

**COPE Center Participates in
Essex County PACADA Annual Training Conference**

The COPE Center of Verona and Montclair will be participating in the 21st Annual Training Conference to be held at Essex County College on Friday, March 17. This conference is being cosponsored by the Essex County Professional Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (PACADA) and the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA). This is a free event that also recognizes counselor efforts from various Essex County Agencies.

Included under this year's topic of "Co-occurring Issues of Addiction" are sessions on Internet Gambling—The Good, The Bad, The Addicted; Primary and Secondary Disabilities for Individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders; Addiction and Co-occurring Disabilities: Myths and Realities; and Latest on Theory and Management of Addiction with Psychiatric Disorders. In addition to these educational sessions, the Agency Recognition Awards will be presented.

COPE, which stands for Counseling, Outreach, Prevention, and Education, is a nonprofit agency dedicated to providing quality behavioral health-care services that are affordable, accessible, and responsive to individual, family, and community needs. The COPE Center's professional staff is actively engaged in programs throughout Essex County and surrounding areas. Its counselors work in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, family crises, problems in daily living, and AIDS. Started over 30 years ago by the United Way of North Essex, COPE continues as one of its member agencies.

Information on any of COPE's programs is available by calling 973-783-6655 or by visiting the agency's Web site, www.copecenter.net.