

From: [Michalenes Mission](#)
To: [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Meeting tonight
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It is, Appalling how the district atty wants to be using the opoiod settlement money to further stigmatize ones with a SUD. As a parent who lost her child to an overdose in 2018 and began advocating and providing all forms of harm Reduction for many across this county who are struggling it is a mental health first and foremost. And should be treated as so. It has long lasting effects across the board with homelessness, infectious diseases suicides and deaths.

Harm Reduction is far more than just naloxone!! It's showing ones a true connection to hope, healing and love support and linkage to care. . It's testing drugs for illicit substances to prevent deaths and the spread of HIV and HCV pregnancy. It's showing them wound care to horrible abscess from xylaline that is here. Or a college student who uses Coke for recreational purposes. There are safer ways. Drug paraphernalia charges with fines only adds to homelessness stigma fines and incarceration. Which has that circle of in and out of lccf and high risk of death.

The prev program for schools should not be yet another law enforcement Stigma based one. But one taught by people with [experience.in](#) fact, an excellent program has been written which I've sent to WVDA before.

My feet are and have been on the streets doing the work. I can say this warm handoff program doesn't work well when stigma hospitals ,ems etc. Also, I've recently spoken to local pd and magistrate regarding the LETI program in which neither heard of it !? It should be enforced by all of pd depts and pds! Again, I'll call it blood money which what is is from my daughter's death should have a say it not be used for such stigma based services. It was meant and allocated for PREV Treatment.

she,her Executive director Prevention Point NEPA -
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