The Opioid Crisis — And You

How serious is the opioid crisis? More than 33,000 people died as a result of an opioid overdose in 2015. It is estimated that more than 500,000 will die in the next decade. For years the medical community underestimated the addictive nature of many prescription opioid pain relievers. Overuse of prescription opioids and the creation of more powerful synthetic opioids like fentanyl have created a crisis of epidemic proportions.

What should you do if a loved one, friend or co-worker is struggling? If there is an immediate risk of overdose, call 911. If there is a risk of suicide, call your local crisis intervention center.

Seeking treatment for drug addiction may be very confusing, and expensive. You will need to know what type(s) of therapy your insurance covers, inpatient or outpatient. If inpatient treatment, you will need to know what length of treatment your insurance covers. Some treatment plans require 60 to 90 days or more. Studies show that treatment plans of 90 days or more have higher success rates. If your insurance company covers a 15 day stay and you are looking at a facility that uses a 30 day treatment plan, you will need to work with a financial counselor to arrange payment for the remaining 15 days of treatment.

There is no cure for addiction. Recovery from addiction is a lifelong process. Some treatment programs have ongoing aftercare programs. Treating addiction is difficult and expensive. The cost of the addiction itself includes the cost of the drug, lost wages, medical problems that occur as a result of the addiction and potential legal consequences.

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, please consult this list of drug and alcohol treatment resources available in Pennsylvania: http://connectcare3.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Drug-and-Alcohol-Treatment-Resources.pdf.
I often wonder what kind of treatment, if any, our daughter would have received if we had not called and gotten the support of ConnectCare3.