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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Retired from Allergy & Asthma Network as Director of Government Affairs in 2013, I presently volunteer for the Network as a consumer advocate. I began my career as a volunteer with this organization in the early 90's and am pleased to volunteer again for them now. In addition, I am also a writer for the New Marlborough Five Village News (NM5VN) and in 2017 was elected to the town of New Marlborough's Finance Committee. As a writer for the NM5VN, I provide readers detailed reports regarding town business and cover issues of interest to residents. As a Finance Committee member, I am part of the elected team that creates financial policies for the town and develops the annual town budget which is presented to voters for approval at the annual Town Meeting.

Consumer Advocate (2019 – Present)

Allergy & Asthma Network

Focus on advocacy that supports policies that improve care and promote safety for those affected by asthma, allergies and related conditions.

Director Patient Advocacy/Government Affairs (2003-2013)

Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA)

Managed advocacy efforts for leading non-profit patient organization. Responsibilities included awareness and education related to asthma, allergies, anaphylaxis and other respiratory diseases and developing policy collaborating with patients, their families, healthcare providers, federal agencies and federal and state legislators.

Director of Outreach Services (1996-2003) +

Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA) +

Recruited and trained national force of Outreach Service Coordinators to provide education to legislators, schools and the media about asthma, allergies, anaphylaxis and related respiratory diseases.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led efforts passing federal legislation, H.R. 2023, in 2004 which provided states an incentive to protect students rights to carry and self-administer lifesaving medications by working with stakeholders across the country.
- Led efforts passing state laws regarding students right to carry and self-administer lifesaving medications during the school day working with AANMA Outreach Service Coordinators, several stakeholder groups and legislators across the country. Today, 50 states protect students' rights to carry their asthma inhalers and anaphylaxis medications.

- Founding member of the Consumer Health Alliance for Safe Medications (CHASM), a working group led by AANMA, that exposed companies illegally manufacturing nebulizer medications under the guise of traditional pharmacy compounding.
- Coordinating/Committee member of the New Jersey Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition, a committee that changed school policies, childcare regulations and treatment protocols related to asthma and allergies in the state of New Jersey.
- Member of the NHLBI National Asthma Education Prevention Program School Subcommittee which developed national policies and created educational materials about asthma for schools.

PERSONAL

Raising three children who lived with asthma and allergies, I became an advocate for families and others who struggled, as I did, to maneuver through a system not prepared or informed about the risks of asthma and allergies. The fear I experienced when my child couldn't breathe turned into a passion to inform, educate and make the world outside our home a safe place where they could breathe easily and have access to their lifesaving medications, if needed. After two decades of focusing on student and family rights, patient safety issues and policy changes in healthcare, schools and state laws, I retired. My interest in patient safety issues and the well being of patients has not flagged and I look forward to the opportunity to be a voice for patients and a bridge between the FDA Compounding Advisory Board and Allergy & Asthma Network's constituency.