



A Mother's Story Of Hope

A new year can symbolize many things — new challenges, new expectations, and yes, new hope.

This is my and my son's story of hope.

I am one of the fortunate parents. My son is still alive, 10 months substance-free. But first there were many years of concern, then worry, and finally despair watching my son turn into a stranger.

Kevin was in his mid twenties, a well paid job working for the Carpenters Union. He had a girlfriend we all loved, he owned a house and had many friends.

Then he broke his wrist playing baseball with friends. The doctor prescribed Percocet. A lot of Percocet. Kevin always seemed to have some serious pain — his back, his feet, his wrist, his head.

From then it was all downhill. He lost his girlfriend, was late to work so often that he lost his job, stopped showing up at family events. He didn't answer his phone so I went to his house and found

stacks of grocery bags filled with unopened bills.

There were so many hard-luck stories: money that flew out of his truck window, parking lot attendant stealing cash, constant truck breakdowns. Eventually he lost his house due to unpaid taxes and mortgage.

My other two children kept insisting his stories didn't add up. I defended him -- he isn't good at handling money; he got laid off; he just has really bad luck. Finally, his brother caught him stealing and confronted him.

Kevin agreed he needed help with his addiction and went to rehab to detox and stayed 17 days, the limit his insurance would cover.

But substance-free he moved to North Carolina where he found a large community of people in recovery. He was happy there, but couldn't afford to stay so he moved back to Philadelphia.

Although we were happy to have him closer to home, we didn't see much of

him. He went back to work and back to the erratic behavior. Back to excuses, anger, jitteriness, no money.

I found myself walking on eggshells when I was around him. He lived with friends until one by one they had enough. He was in an on-off relationship with a girl who was also using (though we didn't know it at the time). He was fired from job after job.

This time I was a little wiser as I had become involved with Kacie's Cause.

Kevin again said he needed help but the time wasn't right and he kept stalling. I got in touch with an interventionist who is on Kacie's Cause's board, and we started discussing next steps.

But it never happened as Kevin was arrested while living in his car that was filled with drug paraphernalia.

He was sent to George Hill Delaware County Prison where he detoxed in a cell and spent his 36th birthday.

CONTINUED on back

FDA Blasts Alkermes For Underselling Risk of Vivitrol

Reprinted with permission from the author (Lev Facher), STAT News, Boston Globe Media Partners

The Food and Drug Administration chastised the pharmaceutical company Alkermes for “misbranding” Vivitrol, its controversial treatment for opioid addiction, saying the company’s promotional materials failed to warn patients and doctors of the serious risks associated with the drug.

While Vivitrol guards against opioid cravings and relapse for people in recovery from opioid addiction, it reduces opioid tolerance and leaves its users more vulnerable to opioid overdose for patients who relapse, even at comparatively low doses.

“Vivitrol is being promoted in a way that does not adequately present important risk information in a truthful and non-misleading manner,” Thomas Abrams, director of the FDA’s Office of Prescription Drug Promotion, said in a statement. “This is concerning from a public health perspective because of the potential for fatal opioid overdose in this vulnerable patient population.”

Some marketing campaigns for Vivitrol, a monthly injection that works to prevent opioid cravings and block opioids’ euphoric effects, have branded the drug as “non-addictive” in an attempt to distinguish it from two other addiction treatment drugs, methadone and buprenorphine, which are

opioids themselves. Alkermes’ claims prompted an outcry from treatment advocates who see methadone and buprenorphine as valuable, more accessible, and potentially more effective tools to prevent opioid overdose.

The FDA’s warning letter requests that the company submit an action plan to “to disseminate truthful, non-misleading and complete corrective messages about the issues discussed” to the audience targeted by the advertisement — effectively forcing Alkermes to take out advertisements in the same newspapers correcting their prior messages.

While some studies have shown Vivitrol to be as effective as buprenorphine (commonly marketed as Suboxone) at preventing overdose, most come with a major caveat: Many patients struggle to maintain Vivitrol treatment, underscoring the dangers of relapse and overdose.

Alkermes in recent years has aggressively lobbied Congress as well as state legislatures and even criminal justice systems to promote its product over methadone and buprenorphine, in some cases lobbying local “drug court” judges to compel individuals charged with illegal opioid possession to use Vivitrol as an alternative to incarceration.

CONTINUED on Page 2



JULY 25 2020
9AM-4PM



Food
 Music
 Door Prizes
 Swap Meet Area



Women's World
 Car Corral
 Model Car Show
 Celebrity Dunk Tank
 Awards



Shickshinny Park

N SUSQUEHANNA AVE, SHICKSHINNY PA
 (BEHIND CURRY DOUGHNUTS OFF RT 11)



Registration: 9Am-12Pm
 Vehicle- \$8 Before July 12 (\$10 Day Of)
 Craft/Flea Market Vendors- \$15
 Car Corral- \$15
 Dash Plaque To First 50 Vehicles Registered

All Vehicles Welcome!!!
 Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle,
 Pro Streets, Euro Sports, Trucks, &
 Motorcycles



Info: 570-764-2315
www.CarsForKacie.com (Online Registration)
www.Kaciescause.org
 Facebook.com- Cars For Kacie NEPA



CARS FOR KACIE HAS BECOME THE LARGEST DRUG AWARENESS AND PREVENTION SHOW ON THE EAST COAST ATTRACTING THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS YEARLY. OUR GOAL IS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE DISEASE OF ADDICTION.

KACIE'S CAUSE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO DISTRIBUTE THE LIFE SAVING MEDICATION NALOXONE

FDA Blasts Alkermes For Underselling Risks

CONTINUED from front

Judges across the country have accepted meetings with Alkermes sales representatives and subsequently began requiring Vivitrol prescriptions, NPR reported in 2017. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) also launched a congressional probe into Alkermes marketing soon after assuming her seat in 2017, though her office never followed up on its initial announcement.

In 2018, the Trump administration raised eyebrows by recommending the use of “injectable naltrexone” — a description that applies only to Vivitrol — upon release for federal inmates with substance use disorders, effectively eliminating flexibility

for physicians to prescribe whichever drug they see as most appropriate.

Later that year, an Alkermes-funded nonprofit, the Addiction Policy Forum, had become the target of scrutiny throughout the addiction treatment community — the group’s founder, Jessica Hulsey Nickel, was a registered lobbyist for Alkermes at the time of the nonprofit’s inception.

An Alkermes spokesman said in a statement that the company takes the FDA’s warning seriously and is working to respond to the letter. The company, he said, is “dedicated to patient safety and the appropriate use of our medicines.”

Hope From Recovery: A Mother's Story

CONTINUED from front

His father and I refused to pay bail as there would be nowhere for him to go. Our spouses didn't trust him and rightly so. We needed him to get to his hearing, which had been delayed for another week, and then into rehab.

After 10 days in George Hill, Kevin was more than eager to go. I contacted the rehab (RCA) and they agreed to open a bed for him and to request the court to delay the hearing until his in-house treatment was ended. They did all the paperwork for three different hearings. So we paid bail.

Now the story of hope begins.

Kevin thrived in rehab. He attended every meeting including those that weren't mandatory. He took on newcomers and found his higher power. Best of all, he seemed happy.

After 30 days with the help of Kacie's Cause, he was accepted in a sober living home where he lived for eight months. He

is now living in an apartment on his own for the first time in 10 years. He is paying off thousands of dollars in debt, going to meetings, and going through intensive Twelve Steps introspection with his sponsor.

He comes to family events, plays with his nieces and nephews, and I now hear again, "Mom, I love you."

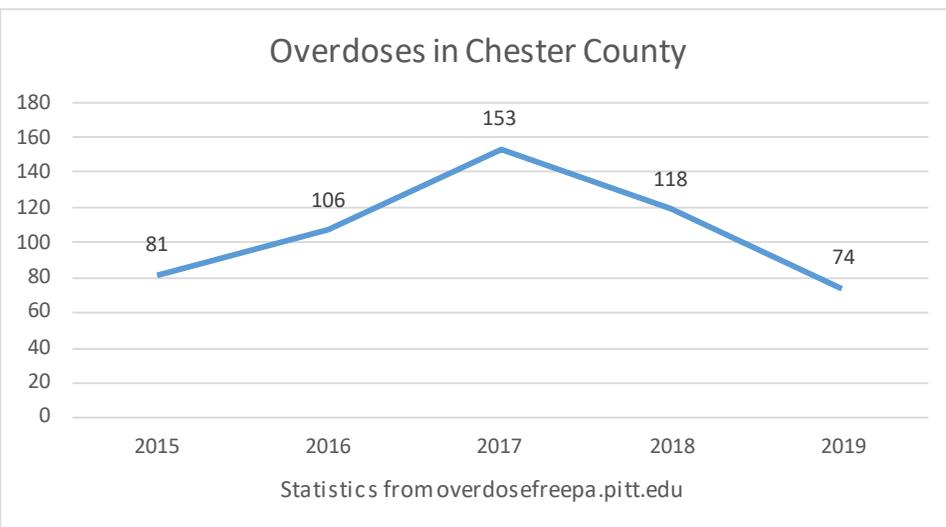
I am not so naive to think that this will be the end of this journey as the power of addiction on the brain is a terrible force. But I do know there are resources to help him and me.

You can find your own source of power in those resources. Having the support of Kacie's Cause and RCA smoothed the way for Kevin to get help but also let me know I was not alone in this difficult time.

So if any of this sounds familiar, there is hope. Hope for your loved one's recovery, hope that every day they are alive is another chance.

Preventing Overdoses

Thanks to a partnership with the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services, Kacie's Cause has received doses of Naloxone (Narcan) that can treat opioid overdoses, and has distributed 357 of them throughout the year. Fentanyl, an opioid pain medicine, has been found in more than 50 percent of overdose deaths statewide since 2015, according to state statistics. Heroin is the second-most common drug found in overdose victims. **If you are a Chester County resident and need Naloxone, please contact one of our chapters or Andy Rumford (andy.rumford@kaciescause.org).**



CHAPTERS

Each chapter of Kacie's Cause has a Facebook page with information relating to their group. To contact them, go to www.kaciescause.org and see the chapter listing at the bottom of the home page. Kacie's Cause has chapters in:

Kennett Square
Parkesburg
Exton/Downingtown
Oxford
Collingdale/Delaware County
Coatesville
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
West Chester
Poconos
Boyertown

WHO WE ARE

Kacie's Cause is a nonprofit organization for parents, family and friends of those battling the disease of addiction.

It was founded by Andy and Donna Rumford on March 12, 2013 — the day their daughter, Kacie Erin Rumford, died of a heroin overdose.

The 501(c)3 organization is dedicated to Kacie Erin Rumford, her memory, her love of all of us and her desire to change this world to be a better place to live ... from her family and friends who love her.

To contact Kacie's Cause, e-mail andy.rumford@kaciescause.org or go online at www.kaciescause.org.

Newsletter prepared by First Baptist Church of Kennett Square and in partnership with Kacie's Cause



www.firstbaptistkennettsquare.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parkesburg: Wednesdays 7-8 p.m.
Parkesburg Point Chapel
700 Main St., Parkesburg

Kennett Square: Thursdays 7-9 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Kennett Square
415 W. State St., Kennett Square

Family & Friends Group: Thursdays 7:30 p.m.
Community Center, MacDade Blvd.,
Collingdale

Justice Family Group: 1st Tuesdays 7-8 p.m.
For those with loved ones involved in the justice system. Coatesville Bible Church, 6 N. 4th Ave.

Caron Sibling Support Group: 2nd Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m.
For ages 18-plus. Exton Community Baptist Church, 114 E. Swedesford Road.

GrandFamilies: 6:30-8 p.m. 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4

Coatesville Bible Fellowship Church. For grandparents, family members, or others raising children. One support group for adults and another for children occur at same time.

Grief support group: 1st/3rd Tuesdays 6-7:30 p.m.
2 Station Way, Chadds Ford
(across from Hank's Place)