

County fights overdoses with Narcan

Free certification program offered in administration of opioid overdose revival agent

BY BILL SAN ANTONIO

It had been 35 days since her son's funeral, a solemn end to his six-year addiction to heroin and prescription drugs. Oxycontin and Xanax, a mother named Lee told a mostly filled auditorium at Hericks High School on Monday.

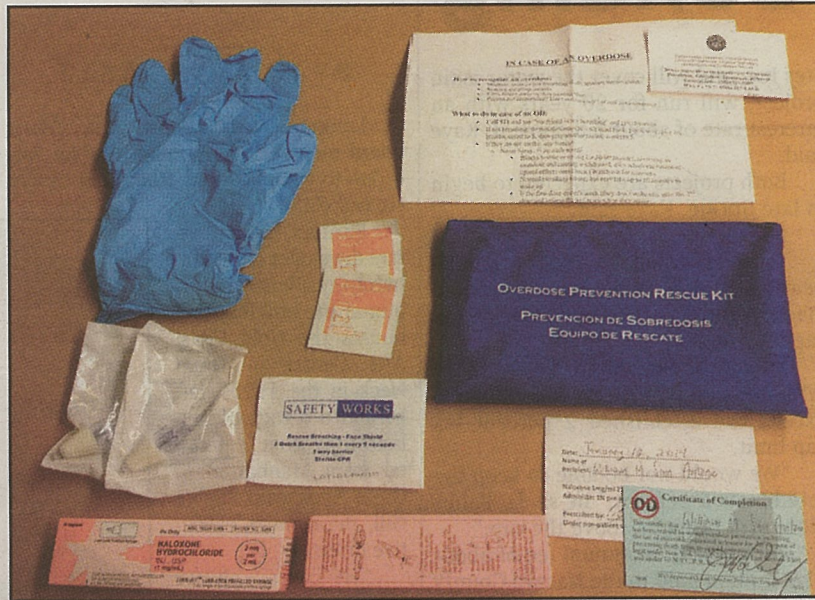
She had just arrived home from the store, where she bought warm clothing and anything else the young man might need during his latest attempt at detoxification and sobriety, when she said her mother's intuition told her to drop everything and go upstairs.

She found him lying on the bathroom floor, his skin turned blue – overdosed and cold before she could reach for her Narcan kit and revive him, much less call an ambulance.

"By then, it was no use," she said through tears. "He was already gone."

The tale jolted one of the first Nassau County-sponsored Narcan training seminars of 2015, a harrowing reminder of addiction cutting deeper than the troubled people seeking an escape from life's struggles.

Lee said she probably couldn't have saved her son because he was alone when he used for the last time. Text messages she later found in his cell phone hinted that his overdose was meant to be fatal.



The contents of a free Narcan kit provided by Nassau County upon completion of its certification program.

But the mere presence of Narcan in her home, and Lee's ability to use it, reflects a changing of the guard in the way New York State has approached the distribution of the revival agent amid spiking opioid use across America.

In 2006, the state Legislature ap-

proved a law clearing non-medical professionals of liability in using Narcan on a person suspected of overdosing. It passed two more bills in 2011, one establishing a registry to document monitor patients who fill opioid prescriptions and another decriminalizing misdemeanor drug pos-

session for people who call 911 to assist an overdose victim.

In 2012, Nassau County became certified in the state's overdose responder program, enabling its Office of Mental Health & Chemical Dependency to offer free Narcan certification clinics and information sessions amid record fatal heroin and



opioid overdoses that year (154). There were even more, 159, in 2013, but fatal opioid overdoses dropped to 87 in 2014, according to county statistics.

Residents who attend the sessions are eligible to receive certification to administer Narcan, also known as Naloxone, and receive free kits provided by the county, which include two doses of the drug in the form of a nasal spray. Narcan may also be administered through injection.

"[Heroin and opioid use on Long Island] is the worst I've ever seen," said Loretta Hartley-Bangs, a social worker with the North Shore-LIJ Health System's Community Treatment Center in Mineola who spoke during a panel discussion

Continued on Page 66

66 The Manhasset Times, Friday, January 16, 2015

LEGALS^{MT}

Notice of Formation of George J. Juang, M.D., PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2014. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 81 Gaynor Ave., Manhasset, NY 11030. Purpose: any lawful purpose. MT 140865
6x 12/12, 19, 26, 2014, 1/02, 9, 16, 2015
#140865

Notice of Formation of Heart and Arrhythmia Care of New York, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2014. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The PLLC, 81 Gaynor Ave., Manhasset, NY 11030. Purpose: any lawful purpose MT 140866
6x 12/12, 19, 26, 2014, 1/02, 9, 16, 2015
#140866

Jay Furman arts center board member dies

Continued from Page 4

being produced when Furman got involved with the arts center, but eventually acquired his namesake after Gil realized Furman had come to the series so frequently.

"Jay Furman was one of a kind. It was one of the things emphasized by just about every speaker at his funeral," Gil said. "His depth of knowledge was staggering, there was nothing he couldn't talk about it."

Gil also said Furman was

heavily involved with New York University, his alma mater. He was on NYU Law School's board of trustees, helped build what is now known as Furman Hall, and backed the Furman Public Policy Scholarship Program. Gil also said he was on the board at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

He also helped support the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and the Center on Law and Security, according to NYU's website.

"He wasn't just about giving kids the money," Gil said. "If he gave you a scholarship, he invited you to dinner, he followed you throughout your college career. He wanted to see what you could do."

Furman owned property in 39 states and Puerto Rico through the firm he ran, RD Management, according to Wikipedia. Between 1993 and 2006, Furman had developed or acquired more than 125 properties, according to Wikipedia.

At the time of his death, Wikipedia said, he was managing about 20 properties. Furman also reportedly had interests in more than 150 shopping centers, office buildings and hotels.

Gil said that all the inspiring adjectives one could use to describe him cannot adequately describe the unique person Furman was.

"I lost a personal friend," Gil said. "We lost a great champion."

Nassau fights overdoses with Narcan

Continued from Page 3

about Narcan Monday.

County health officials at the sessions teach attendees the warning signs of a potential overdose, which include uncontrollable nodding, an inability to respond to stimulation, heavy gurgling or gasping for air and skin, lips and nails that turn blue in color.

Attendees are also taught an

eight-step process to administering Narcan that begins with attempting to stimulate the potential overdose victim, calling 911 and conducting CPR before using the revival drug.

A revived overdose victim will often immediately feel withdrawal symptoms and want to use again, so officials tell seminar attendees to let them know emergency medi-

cal technicians are on their way.

"It's frightening to see your child on the ground, not breathing. You may forget how to dial 911, but that's what we're here for, to talk you through it," said Mike Seltzer, president of the Nassau County Police Medic Association.

If both doses of Narcan have been used, county officials tell attendees to contact the Office of

Mental Health & Chemical Dependency to receive additional doses, rather than purchase them from local pharmacies.

The county also keeps records of overdoses in which Narcan is administered.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 10,000 instances have been reported across the country since 2006.