



Contact:  
Jordan E. Warnick, Ph.D.  
[jwarnick@safecoalitionma.com](mailto:jwarnick@safecoalitionma.com)

S.A.F.E.  
Phone: (508) 488-8105  
P.O. Box 434  
Franklin, MA 02038  
[www.safecoalitionma.org](http://www.safecoalitionma.org)



Contact:  
Ana Bess Moyer Bell  
[anabess@coaast.com](mailto:anabess@coaast.com)

COAAST  
Phone: (401) 598 6061  
249 Woodruff Ave  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
[www.coaast.org](http://www.coaast.org)

## OUR ADDICTION CRISIS

### S.A.F.E. presents the COAAST production of "Four Legs to Stand On"

The **S.A.F.E. Coalition** is pleased to present the COAAST Organization to our communities as another tool to stem drug abuse and its treatment. In this case, COAAST offers THEATER as a therapeutic tool to educate, understand, cope, advocate and heal our community.

**Beginnings:** COAAST (Creating Outreach About Addiction Support Together) was born out of one community's desperate need for healing and a spotlight on the opioid overdose epidemic that was ravaging their town. Ana Bess Moyer Bell, the founder of COAAST and a drama therapist, began the conversation in the fall of 2014 by asking the question "what do we as a community need?" Through the direction of Moyer Bell's drama therapy training a therapeutic theater piece called "Four Legs to Stand On" was born.

Moyer Bell collected stories from the community about personal experiences of addiction, family, loss, and recovery. Using the reoccurring themes presented in the stories like scapegoat, denial, and compassion she wrote a story about one American families struggling with their child's opioid addiction. The play was performed all over the state of Rhode Island for audiences comprised of health care professionals, people of faith, high school students, people in recovery, rehab residents and many more.

**Four Legs to Stand On:** The 35-minute play, followed by a short Q&A talkback, confronts the audience with questions rather than answers like "Is addiction a disease or a moral weakness?" With reflections on how we as a community can shift the social underpinnings that stigmatize those who suffer. The hope is the community will come to the aid of those suffering from addiction with understanding, compassion, and support. The play challenges the audience and the community to change the status quo - and to reach out to those addicted as well as their friends and family.

**COAAST:** Is an organization Moyer Bell created with the help of fellow South Kingstown native Rachel Bartels. The mission is to use community-engaged practices to promote understanding and to encourage an outward dialogue about addiction, recovery, and what can be done.

**Healing Arts:** The play allows audiences a safe distance to reflect on parts of themselves and their loved ones they see on stage through the characters. This kind of storytelling allows for a deeper sense of empathy for oneself and for others through shared communal experience. Through the talkback post-show, the community supports one another in telling their own stories, processing emotions, and reflecting with the cast about personal and social change.

Performances at: **Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School**, 147 Pond St, Franklin, MA 02038  
Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm)

**The Black Box**, 15 W Central St, Franklin, MA 02038  
Friday, October 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm)