The Opioid Epidemic is a nationwide Crisis. Pennsylvania has been one of the states hardest hit, being in the top 10 for overdose deaths across the nation and the numbers continue to increase. Even here in Pike County, the amount of overdose deaths and Naloxone reversals continues to rise with more than 50 residents lost to overdose since 2014. Addiction is a disease and does not discriminate amongst demographics. ANYONE can become addicted. As a community, we need to work together to support and implement effective treatment and prevention programs in our county.

Lead by our Drug and Alcohol Commission, The Pike County Opioid Task Force has been meeting Monthly for the last year to address the issue of addiction, reducing the stigma associated with addiction, and improving the health of all residents. The Task Force has collaborated with the University of Pittsburgh to create a three-year strategic plan that can benefit from contributions and perspectives from all members of our community. The primary areas of our focus include: prevention, reducing stigma, enhancing the continuum of care in the treatment and recovery process, improving public safety issues associated with substance use and related overdoses, decreasing supply of illicit drugs, implementing harm reduction strategies, and increasing coordination between law enforcement and healthcare/human service entities to support recovery from addiction and improve the wellness of our communities. To find out how you can contribute, join us at a meeting or contact us through our website: www.pikepa.org/opioid