
Sharon Richmond, MSEd - Parent Advocates

TOPIC3:

### Co-Occurring Disorders Awareness (CODA): An Innovation Approach to Prevention

Grand Ball Room

**Moderator:** Stephanie Marquesano, JD - The Harris Project  
**Presenters:** Daveda James, CCBT - Westchester Jewish Community Services  
Gary Perodin, MPH - Catholic Health System LI  
Bob Vecchio - Nassau Suffolk School Board Association  
Mike Flynn, MSEd - Western Suffolk BOCES

2:10-3:10PM  
BREAKOUT II

CHOOSE ONE TOPIC TO ATTEND:

TOPIC 1:

### Intersection Between Youth Cannabis Use & Co-Occurring Disorders

Encore Lounge

**Presenter:** John Venza, LCSW-R, LMHC - Outreach

TOPIC 2:

### Co-Occurring Disorders Through the Trauma Informed Lens

Vanderbilt Room

**Presenter:** Claudia Boyle, LMHC - Hispanic Counseling Center

TOPIC 3:

### Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment in School Based Settings

Grand Ball Room

**Moderator:** Stephanie Marquesano, JD - The Harris Project  
**Presenters:** Lorena Rucaj, LMHC - Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health  
Gary Perodin, MPH - Catholic Health System LI  
Mike Flynn, MSEd - Western Suffolk BOCES  
Bob Vecchio - Nassau Suffolk School Board Association

3:15-4:30PM  
CALL TO ACTION  
Grand Ball Room

### Co-Occurring Disorders Bill of Rights/Action Statement

**Presenters:** Jeff Reynolds, PhD - Family & Children's Association  
Stephanie Marquesano, JD - The Harris Project  
Melissa Wettengel, MPH, NYSCPS-P - Hands Across LI  
Gary Perodin, MPH - Catholic Health System LI

# DON'T MISS OUT!

## REGISTER TODAY

# Register Today!



<https://tinyur1.com/suffolkcod24>

IN PERSON CONFERENCE ONLY  
ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 516-489-2322 X1251

**CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS -PENDING APPROVAL**

*Nassau County OMHCDDDS & MHA of Nassau County SW CPE is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0083.*

*Nassau County OMHCDDDS & MHA of Nassau County is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0042.*

*Nassau County OMHCDDDS & MHA of Nassau County is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed marriage and family therapists. #MFT-0027.*



----- ASSEMBLYMA -----  
**KEITH P. BROWN**



# *Coffee with Keith*

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Want to share your thoughts with me on issues that matter most to you?  
Join me at my upcoming "Coffee with Keith" events coming up in 2024!

There will be a Coffee with Keith on:

**Saturday, April 13th**

**Saturday, May 11th**                      10 am to 12 pm

**Saturday, June 15th**

These are virtual events, so please sign up!

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For all those who are interested, you can sign up for a 30 minute time slot by  
contacting my district office via email or phone.

**Email:** [brownk@nyassembly.gov](mailto:brownk@nyassembly.gov)    **Phone:** (631) 261-4151

*I hope to see you there!*







# SPRING SPORTING GOODS DRIVE

ASSEMBLYMAN  
**KEITH P. BROWN**

## ASSEMBLYMAN KEITH P. BROWN INVITES YOU TO DONATE TO HIS SPORTING GOODS DRIVE!

### EVENT DETAILS:

#### DATE:

Saturday, April 20th

#### LOCATION:

Moose Lodge  
631 Pulaski Road  
Greenlawn, NY 11740

We will be accepting new or gently used youth sporting equipment for the upcoming spring and summer season. Please stop by and donate!

To help, all you need to do is:



Come to the Huntington Moose Lodge with your equipment on April 20th from 10:00am- 12:00pm



Drop off any softball, baseball, lacrosse equipment or other warm-weather sporting goods

For any questions or concerns regarding this event or other state issues, please contact my District Office:  
6080 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 310, Commack, NY 11725  
(631) 261-4151 • [brownk@nyassembly.gov](mailto:brownk@nyassembly.gov)

*A special thank you to the Moose Lodge for hosting this event!*

## FREE NARCAN & TEST STRIPS



Valuable resources that can make a profound difference in our community are now at your fingertips. We are pleased to announce that free naloxone and drug test strips are readily accessible to help identify harmful additives, prevent overdose tragedies, and ultimately, save lives.

In the face of the opioid crisis, it's crucial that we come together to ensure the safety and well-being of our community members. Naloxone is an essential tool in reversing opioid overdoses, and drug test strips provide a means to detect dangerous substances before they cause harm.

Together, we have the power to be proactive, to protect one another, and to make our community a safer place for all. Your willingness to take this step could be a lifeline for someone in need. You can visit Naloxone Access for Impacted Communities to receive a free Narcan kit and training.

[Visit Naloxone Access](#)

*THE*  
**HOPE**  
*LINE*

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***The HOPEline***

- New York State's HOPEline is a confidential support and referral hotline for individuals struggling with addiction and problem gambling. It is staffed by trained, masters-level clinicians 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- HOPEline can provide information about addiction and problem gambling assessments, interventions, treatment, and support in New York State. HOPEline can also provide crisis intervention support, including de-escalation and collaboration to connect to 911.
- To contact the HOPEline, you can call 1-877-8-HOPENY (467369) or text HOPENY (467369). All services are free and confidential.

**Here are some of the things the HOPEline can do for you:**

- Provide information about addiction and problem gambling
- Answer your questions about addiction and problem gambling
- Help you find a treatment provider in your area
- Provide crisis intervention support
- Connect you with other resources in your community
- If you are struggling with addiction or problem gambling, please reach out to the HOPEline for help. You are not alone.

## SUICIDE HOTLINE

In the midst of the season's joy and warmth, it's crucial to acknowledge that not everyone shares in the wonder. Let's extend our compassion to those who may be struggling quietly. Small acts of kindness, like sharing a cup of coffee, can provide comfort and a deep sense of connection to those in need.

I'd like to introduce you to the 988 hotline, akin to the well-known 911 for mental health crises. Whether one faces anxiety, depression, or any mental health challenge, this hotline offers vital support and guidance.

Remember, you don't have to face tough times alone.

I'm here, ready to listen and offer support any time, day or night. Let's raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention, spreading the word about the 988 hotline among your friends and loved ones. Together, we can make a significant impact in the lives of those who need it most.





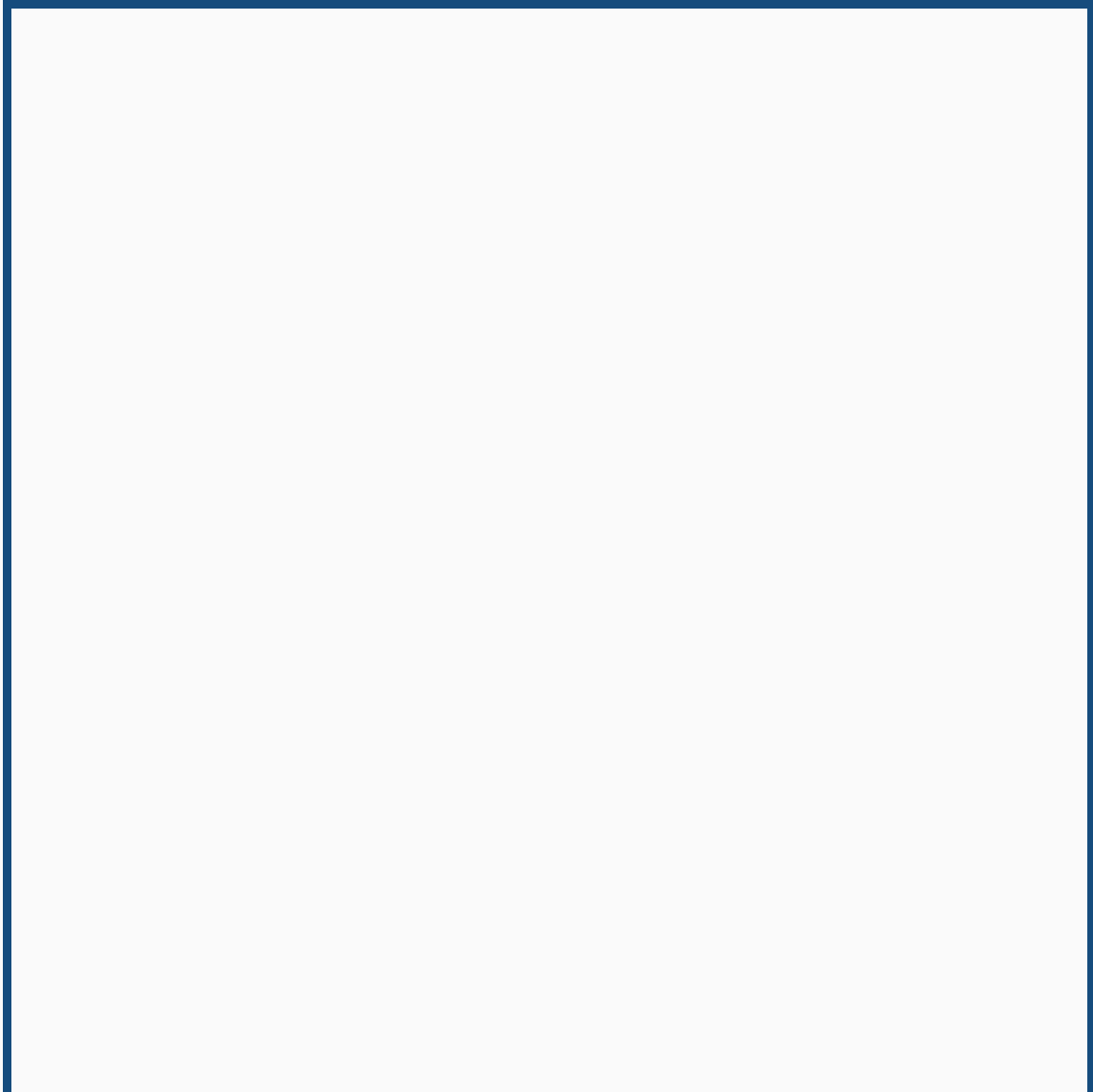
### *Consul General of Germany*

We had a great meeting with Consul General of Germany David Gill to exchange ideas and discuss relations between our countries and New York State! (3/27/24)



### *Visitors in the Assembly Chamber*

We love having guests in the Assembly Chamber, and we had a few special ones recently. We welcomed Half Hollow Hills High School and Suffolk County Sheriff Errol Toulon to the







### *American-Irish Legislators Society*

One of my favorite things in Albany is the American-Irish Legislators Society, a bipartisan organization of legislators from both houses aimed at promoting and preserving our Irish heritage. I was invited to the Executive Mansion to attend the governor's Irish heritage brunch honoring Consulate General of Ireland, New York Helena Nolan, who we met in Ireland in October of 2023. (3/24/24)



## *Troop 41*

I was very happy to participate and honor Huntington's newest FIVE Eagle Scouts from Troop 41 alongside my elected colleagues at the East Northport firehouse. In addition, we honored Troop 41's 100th Anniversary! Great stuff!

Congratulations to:

Logan Monaco

Carter Dean Roelofs

William Parker

Luke Barbier

Sean Patrick Frey

the scouts, as well as the parents and all the leaders who helped them on their journey! (3/10/24)





### *90th Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade*

I had the privilege of being the emcee of the 90th Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Division No. 4 honoring Monsignor Steven Camp! Thank you to the Huntington AOH for giving me the opportunity. My dad last called the parade in 1993, so it was really special for me! Slainte! (3/10/24)



### *Discover Long Island*

Great event hosted by Discover Long Island! Many thanks to Kristen Reynolds and my fellow Northport '86 alum Ed Carr for their hard work bringing tourism dollars to our small businesses and the local economy. (3/5/24)





### *Troop 12*

Was happy to speak with a group of scouts from Troop 12 about water quality for their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. They asked a lot of great questions and understood the importance of this issue. (3/4/24)



### *Division No. 4 AOH JFK*

'Twas a grand night celebrating with Division No. 4 AOH JFK, Huntington and honoring the selection of Monsignor Steven Camp as its grand marshal for this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade, the oldest and largest parade on LI. Thank you Monsignor Camp for all you do for the community!!! (3/3/24)





### *Friendly Faces*

A busy week in Albany meeting with Karen Acompora and the American Heart Association and the NYS Parks Foundation, and it was great to see our former colleague and U.S. Congressman Mike Lawler who stopped by for a surprise visit. The Firefighters Association of the State of New York also stopped by the Assembly Chamber and I attended the Canada reception where Gov. Kathy Hochul stopped in to discuss NYS-Canada relations! (3/2/24)





### *New York Library Association*

It was a pleasure meeting with reps from the New York Library Association the other day in the Legislative Office Building to hear their concerns on this year's budget. (3/9/24)



## *Our New Intern*

I'd like to introduce the newest member of the team: Kyle Bruns from SUNY Albany, who will be interning with us this session. (1/31/24)



## *Foundation Aid*

I joined my colleagues in government, superintendents, administrators and parents for a press conference at Three Village Central School District in opposition to Gov. Kathy Hochul's proposed revocation of the "hold harmless" provision of Foundation Aid, which will inevitably result in funding cuts to our schools. Some people have suggested the governor is using it as leverage during budget discussions. If that's the case, using our kids' futures as leverage is shameful. Districts will be left with several bad decisions to choose from: teachers and staff will be laid off, services and programs will be reduced or local property tax burdens will have to be increased if the governor gets her way. I said at the press conference, budgets are about choices. We are spending plenty of money on things and dipping into emergency reserves to offset the costs of asylum seekers in New York City.

If the governor was there, I would say to her, just as she said at the State of the State, "We can't spend money we don't have."

Well, we have the money for Foundation Aid, we just need to do a better job ensuring schools receive it.

Special thanks to Assemblyman Ed Flood for organizing the press conference. (1/29/24)

[Sign Our Petition!](#)





### *Keeping New York Families Safe*

Working in the Assembly Chamber toward bipartisan solutions is critical. I was happy to speak with Assemblyman Steve Stern recently about coordinating awareness days for vaping, marijuana, the fentanyl and opioid epidemic, co-occurring disorders and alcohol. My hope is to have the Assembly recognize these days to raise awareness and help educate New York families so legislation can be passed to help keep them safe. (1/24/24)



### *Supporting Our School Districts*

I had a good meeting with David Moyer, the new superintendent of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District. We spoke about many pressing issues, and I gave him the history and some context of why residents are so concerned about the potential sale of three schools and the budget. Overall, I was very pleased, and we agreed to work together going forward. (1/18/24)



## *Greenlawn Water District*

My office attended a ceremony this morning to help congratulate the board of the Greenlawn Water District on being awarded a \$1.3 million grant through the state's Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)!

I am very excited to see what projects the board will tackle with this grant funding.

Thank you and congratulations to Greenlawn Water District Board of Commissioners Chairman John H. Clark, Treasurer John T. McLaughlin, Secretary James M. Logan, Superintendent Robert Santoriello and Chief Plant Operator Frank DeMayo. (1/10/24)





## *State of the State*

Joint Session of the New York State Assembly and Senate for the governor's State of the State. It was great to talk to former governors George Pataki and David Paterson, as well as state GOP Chairman Ed Cox! #StateOfTheState (1/9/24)

## ***Meetings:***

### January

- 1/18 Introductory meeting with Dave Moyer, Northport-East Northport Schools Superintendent
- 1/19 Lunch Meeting with Judge LaSalle
- 1/19 New York State Mentoring Department with AM Epstein
- 1/23 Bottle Bill Hearing in Albany
- 1/29 Senator Mattera and Harborfields Superintendent and Board of Education

### February

- 2/1 Patrick Barry, The United Way
- 2/7 Local Librarians from the Library Council in Albany
- 2/7 Environmental Conservation Budget Hearing in Albany
- 2/8 Legislative Awareness Days with Governor's Staff
- 2/9 NY Farm Viability Institute in Albany
- 2/12 CN Guidance in Albany
- 2/13 Friends of Recovery in Albany
- 2/13 Phoenix House in Albany
- 2/15 Environmental Bond Act Briefing with DEC and local Elected Officials
- 2/13 American Lung Association in Albany
- 2/27 Acompora Foundation in Albany
- 2/27 Times Square Alliance in Albany
- 2/27 Open Space Institute in Albany

### March

- 3/4 Self Help in Albany

## ***Events Attended:***

### January

- 1/1 Inauguration of County Executive Ed Romaine and the SC Legislature
- 1/5 LIA State of the Region Breakfast
- 1/10 Greenlawn Water District Grant Acceptance
- 1/12 HIA-LI Legislative Breakfast
- 1/25 Land Use Institute CLE - Modern Solutions to Municipal Solid Waste
- 1/25 School Funding Press Conference

### February

- 2/2 FCA Legislative Breakfast
- 2/6 Huntington Chamber-Huntington Hospital State of the Union Breakfast
- 2/9 Island Harvest Legislative Breakfast
- 2/16 Western Suffolk BOCES Legislative Breakfast

### March

- 3/1 Discover Long Island Annual Legislative Breakfast
- 3/1 Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal's Ball
- 3/7 Visit to Harborfields High School Mentoring Event
- 3/8 Panelist for the REFIT Legislative Breakfast
- 3/10 Emcee for the Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 3/11 Governor's Irish Heritage Reception
- 3/11 Irish American Legislators St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- 3/12 Legislative Education and Advocacy Day
- 3/15 Eaton's Neck PSEG Wrap Up

3/5 NYSUT in Albany

3/18 Clean Energy Reception in Albany

3/5 Empire State Forest Products Association in Albany

3/6 Huntington Historical Society

3/11 Meeting New York Coalition for Open Government

3/11 Residents to Preserve Public Housing in Albany

3/11 AHRC Suffolk in Albany

3/12 Half Hollow Hills PTA Council Legislative Committee in Albany

3/12 National Federation OF the Blind of New York State Inc. in Albany

3/13 Megan O'Donnell of the District Attorney's Office

3/13 Ron Keller of PlasTechFree.World

3/13 Debbie Pantin

3/14 Long Island Cares

3/14 Huntington Historical Society

3/18 Barry Lites of the Huntington African American Museum

3/19 Disability Providers

3/19 Hallmark

3/21 Stony Brook Student Meeting

3/21 Frank Rosa of Clean Energy

3/25 Community Playhouse of Northport

3/26 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Committee Meeting in Albany

3/26 Housing Committee in Albany



### ***Internship Opportunities***

New York State Assemblyman Keith P. Brown's District Office is seeking students who have a strong work ethic and a passion for their community. Interns will have the opportunity to further their education in public service and local government while enhancing their administrative and writing abilities. If you are interested in an internship, please contact John Hagan at [haganj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:haganj@nyassembly.gov).

For any questions or concerns regarding this or any other state/local issues, please feel free to reach out to my District Office: 6080 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 310, Commack, NY 11725

631-261-4151 • [brownk@nyassembly.gov](mailto:brownk@nyassembly.gov)