



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
PO BOX 345
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0345

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

JOHN L. HULICK, MS, CPS
Executive Director

PRESS COVERAGE, TASK FORCE HEARING OF May 29, 2012

[New Jersey investigates painkiller addiction among youth, Newsworks New Jersey/WHYY, \(05/29/2012\)](#)

One 21-year-old Rutgers student testified he took some oxycodone that was prescribed for his father and became addicted to it during his senior year in high school. "In the middle of active addiction you don't value your own life. My life meant nothing to me. I didn't care if I lived or died. It did not matter to me," said the student identified only as Ryan.

[Task force confronts problem of drug abuse among youths, PolitickerNJ, \(05/29/2012\)](#)

Health experts, addicts and a former governor convened a public brainstorming session today to address the problem of drug abuse among youth. Former Gov. James McGreevey was back in the Statehouse today as a member of the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use Amongst New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults. The task force, organized as part of the Christie administration's Blueprint for a Drug Free New Jersey 2020, held its first hearing this morning, taking testimony from opiate addicts and interested stakeholders.

[Touching Letter from NJ Mom to Eric Scott Heard on Ask the Governor Show \[AUDIO\], NJ101.5fm, \(05/30/2012\)](#)

A New Jersey mother sent a letter to Eric Scott seeking help for her 19 year old son. He has a drug problem that started with roxicoden and graduated to heroin. The mom made a plea to Governor Christie to reform the mandate for non-violent drug offenders to help her son. Audio of Eric Scott reading the letter and Governor Christie's reaction during Ask the Governor show can be after the Mom's letter.

[NJ's Young People Getting Hooked On Drugs At Alarming Rate \[AUDIO\], NJ101.5fm, \(05/30/2012\)](#)

Yesterday, the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use Amongst New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults held the first in a series of public meetings. Panel chairman, Frank Greenagel said, "We are here today not just because the statistics are staggering, but because our State's children are dying more often than anyone would care to admit. Heroin and other opiate use have reached epidemic proportions."

[Jim's Topic on Teen Drug Abuse and Information for Concerned Parents \[Audio\], NJ101.5fm, \(06/01/2012\)](#)

Yesterday, Jim discussed the woman who wrote Eric Scott a letter that Eric subsequently read and handed over to Governor Christie during Ask the Governor. The letter was a plea to help her son who has a major drug problem. On today's show, Jim conducted a few interviews with Michael, the husband of the woman that wrote the letter, as well as interviews with John Hulick and Frank Greenagel from the Governor's office.

[The John Grambling Show, WOR710, \(06/04/12\)](#)

John Grambling discusses his take on the drug epidemic in New Jersey and how it is affecting the youth.

[Hunterdon Prosecutor: Dangerous Heroin Causing Overdoses, \(06/04/12\)](#)

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns stated, "Hunterdon County has had nine drug related overdoses in the last six months. Many have been attributed to Heroin. Heroin users need to know that they are in danger."

[Heroin Use Increases Among NJ Residents \[AUDIO\], NJ101.5fm, \(06/07/2012\)](#)

Many Jersey residents are shocked to discover that heroin is the fastest growing drug in the Garden state. Steven Liga, the Executive Director of the Middlesex County Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence says,, "People who start out with prescription drugs – if they become addicted and suddenly can't get it from their doctor any longer – getting those prescription drugs on the street or online is very expensive – heroin will give the same effect for much cheaper...so what happens is some people can't afford to keep the prescription drug habit- so they have to switch to a more economical drug – and in New Jersey that would be heroin."

[GRASP support group brings healing to those who have lost a loved one to substance abuse, Asbury Park Press, \(06/19/12\)](#)

A grieving mother brings support to others who have lost a loved one to substance abuse. For Abby Boxman, July 13, 2011, is a day that forever will be inscribed on her heart. It was the day police visited her Howell home with the news that her 21-year-old son, Justin, had been found dead of a drug overdose. A loving family member and popular teenager who'd been captain of his football team at Colts Neck High School, Justin's experience with drugs began with marijuana. After a "rocky period" for Justin, "We learned that Justin was using prescription painkillers such as OxyContin, which the kids called 'roxies,' " Boxman said. "And when the money ran out, he turned to a cheaper alternative – heroin."

[NJ rehab rates for opiate addictions skyrocket, Asbury Park Press, \(06/28/12\)](#)

Her son's last words about his descent into painkiller abuse still echo in Meg DuPont Parisi's mind. "I just can't lick this," the Mantoloking woman recalled 21-year-old Patrick Parisi saying, days before he died. DuPont Parisi's message is this: Act before addiction to painkillers gets your children. Once addicted, getting them back is no easy task. And the stakes are so very high.

[GCADA Facebook page photo album of the May 29, 2012 Task Force hearing](#)

Photographs of the Task Force hearing and relevant news coverage and resources can be found at the Council's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gcada.newjersey.