



## Presbyterian Women's Substance Use Disorder Initiative



### Raise awareness

- Read and discuss *Dopesick* by Beth Macy (New York: Little, Brown & Co., 2018)
- Screen PBS's *Nova* episode "Addiction"—[www.pbs.org/video/addiction-afsxne](http://www.pbs.org/video/addiction-afsxne)
- Share the resources of Shatterproof.org, a national nonprofit dedicated to ending the devastation that substance use disorder (SUD) causes families.
- Learn more about faith-based initiatives from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: [www.samhsa.gov/faith-based-initiatives](http://www.samhsa.gov/faith-based-initiatives)
- Access and use the opioid toolkit available from Health and Human Resources: [www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/partnerships/opioid-toolkit/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/partnerships/opioid-toolkit/index.html)

### Pray

- Pray for those affected by SUD. See [www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice) for prayers you can use.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for your PW group's efforts to intercede for those affected by SUD.

### Advocate

- Support recovery and training groups meeting at your church—See, for example, [www.starttalking.ohio.gov](http://www.starttalking.ohio.gov).
- Talk about SUD within PW and other groups at your church. Invite people willing to share their stories.
- Share the church's stance on drug policy reform developed by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. See [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/acswp/drug-policy/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/acswp/drug-policy/).
- Learn more the church's position by reading "A View from the Inside/Outside," by J. Bryan Page at [justiceunbound.org](http://justiceunbound.org).
- Advocate for SUD avoidance education in your schools and church youth group.

- Join a Prevention Action Alliance.
- Advocate for safe storage and disposal of drugs—<https://drugfree.org/article/secure-dispose-of-medicine-properly/>
- Google and share your state's drug take-back program—See <https://nabp.pharmacy/category/medication-collection-and-disposal> and <http://bit.ly/2tzx9b5>.
- Determine whether your church, workplace or volunteer organization could serve the community by having Naloxone on hand—[www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/opioid-overdose-reversal-naloxone-narcan-evzio](http://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/opioid-overdose-reversal-naloxone-narcan-evzio).

### Work for policy change/legislation

- Call for legislation that treats substance use disorder as a disease, not a moral failing.
- Call for legislation that makes the appropriate intervention (including scientifically proven medication-assisted treatment [MAT] for opioids) readily available and affordable.

### Prayer\*

Loving God, we ask your comfort and healing for those among us struggling with substance use disorder. We know their suffering is great and their isolation sometimes unbearable. May they experience the love and support of their family and community. Give us the courage to reach out to them in love and help them experience the effective treatment they need from doctors and caregivers. We ask for your grace and mercy for their journey as they face the many challenges of living with substance use disorder and the underlying pain that often leads to addiction. Bless those who work to provide services for those struggling with addictions. By your grace, may we be a community that shows compassion for people who are suffering. Amen.

\*Adapted from a prayer by Dr. David Litts of Your Life Matters! for those affected by mental health and substance use disorders.

