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## Community educator wants to develop an app to fight heroin epidemic

By [Tina Detelj, WTNH Reporter](http://wtnh.com/author/tina-detelj-wtnh-reporter/) (<http://wtnh.com/author/tina-detelj-wtnh-reporter/>)

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NORWICH, Conn. (WTNH) — For those needing help fighting a substance abuse problem, or those who want information on how to prevent it, one community educator hopes to soon have an app for that.

Angela Duhaime says there are a lot of printed resource guides, but she is hoping to be able to move that information into the digital age. She is a community educator with SERAC the Southeastern Regional Action Council.

"We are a non-profit," says Duhaime. "We cover the twenty towns of Southeastern Connecticut."

She's looking for input from those communities and local organizations to develop an app to help tackle what many consider a heroin epidemic.

In February, News 8 spoke with Joe de la Cruz from the group 'Community Speaks Out.' "We're finding 60 and 70 and eighty year olds that are being hooked on this," he told us.

The app would have three basic tabs.

"I was thinking of like prevention, intervention, and treatment," says Duhaime.

It would combine resources for substance abuse and mental health services.

"So that way you can see some of the risks and warning signs. They overlap so much," says Duhaime.

SERAC now spends between five and ten thousand dollars a year on printing paper guides which aren't always up to date.

"And that's very frustrating for people," says Duhaime. "You're giving them a resource guide and then they start going through the list and they're calling programs that are shut down."

Even with the app it may be hard to have up to the minute updates on bed availability at treatment centers. Still, Duhaime is hoping someone who is technologically savvy can help her develop a very advanced app.

"Definitely looking for someone who has more knowledge," says Duhaime. "But also understand we are a community non-profit."

She says one of the benefits of an app is that it can be more easily updated than a printed guide.

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