



# OPIOID SUMMIT QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK GROUP REPORT

# OUR TEAM



- **Dave Onusko**, 2019 Alum, Quinnipiac Law School, Brother
- **Ana Gopian**: Tricircleinc.com, In long term recovery
- **Kristen Haseny**, CT Realtors, wife
- **Greg Kimmet**, Contractor, Parent
- **Kathleen Schassler**, Veteran Journalist, Quinnipiac Alum - MS 2014, family
- **James Fowler**, OdonnellCompany – LiveLOUD
- **Millie Hepburn**, Nurse, facilitator



DEVELOPMENT OF A  
FRAMEWORK

TO *UNDERSTAND AND*  
**ADDRESS**  
THE MANY NEEDS  
OF FAMILIES

# 3 PRIORITY AREAS OF FAMILY NEEDS

## HOT BUTTON TOPICS: "FOR ME", "FOR FAMILY"

### Crisis Intervention

1. Options: By substance
2. Hospitals with addiction services
3. Safe dosing clinics
4. Medication Assisted Therapy
5. Placement services
6. Avoiding scams
7. Insurance

### Recovery

1. What
2. When
3. Where
4. How
5. Avoiding Scams
6. Detox- outpatient
7. Inpatient Bed availability

### Bereavement

1. Options
2. Obituary planning
3. Financial planning
4. Payment for services
5. Real estate safety

# CRISIS INTERVENTION



- Options- Hot button items
  - For “me” or “family”
  - For a sister, brother, significant other, daughter, son, mother, father, cousin, grandchild, friend, neighbor
- Transport to Emergency rooms
- Hospitals with addiction services
- Emergency insurance coverage
- Inpatient programs-how to avoid scams, brokers
- Residential programs (outpatient)
- Overcoming stigma and shame to obtain access to care
- Information – glossary of terms, organizations

# RECOVERY



- **Who-** who can we turn to?
- **Who-** who can we talk to-we are scared!
- **What-** what are our options? What is the cost?
- **What-** what different programs are available for teens, young adults, AND older adults
- **Where-** where can we receive the best care for our loved one?
- **Where-** where do we go for more information?
- **How-** how will this work? Inpatient/outpatient?
- **How-** how do we know what is safe, and how can we avoid scams?

# BEREAVEMENT



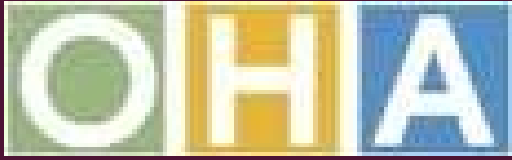
- How do we even begin to process this?
- What do we need to know?
- How do we write an obituary?
- How do we pay for everything?
- How do we protect our financial resources?



## HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- How can we eliminate the stigma to make it possible for families to get help?
- How can our experiences help others?
- What advocacy organizations exist
  - CT 211
  - CT DPH
  - CT DHMAS
  - CCAR
  - CT OHA
- [www.ctclearinghouse.org](http://www.ctclearinghouse.org)
- Tricircleinc.com
- Aware Recovery
- NAR-ANON
- Project Courage
- Grasp
- Various Education and Training programs
- Today I Matter
- Mind Matters
- SMART Recovery
- **Events** - Stronger Together
- CT Film Initiative
- Legislation- what is happening in government that we need to be aware of?





## Connecticut Department of Health: Office of the Healthcare Advocate

- OHA's mission is *education and outreach* to consumers.
- Without a solid knowledge base about their rights, opportunities, and obligations as they engage with Connecticut's healthcare system, there is the chance consumers will:
  - Pay more for their care, forgo treatment or fail to utilize the comprehensive series of no-cost, preventative services available.
  - **Failure** to identify an easily managed health condition may lead to significantly greater impact in the form of a more serious illness, a longer course of treatment, complications or much higher out of pocket costs.
- OHA saved 5000 consumers a total of **\$13,884,659.96** in 2018
  - This savings was achieved through the establishment of:
    - Effective outreach programs and the development of communications related to consumer rights
    - ENSURING that the products and services available are adequate.

# 2019 OPIOID LEGISLATION- DID **NOT** PASS

1. **H.B. 5900-** AN ACT CONCERNING AN EMERGENCY EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN PERSONS WITH A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.
2. **H.B. 6131-** AN ACT REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO A TREATMENT FACILITY WHICH PROVIDES MEDICAL TRIAGE OR TO A HOSPITAL AFTER ADMINISTRATION OF AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST.
3. **H.B. 6135-** AN ACT CONCERNING ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITIES.
4. **H.B. 6151-** AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID DATA SHARING.
5. **H.B. 6531-** AN ACT REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF AN OVERDOSE OF AN OPIOID DRUG TO THE PATIENT'S PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN.
6. **H.B. 6152-** AN ACT REQUIRING THE INCLUSION OF METHADONE IN THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM.
7. **H.B. 6872-** AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABELING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONTAINERS CONTAINING OPIATES.
8. **H.B. 6479-** AN ACT CONCERNING A MINIMUM MEDICAID BASE RATE FOR METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT.
9. **H.B. 6339-** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS RECOVERING FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE.
10. **H.B. 6524-** AN ACT REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF NONFATAL DRUG OVERDOSES.
11. **H.B. 6369-** AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN WITHOUT OPIOID DRUGS.
12. **H.B. 6535-** AN ACT EXPANDING THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS WHO KEEP A SUPPLY OF OPIOID ANTAGONISTS ON THEIR PROPERTY.
13. **H.B. 6763-** AN ACT REQUIRING THE AVAILABILITY OF OPIOID ANTAGONISTS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
14. **H.B. 5900-** AN ACT CONCERNING AN EMERGENCY EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN PERSONS WITH A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.
15. **H.B. 5146-** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE AND OPIOID USE DISORDERS.
16. **H.B. 6131-** AN ACT REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO A TREATMENT FACILITY WHICH PROVIDES MEDICAL TRIAGE OR TO A HOSPITAL AFTER ADMINISTRATION OF AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST.

...AND MORE FOR A GRAND TOTAL  
OF: **28**

## 2019 OPIOID LEGISLATION- **PASSED**

1. **H.B. 7159-** AN ACT ADDRESSING OPIOID USE.
2. **H.B. 5524-** AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE SALE OF FENTANYL

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/>

## OUR JOURNEY...

- We looked at available resources-online, media, organizations
- We found many challenges for families trying to get support
  - Information is confusing and overwhelming
- We went to CT DPH website looking for more information for families
  - Not finding information, we reached out to the information officer
- We were connected to the O'Donnell Company in New Haven
- We then joined forces with
  - **James Fowler** at the O'DONNELL Company



FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER...

# NO MORE SHAME.



- talk to someone
- learn about treatment
- family info & training
- am i at risk?
- learn about opioids
- JOIN CROWD connecticut's crisis info

Learn more about naloxone and how to get it. [LEARN MORE](#)

## connect

If you or someone you know is struggling with opioids or other substances, you are not alone. There are ways to connect and get the support you need. Talk to a peer, call for treatment options, connect on social media, or search for 12 step or other support groups in your community.

## learn

- What are Opioids?
- What is Opioid Use Disorder?
- What are Treatment Options?
- What are the Do's & Don'ts for Families?
- Where is Treatment Available?
- What is Connecticut's Crisis?
- Where can I get naloxone?

## LIVE LIFE WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER



[HTTPS://LIVELOUD.ORG/](https://livecloud.org/)

A photograph of a person's feet on a staircase. The person is wearing green pants and brown sneakers with white soles. The staircase has grey concrete steps and orange-painted wooden nosings. The text "NEXT STEPS" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. "NEXT" is on the upper step, and "STEPS" is on the lower step.

# NEXT STEPS

WHERE DO  
WE GO FROM  
HERE?

## NEXT STEPS

- Continued development of the website, inclusive of the specifics we described.
- We hope that organizations and resources such as those we have discussed that provide meaningful, legitimate and essential resources to families are highlighted on the LIVELOUD website, as well as through other statewide mechanisms that support the diverse needs of families who are in crisis and at risk for losing someone they love or have already lost someone they love to addiction.
- Providing these resources requires **funding and resources** that are not currently available.
- Expanding current efforts in CT to meet the needs of families is paramount.
- Removing the barriers and stigma, providing in – the – moment accessible resources are critically needed.

# TELLING THE STORY OF FAMILIES...

~The many barriers to getting help for someone you love~

**Greg Kimmet**

*~Father~*



**Life has  
ripped a  
great big  
chunk  
out of  
me.**

**But I'm  
patching  
the hole.**

Excerpt from 'The Joey Song' by Sandy Swenson

[sandyswenson.com](http://sandyswenson.com)

