OUR TEAM

- **Dave Onusko**, 2019 Alum, Quinnipiac Law School, Brother
- **Ana Gopian**: Tricircleinc.com, In long term recovery
- **Kristen Haseny**, CT Realtors, wife
- **Greg Kimmie**, 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
- 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?
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**
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 ODONNELL Company
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.
~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