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- *March 25 webinar focuses on tobacco dependence treatment for priority populations*
- *April 1 online panel features young adults who became tobacco-free*
- *April 1 online panel also features CDC Tips® Campaign ad participant and son*

NEW YORK STATE SMOKERS' QUITLINE HOSTS WEBINAR, PANEL ON TOBACCO DEPENDENCE

March 25 webinar assists healthcare professionals with treating priority populations; April 1 panel features young adult success stories

BUFFALO, N.Y. – March 16, 2021 – The New York State Smokers' Quitline (Quitline) will host two online sessions in the coming weeks on treating and overcoming tobacco dependence. A webinar on March 25, geared toward healthcare professionals, will focus on treating priority populations. One week later on April 1, an online panel of young adults and loved ones will share stories of becoming tobacco-free. Registration for both events is free and available at the Quitline's Online News Room, nysmokefree.com/newsroom.

On Thursday, March 25 from 11 a.m. to noon via WebEx, the Quitline will present **"Enhanced Quitline Tobacco Cessation Services to Support Priority Populations."** The webinar will provide healthcare professionals with knowledge, evidence, resources and tools to enhance their onsite tobacco dependence treatment interventions. Priority populations, such as those who experience psychological distress or are dependent on alcohol or drugs, tend to exhibit greater use of tobacco products and require enhanced services to treat their tobacco addiction.

On Thursday, April 1 from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom, the Quitline will present “**Tobacco-Free Stories and ‘Tips’ from the Young and Young-at-Heart.**” The event takes place on [Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action](#) and celebrates 10 years of the [CDC’s Tips From Former Smokers \(Tips®\) Campaign](#) and recent Quitline success stories. The Quitline will moderate a discussion of overcoming tobacco dependence among the following individuals:

- [Beatrice](#), 49, and her son Nick, 23, from Yonkers. Beatrice was one of the first Tips® Campaign ad participants in 2012 and gained inspiration to become tobacco-free after viewing a picture Nick drew at age 11.
- [Sholom](#), 26, from Brooklyn. He stopped smoking and vaping in preparation for the birth of his first child.
- [Kendra](#), 22, from Hamden, located one hour east of Binghamton in the Catskill Region. She began smoking more in spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but then found strength to take control of her health during the summer months.

The online panel discussion will also include a brief welcome and presentation from the CDC’s Office of Smoking and Health. To learn more about the Tips® Campaign, please visit www.cdc.gov/tips.

About the New York State Smokers’ Quitline

The New York State Smokers’ Quitline is a service of the New York State Department of Health and based at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, N.Y. It is one of the first and busiest state quitlines in the nation and has responded to nearly 3 million calls since it began operating in 2000. The Quitline encourages nicotine users to talk with their healthcare professionals and access available Medicaid or health insurance benefits for stop-smoking medications. All New York State residents can call **1-866-NY-QUITS** (1-866-697-8487) for coaching and resources, free of charge, seven days a week beginning at 9 a.m. Visit www.nysmokefree.com for more information.

About Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is a community united by the drive to eliminate cancer’s grip on humanity by unlocking its secrets through personalized approaches and unleashing the healing power of hope. Founded by Dr. Roswell Park in 1898, it is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in Upstate New York. Learn more at www.roswellpark.org, or contact us at 1-800-ROSWELL (1-800-767-9355) or ASKRoswell@roswellpark.org.

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