

Sage's Army Newsletter

Sage's Army, Inc., P.O. Box 156, Westmoreland City, PA 15692. Phone: (724) 863-LIFE (5433). Access to this Newsletter can be found at our Website: www.sagesarmy.com, Email: admin@sagesarmy.com

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to address issues related to drug and alcohol addiction by providing informational support to children and families by raising awareness ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

Who we are...



Sage's Army was created by Carmen Capozzi and his family after his son, Sage Capozzi, 20, died of a heroin overdose. They felt it was important to raise awareness of

drug problems among youth and erase the fear of talking to parents about them.

Sage's Army has grown and continues its movement as a grass roots, non-profit, all volunteer group who offers bi-monthly Family Reinforcement/Recovery Sessions, bi-monthly Grief meetings (for those who have lost loved ones to this epidemic), a monthly Coffee Break for women, presentations to schools, churches, or groups wanting to learn more about addiction. We also offer a 24/7 Phone Line assistance. Please see Page 7 (Headquarters News) of this Newsletter for full details.



Team Meetings

Sage's Army Team Meetings are attended by a group of dedicated volunteer individuals, along with the Officers and Directors, who help map out our present and future events. We would like to hear from any of you about ideas that you may have and want to contribute or, if you would like to attend the Team meeting in person, just contact one of our staff or e-mail admin@sagesarmy.com.

WANTED

Sage's Army is looking for Volunteers who are interested in helping with administrative functions, IT type work, or would just like helping within our Army. We always have room for more! If you are interested in donating some of your time, please contact us at 724-863-5433 or by email at admin@sagesarmy.com



Sage's Army Help Line



Substance Abuse Issues
You Are Not Alone

724-863-5433 (LIFE)

24/7 Phone line assistance with Sage's Army

- Emotional Support
- Treatment Facility Options
- With or Without Insurance
- Parent and Peer Guidance

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles one has overcome trying to succeed."

~Booker T. Washington



"Move out of your comfort zone. You can only grow if you are willing to feel awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new."

~Brian Tracy

Events We Attended

- Apr 4** – Sage's Army spoke at Steel City Center.
- Apr 12** – Yough School District Drug Symposium, Carmen guest speaking.
- Apr 13** – Carmen at the Monessen Youth Council speaking on addiction.
- Apr 16** – Carmen to Harrisburg at Pa Advisory on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.
- Apr 23** – Carmen in Somerset for speaking engagement.
- Apr 23** – Carmen in Harrisburg for rally.
- Apr 27** – Carmen at Penn Trafford for presentation.
- Apr 20** – Narcan training with Sarah at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- May 1** – Sage's Army Team Meeting at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- May 2** – Carmen toured SPHS Washington Co.as part of Governors program.
- May 8** – Carmen and Christine speaking at the Bayer Corporation.
- May 8** – Sage's Army to Somerset High School for We Will Recover.
- May 12** – Downtown Irwin Flea Market. Table set up at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Jun 25** - Carmen in Harrisburg at Pa Advisory on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.



Upcoming Events



- Jul 3** – **NO Team Meeting for July.**
- Jul 14** – Gig on Main Street, Downtown Irwin.
- Jul 11** – Open Grief Group Meeting for all at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Jul 19** – Music in the Streets, Downtown Irwin.

- Jul 12** – Family Group Meeting at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Jul 25** – Open Grief Group Meeting for all at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Jul 26** – Family Group Meeting at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Jul 31** – National Night Out, Mt Pleasant.
- Aug 7** – National Night Out, Latrobe.
- Aug 8** – National Night out, Northmoreland Park.
- Aug 8** – Open Grief Group for all at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Aug 9** – Family Group Meeting at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Aug 20** – Carmen in Harrisburg at Pa. Advisory on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.
- Aug 22** – Open Grief Group for all at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Aug 23** – Family Group Meeting at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Sep 12** – Open Grief Group Meeting for all at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Sep 13** - Family Group Meeting at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Sep 26** – Open Grief Group Meeting for all at Sage's Army Headquarters.
- Sep 27** – Family Group Meeting at Sage's Army Headquarters.



Being trained on Narcan does not mean you support drug activity...you train to SAVE A LIFE!

(watch our Facebook page for dates and times for Narcan training at the Headquarters).

Drivers Killed on US Highways

Two thirds of drivers killed that tested for drugs had opioids, marijuana or combinations in their system.

Sage's Army Successes

THANK YOU to the Monessen Youth Council for inviting us to speak about addiction and the growing epidemic in our world today.

So **GRATEFUL** to be part of the Yough School Districts Annual Drug Symposium.

These are our TRUE LEADERS!

Newsworthy Tidbits



Westmoreland Jail Inmates... could receive anti addiction injection called Vivitrol.

Heartache between 2006–2017... 838 overdose deaths in county.

Seeking Grants... county looking to pay for counseling and other services related to Vivitrol in prisons.

Surprising fact... New York is losing workers in their prime and dealing with reduced productivity of employees with loved ones addicted.



Pa. first state... to add ADDICTION to the list of qualifying conditions to use medical marijuana.

Don't let it happen here... Minnesota opioid overdose deaths are rising and are related to counterfeit Fentanyl.

4329 people died in Ohio... of drugs in 2016, second only to W. Virginia.

Help is around the corner... in Somerset, Pa. Drug abuse program allows you to stop into the police station and they will help you get the help you need.

Driver's tested for drugs... 28% tested positive in 2006. In 2016, it was 43.6%.



Go Go Pittsburgh... Allegheny Co filed a lawsuit suing 8 opioid pharmaceutical companies to recoup money lost to drug crisis.

Autopsy table results... showing a blend of cocaine and powerful fentanyl causing deaths on Western Penna streets.

Advise from the top... US Surgeon General Adams urged more people to carry Narcan.

It's your life... life expectancy in US dropped for second year because of the opioid epidemic. **WE SHOULD BE ALARMED!**

Economic cost of opioid crisis... estimated to have topped 1 TRILLION dollars from 2001–2017.

State of Kentucky... is suing Walgreens, claiming the pharmacy played a role in the states opioid crisis.

Approximately 20.1 MILLION Americans... are addicted to opioids. That's the equivalent to the population of Florida.

Signs of Prescription Drug Addiction

If you or a loved one uses prescription painkillers or other habit-forming medications, knowing the signs of abuse can help prevent addiction. Some of these include: Becoming preoccupied with getting and using the drug.

- Needing a supply of the drug on hand at all times.
- Needing more of the drug to produce the same level of pain relief or symptom control.
- Engaging in dangerous activities, like driving, while under the influence of the drug.
- Participating in illegal behaviors, such as stealing, to get more of the drug.
- Changes in physical appearance, especially in the area of personal hygiene.
- Doctor shopping to get new prescriptions for the drug.
- Stealing drugs from relatives or friends or asking to use someone else's prescription.

If you notice any of these symptoms in a loved one, or you think you might be developing a drug dependence, it's time to do something about it.



Notable Quotes



From Commissioner Ted Kopas on volunteer program for anti-addiction injections, "The key will be to identify suitable candidates."

As per Prison Warden John Walton, "Two thirds of inmates in county lockup last year required detoxification services."



Tim Philips, Executive Director of Drug Overdose Task Force says, "Vivitrol can be an effective tool if it is coupled with counseling and other services."

Carmen Capozzi, President of Sage's Army says, "Narcan is the first step in getting somebody out of a crisis and trying to get them into rehab to get them help."



U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions states, "Today we are facing the worst drug crisis in American History, with one American dying of a drug overdose every nine minutes."

From the Washington Free Beacon: Noting 62,000 fatal overdoses each year, drug abuse corrodes users, households, and communities, overwhelms foster care systems, and causes babies to be born addicted.



From Commissioner Charles Anderson on Vivitrol for inmates, "It's a great opportunity to open the door to allow anyone to get free of their addiction."

Mike Stuart, U.S. Attorney for Southern District of West Virginia says his state has been particularly wracked by the opioid epidemic, made worse by drug traffickers bringing drugs in state from Detroit.



Dr. Jerome Adams, at Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit, "No mother should have to bury their child especially not when there is a lifesaving medication that virtually anyone can access." (Narcan)



From entertainer, Russell Brand, "The mentality and behavior of drug addicts and alcoholics is wholly irrational until you understand that they are completely powerless over their addiction and unless they have structured help, they have no hope."



Please honor

With a picture of your loved one for our Memorial Wall at Sage's Army Headquarters so we can remember them.

Send to: Sage's Army, Inc.

P.O. Box 156

Westmoreland City, Pa. 15692

OR you can drop off at our Headquarters at 216 Fourth St, Irwin, Pa 15642 during OPEN hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

Empowering People with Knowledge to Help Improve Their Lives

P2P
Pathways to Pardons

Hosted by
Lt. Governor Mike Stack & Westmoreland Drug Overdose Task Force



GET IN WESTMORELAND
Governor's Justice and Treatment Act
Westmoreland Drug Overdose Task Force
www.governorwest.com

Wednesday, August 8th
6pm - 8pm

Westmoreland County Courthouse - Commissioners Meeting Room
2 North Main Street - Greensburg, PA 15601

The program is free, open to the public, and designed to inform constituents of the pardon process with time allotted for Q&A and discussion.
For more information contact: Lt. Governor Stack's Hearing Office at (724) 787-8300
Please RSVP to Mike Brooker at (724) 830-3110.

What is *Vivitrol*?

Vivitrol, injected intramuscularly, is used as a preventative relapse medication to opiates and alcohol. **Vivitrol**, used in conjunction with counseling and support, can calm cravings for opiates or alcohol for up to 4 weeks. It works by blocking activity in the limbic system, a part of the brain that is involved in alcohol and opiate dependence.



Looking for employers who would consider hiring persons in recovery. We need to do all we can to help restore these persons to a normal life. Let us know WHO can help.

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When ordering from Amazon...Sign up for Amazon Smile and a percentage will go to Sage's Army!

QUESTIONS and Answers

with Sage's
Army



DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION? Let us help you find the answer.

Question: We have a 30-year-old daughter addicted to drugs and alcohol. She recently lost custody and is supposed to have supervised visits with her son, who is 7. He lives with his dad who lets him go over there and spend the night even though the courts have said NO. We no longer have a relationship with our daughter, we don't help with anything. She lives in a rent-free apartment with her druggy boyfriend, gets food stamps and doesn't keep a job for more than 2 months at a time if she works at all. We are not enabling her, but the system is. Why doesn't she have to be drug tested to receive these programs?? I have to, to keep my job, no wonder she doesn't change. What can we do? She won't go to rehab or get any help ... we are lost. - Frustrated Father

Answer: *Dear Frustrated Father,*

Thank you for your question. I'm sorry to hear about your painful situation. It's so difficult to see someone we love self-destructing in their addiction. However, it sounds like you have done all you can in not supporting her financially and refusing to enable her in any way. I know you have been through a lot already, but I have two suggestions that might help relieve some of the stress you are currently experiencing. First, I highly recommend that your entire family and circle of friends get some support. Addiction has a traumatic effect on everyone in the family, even those family members who are not living in the same house with the person struggling with the addiction. Just being able to "vent" with other people who can relate to your situation will provide a great deal of relief for you. Look for a counselor who is familiar with addiction and/or consider attending al-anon meetings. You will be able to get some practical suggestions, and you will be able to find emotional support as well, to address that "lost" feeling you refer to. Also, with the help of a counselor, you can begin to address any anger, remorse, anxiety or other emotional feelings you are experiencing. This type of support will also help regulate your own physical and mental health, which is at greater risk of dysfunction because of the stress you are under. To find a counselor or therapist, begin by contacting the nearest drug/alcohol treatment center, or hospital that offers such a program; these facilities should have social workers who can offer suggestions. Secondly, I want to address the issue regarding your grandson. I'm concerned that even though the courts have said he can't visit his mother, his father is disregarding that decision and providing visitation. Someone needs to make sure the boy is not being exposed to any risky or shady situations when staying with mom, especially considering that both mom and her boyfriend are actively using. Hopefully mom remains fully cognizant during his visits, and I don't mean to suggest she isn't — but addiction is a wild card, and if the youngster is being exposed to any hazardous circumstances (i.e., mom and boyfriend are too "high" to watch after him while he's there), then those visits should stop immediately. If you have reasonable suspicion the boy isn't safe, and your son in law refuses to take appropriate action, then you might need to contact your local child protective services or the courts and inquire about your options — you can do so anonymously in most cases, if only for advisement, you might also, if you wish, occasionally let your daughter know that it's her addiction you dislike, not the good person underneath, as a reminder that you're willing to reconnect if she seeks help facing her problem. That is if you feel comfortable doing so; and it is perfectly understandable if you do not. It's just that, stressful as these situations are, coming from a position of love while holding proper boundaries can sometimes break the ice — if, of course, the struggling person truly wants help. I hope your daughter does get help, sooner rather than later.

Article of the Quarter

Woman Bribed Docs to Prescribe Addictive Painkiller

By [Carly Baldwin](#)

MIDDLETOWN, NJ — A Middletown woman who worked as a pharmaceutical sales representative testified in court Wednesday that as a New Jersey sales representative for Insys, an Arizona-based pharmaceutical company, she participated in a scheme in which doctors were paid kickbacks and bribes in exchange for prescribing Subsys, a powerful fentanyl-based opioid painkiller.

Michelle Breitenbach, 38, of Middletown, N.J., pleaded guilty today to a second-degree charge of conspiracy to commit commercial bribery. She admitted that doctors, in return for off-label prescribing of Subsys, were paid kickbacks and bribes in the form of purported speaker fees for marketing/education events.



Doctors who participated in Insys' "Speakers Bureau Program" purportedly spoke at events to educate other doctors about Subsys. In reality, the events involved free meals at expensive restaurants, and doctors were paid as speakers even if they did not speak, or if other doctors did not show up to listen, the New Jersey Attorney General charges.

Breitenbach testified that management at Insys pressured sales representatives to promote the Speakers Bureau Program as a primary means to drive increased sales of Subsys. She admitted that the payments made to the doctors as "speakers" were actually rewards for prescribing more Subsys.

The case occurs at a time when state and federal prosecutors are going after doctors who prescribe powerful opioids, and increasingly, the pharmaceutical companies that make them. Last year, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office filed suit against Insys and its billionaire founder, John N. Kapoor.

The AG argues the pharmaceutical company puts the public at risk with an unlawful marketing campaign designed to exponentially increase sales of Subsys. State attorneys say that Insys made fraudulent claims and unlawfully incentivized doctors to prescribe Subsys "to an inappropriately broad array of pain patients," some of whom did not need the powerful and addictive pain killer.

Subsys is a spray form of fentanyl that has FDA approval only for intense breakthrough pain related to end-stage cancer. Doctors can legally prescribe drugs for off-label use – meaning purposes beyond what is approved by the FDA. But the state AG says the pharmaceutical company tried to influence healthcare providers' prescription decisions with payments or other benefits, which is illegal.

On May 4, the Attorney General's Office announced that the Board of Medical Examiners had revoked the license of a Cherry Hill, N.J., family physician, Dr. Vivienne Matalon, for indiscriminately prescribing Subsys to three patients, including a woman who died while taking the drug.

The Attorney General's Office also has filed a pending complaint seeking to revoke the license of Warren County pain management practitioner Dr. Kenneth Sun for allegedly accepting over \$136,000 from Insys while indiscriminately prescribing Subsys. His license currently is suspended.

The New Jersey Attorney General's Office also filed suit last year against Purdue Pharma L.P. in connection with its alleged deceptive marketing of opioid painkillers, particularly OxyContin.

"This former sales rep admitted her role in a scheme to pressure doctors to prescribe more Subsys in return for so-called speaker fees and other perks," said Director Veronica Allende of the Division of Criminal Justice, speaking of Breitenbach. "When doctors receive improper incentives to prescribe drugs, self-interest can cloud or supplant their medical judgment, with dangerous results, particularly when a risky, addictive opioid like Subsys is involved."

Breitenbach will be sentenced July 6, and she is facing five years.

RESOURCE PHONE NUMBERS

Westmoreland County Drug and Alcohol Commission – 800 220-1810 ext. 2
 Allegheny County Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services – 412 350-3328
 Butler County MH/MR Drug and Alcohol – 800 292-3866
 Cambria County MH/MR Drug and Alcohol – 814 536-5388
 Clarion/Armstrong/Indiana Drug and Alcohol – 724 354-2746
 Fayette County Drug and Alcohol - 724 354-2746
 Somerset County Drug and Alcohol – 800 452-0218
 Washington D&A Commission – 724 223-1181
 Westmoreland CRISIS Hotline – 800 836-6010
 Alcoholics Anonymous – 866 851-8459
 Narcotics Anonymous – 800 992-0401
 PA Get Help Now Helpline – 800 662-4357
 Sage's Army Helpline – 724 863-5433



For a listing of In/Out Patient Treatment Facilities for Insured and Non-insured, please go to our website (sagesarmy.com) and look under Addiction Resources.

Headquarters News...

Sage's Army Family Reinforcement / Recovery Session

Who: Friends and family members of anyone that may have a problem with addiction.

When and where: Every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Sage's Army Headquarters at 216 Fourth Street, Irwin, Pa. 15642.

Addiction affects the whole family, often the best chance for an addicted person to get better is for his or her family to get better. This bi-weekly group session provides both the information and guidance that family members need to deal with the immediate crises of addiction, and also the on-going support they need to make necessary and often painful choices that family recovery requires.

Information and Referral

We are available to guide family members through the maze of treatment and recovery options. We maintain a resource center with a collection of printed material, books, meeting schedules and brochures.

Cost:
Free of charge

Where:
Sages Army Headquarters
216 Fourth Street, Irwin, Pa. 15642.

When:
Every second and fourth Thursday of the month
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Sage's Army will schedule a presentation to your school, company, church, or any group. We have a form under Request a Presentation on our website at sagesarmy.com



2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS EACH MONTH

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Have you lost a loved one to addiction? Do you need to talk to others who know how you feel? Do you need to work your way through the web of grief? This group is for anyone (parents, siblings, spouses, girl/boyfriends, friends, etc.) who has suffered a loss to the addiction epidemic.



Please join us on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 – 8 pm at Sage's Army Headquarters.

Grief Support Group

For everyone who has suffered a loss

Confidential and Free

Come to listen or to vent

We are here for you!

SAGES ARMY HEADQUARTERS
316 4th Street
Irwin, PA 15642
724-863-LIFE
www.sagesarmy.com

Sage's Army Coffee Break



Coffee Break is for women, who have family members struggling with addiction. This is a time to find support and to know that you are not alone.

When: The 1st Friday of every Month from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Where: 216 Fourth Street, Downtown Irwin Entrance at Miller's Crossing Parking Lot.

Free coffee and Pastries will be provided.
For more information contact Tina at 412-512-7236



Headquarters Hours



We are now open **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** from 12 - 6 pm. Stop by to get some information or just to say Hi!

We also have **drug tests available** at the Headquarters as well!



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Shirley Shubuck
GRI
Associate Broker

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Gourmet Affairs Catering Inc.



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Kathy Hydak

Chef:
Richard Hydak

Manor, PA 15665

(724) 863-8540

www.gourmetaffairs.net

gourmetaffairs@comcast.net



BIG THANKS to Tina Perez for donating her time and merchandise for the Sage's Army table at the Irwin flea market event. We also don't want to forget all our other volunteers (newsletter, grief group, family group, speakers, office staff (Tony), help line, mailing staff and Team members who come up with so many great ideas and follow through!)

We truly appreciate your dedication and support!



Sage's Army Summer Basket Raffle!

We are offering a Beautiful Sage's Army Basket filled with all kinds of Sage's Army merchandise to be raffled off at the end of Summer. There is NO COST, just stop in our Headquarters on Monday, Wednesday or Friday any time after 12 noon and sign up for this free gift. Just leave your email address or phone number and we will contact you if you are the lucky winner!



From *OUR* President, Carmen Capozzi...



Be sure to check your calendars for the family meetings held at Sage's Army Headquarters twice a month. This group is for and family member or friend of someone in the grips of addiction. No shame No guilt. This is a safe place to share and get support for yourself. Check our Headquarters News for other meetings to attend each month.

Extreme Dance Center

725 Pellis Rd.
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-217-3166



Call to enroll
Summer session begins June 25th

Capozzi Flooring

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Fax: 724-837-8455

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Office hours by Appointment
Monday & Thursday 8 am to 8 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8 am to 5 pm
Saturday 8 am to 12 noon

Pawsitively Great Care

Your Business Card HERE...

\$40.00 for business card size for 3 months.

\$110.00 for 4 X 5 insert for 3 months.

\$120.00 for business card size for 12 months (paid in advance).

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newsletter@sagesarmy.com