

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 27, 2014

**CONTACT:** Raymond V. Tamasi, President/CEO  
(508) 540-6550, ext. 5203

### **Gosnold Launches New Prevention Division--Gets Major Funding Support**

Gosnold on Cape Cod, recognizing the need to improve prevention and early intervention services to confront the Cape's substance abuse crisis, has announced the creation of a new division focused on prevention. The new division has been given a major boost from the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation which has awarded Gosnold a \$425,000 three year grant to help support the effort.

"We are very excited about this new service and the potential it has to help reverse the trend that has spawned the most serious opiate crisis we have ever seen," said Raymond V. Tamasi, President/CEO of Gosnold. "This problem will not be easily solved. It will take time and a concerted effort by all of our healthcare partners. But our communities have the resolve and commitment to make it happen and it will."

The Tower Foundation grant will provide funding for five school counselors for one year, and partial funding for ten counselors for years two and three. The counselors will be in elementary, middle and high schools throughout Cape Cod to help students and their families affected by substance abuse. Further, the program aims to guide, encourage, and motivate students who abstain from using drugs or alcohol to build a school culture that honors and celebrates their commitment.

"We know prevention works, and our goal is to get on the front end of the addiction cycle before it destroys lives," said Patricia Mitrokostas, Gosnold's Director of Prevention. "Gosnold's prevention initiative will provide technical assistance and support to communities to identify local conditions and assist in the implementation of evidence based prevention programs."

Broad regionalization of various community efforts such as Rx Take Back Days, permanent Drug Disposal Kiosks, sticker shock programs with retailers, community educational forums, police compliance checks, and Lock Your Meds education programs for seniors are also currently being implemented. Gosnold's Reaching Out program hosts two family support meetings weekly at locations in the mid and upper cape.

This month, Gosnold's prevention program and their work with the Falmouth Prevention Partnership, were featured at the United Way National Leadership Conference in Washington DC. "It is an honor and a tribute to the tireless efforts of the Falmouth community and to Gosnold for our program to be recognized at the national level," said Patricia Mitrokostas.