



November 2015

Preventing Overdose Deaths-There Are Solid Options NOW!

From the Executive Director's Desk

One of our key objectives here at James' Place is education. Ignorance about the disease of addiction (medically known as Substance Use Disorder - SUD) causes much needless suffering and death in every state of our nation.

Did you know? Nearly 44,000 people die from drug overdoses each year. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this figure has more than doubled from 1999 to 2013, and more than half stem from prescription pills.



In 2011 and for the fourth year in a row, the number of US citizens whose deaths were drug-related exceeded the number of fatalities in road traffic accidents (33,561). Almost five people per hour died of overdose in the US in 2011. These numbers have remained steady since then.

Addressing the epidemic of drug overdose deaths is complex. Can you save a life? Actually the answer is yes - depending on your state's laws. Following are three programs that can have a large impact. Investigate where your state stands. Then get involved - get trained to carry naloxone; lobby for updated Good Samaritan and naloxone access laws; and know about the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) in your state and how it affects you and your loved ones.

It's a matter of life and death and yet so simple!

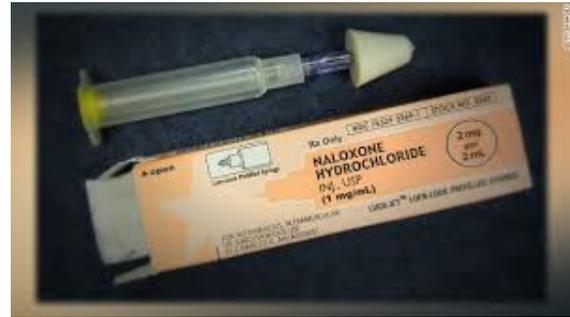
Barbara Allen
Jim's mom, Bill's sister, Amanda's aunt

In this issue...

- [Naloxone](#)
- [Good Samaritan Law](#)
- [Prescription Drug Monitoring Program \(PDMP\) News and Events](#)
- [Wristbands: No Shame or Blame - Just Love®](#)

Naloxone

You don't know about naloxone? Also known as NARCAN®, this life-saving medication can quickly restore the breathing of a person who has overdosed on heroin or prescription opioid pain medication like oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, fentanyl or methadone.



Save a life, share the information and better yet, get trained to administer a safe medication that can reverse an opioid overdose...what does your local health department offer?

Here at James' Place we're trained just like keeping our CPR up to date... how about you? Through Maryland's Overdose Response Program (ORP) training and certification is provided for qualified individuals - e.g. family members, friends and associates of opioid users; treatment program and transitional housing staff; and law enforcement officers - those most able to assist someone at risk of dying from an opioid overdose when emergency medical services are not immediately available.

Investigate what's available in your area.

Currently available by prescription in nasal spray and injection form in most states, more states are permitting it to be sold over the counter.

CVS pharmacies in 12 more states will carry drug to treat heroin overdose

CVS Pharmacies said more of its stores will carry a controversial over-the-counter drug to treat heroin overdose. The medication, Naloxone, will now be available...

Click here to read the story: <http://www.theverge.com/2015/9/25/9398823/naloxone-heroin-overdose-cvs-stores-over-the-counter>

True Story: The entire staff of an inner city IOP program was recently trained to administer naloxone. Each knows the benefit yet there was some reluctance. Then a patient collapsed from an overdose. The medical director jumped into action reversing the overdose. As the ambulance was leaving the scene with an alive and appreciative person, the tide of reluctance turned to excitement and amazement. Sometimes we need to see to believe. Without life there is no hope. Naloxone provides hope.

True Story: The director of a women's transitional house makes sure each resident is trained and has access to naloxone. SUD is a potentially relapsing disease. Even in the best of circumstances, it is smart to be prepared to save a life.

We at James' Place salute all who educate and support the distribution of this life saving medication.

Good Samaritan Law

Viable "Good Samaritan Laws" have been enacted in a number of states. Although the details of each state's law may vary, the intent is that a person who assists with the provision of medical assistance (e.g., calls 911) for a person experiencing an alcohol- or drug-related medical emergency (such as an overdose) may be immune from criminal prosecution for specific violations if the evidence was obtained solely as a result of the person reaching out to save a life. The person experiencing the medical emergency is also protected from prosecution for any specific violations. Is it safe to call 911 in your state? Don't assume - check it out!

True Story: Speaking to over 100 men in a long term treatment program, many were skeptical. How could a person who looks like me care about them? Sharing the loss of my son, brother and niece, the room thawed. We laughed and cried together. Wrapping up I explained how so many have worked hard to update the Good Samaritan and naloxone access laws in the state of Maryland. No longer would someone calling 911 for an overdose be arrested for merely making this life saving call; any probation would not be threatened. They could be trained to carry naloxone to save a life. Each citizen now has new rights protected under the laws of the state. The room erupted in applause and shouts of relief. These men have lived the horror of life on the streets; have lost too many to this disease. Now they know they are empowered to make a difference, too.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

PDMP...one of the newest acronym's being heard more and more. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program means that doctors enter prescription information into their state PDMP program. So what?



Anyone "doctor shopping" for prescription medications can be identified and potentially helped rather than being supported in their addiction problem. There are many benefits but this is the critical one. The ultimate goal is that all states be linked together. This deters going across state borders to doctor shop.

"Doctor shopping" is a huge part of prescription drug abuse in the US today. Want to learn more about this form of "legalized" drug addiction? To best understand this deadly reality, read [Dreamland](#) by Dan Quinones.

Today every state except Missouri has a PDMP. But they vary in how they are used. Find out today about your state. Here's how Maryland is progressing.

Prescription drug monitoring program to link to other states

Doctors and others who use a state-authorized database to track patients' use of prescription drugs will now be able to see if those patients are getting other...

Click here to read the story: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/blog/bal-prescription-drug-monitoring-program-expands-story.html>

News and Events

Barbara Allen Appointed to Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan appointed Barbara Allen, Executive Director of James' Place to the Behavioral Health Advisory Council for a three year term. The Council promotes and advocates for planning, policy and services to ensure a coordinated, quality system of care that is outcome-guided and that integrates prevention, recovery, evidence-based practices, and cost-effective strategies that enhance behavioral health services. The focus includes a culturally competent and comprehensive approach to publicly funded prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services that support and foster wellness, recovery, resiliency, and health for individuals who have behavioral health disorders and their family members.

Have some news to share? Send it along!

Questions? Collaborative learning is good for us all - what weighs on your mind?

Wristbands: No Shame or Blame - Just Love®

These popular wristbands are a means of sharing hope, respect and compassion with others. With a society oriented to shaming and stigmatizing that which scares the uninformed, we choose to spread hope, dignity and respect. To order wristbands, click here:

<http://jamesplaceinc.org/get-involved/wristband-order>



James' Place Inc., a 501(C)3 nonprofit, provides financial support for those needing assistance towards long term recovery. Through our "Shatter the Stigma" initiative, we embrace the work of advocacy and education necessary for hope.



www.jamesplaceinc.org

www.shatterthestigma.com

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