

Heroin: Not Even Once, Ever

In the past few weeks it has become apparent that heroin use is deadlier than ever.

As adults and as parents, we must be vigilant about opioid prescriptions and use, which can lead to heroin addiction, and we must insist that our children know to their cores they cannot try heroin even once. Not ever.

Disregarding heroin's insidious addictive qualities, the period from Aug. 24 to 29 was a record for heroin overdoses in Cincinnati. A toxic new additive, carfentanil, made the drug 100 times more lethal than when it was mixed with the already deadly fentanyl.

Overdoses in Cincinnati averaged 29 per day, totaling 174 in that six-day span. The carfentanil-laced heroin was so toxic that emergency responders had to use protective gear when in contact with the substance.

Our teens and young adults must fully understand going forward that the allure of heroin can't ever be regarded simply as a crazy high that can be experimented with just to see what it's like. Just one use can kill, or the inevitable addiction can catapult your entire family into a gut-wrenching, draining, horrifying money pit of a maelstrom that only those who have experienced it can ever imagine.

Addiction is a vortex that takes down the whole family in its wake.

Drug dealers don't care about your child or your family. Their primary concern is selling more of an increasingly addictive substance. Fully understanding the smoking-gun

theory, in which the perpetrator is the one who actually pulls the trigger, it is my opinion that dealers who lace heroin with carfentanil should be prosecuted as murderers.

Adding carfentanil to heroin is the equivalent of adding poison to candy. Even though we know it is bad for us, many of us choose to eat candy.



Guest Column
By Leah R. Harrison
lharrison@atljewishtimes.com

However, we would never knowingly buy and consume our favorite candy if we were aware that deadly toxins had been added.

Anyone who surreptitiously augments heroin with a substance that is as unequivocally lethal as carfentanil should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Since publishing the first part of our series on the Atlanta area's Jewish Heroin Triangle Sept. 2, we have heard from you. Heroin addiction in our community and beyond is far more prevalent than most of us can fathom. It is an epidemic that we must acknowledge and wage war against.

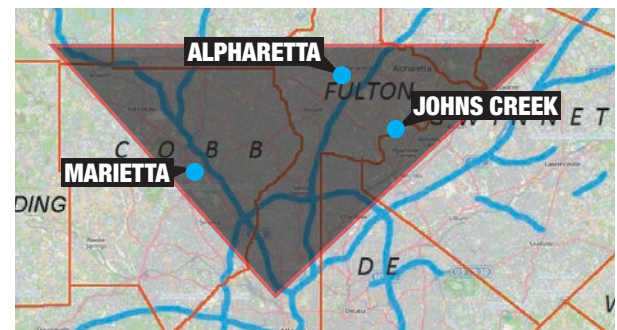
Additionally, as discussed in Cady Schulman's Sept. 9 article, "Drug Treatment Success Begins With Genes," the issue of genetic predisposition to addiction is rising, in sync with the need to regard addiction as a disease.

It is increasingly clear that there is a genetic component, and some

people react differently than others when exposed to the same drug. Just as we don't judge a diabetic for a physical reaction to a substance, to combat this epidemic our society needs to shift from regarding a person with the inability to metabolize medication as a criminal and instead consider that person as an individual with a disease that requires education and personal vigilance (just like diabetes).

I believe that genetic testing will enable progress in identifying those at risk in our efforts to reverse the deadly trend of addiction.

To be fair, a distinction should be drawn between opioid dependence from a prescription and purely recre-



ational consumption, but the issues of metabolism and disease still exist.

In the coming weeks you'll read of sudden, tragic loss, of shattered dreams and a family that has thrown everything at addiction in the battle for a child's life, and of emergence from recovery and the possibility of an inspiring and hopeful future.

We'll also explore anti-addiction and recovery resources that more members of our community would like to make a reality. Get out your checkbooks, and stay tuned. ■

Carfentanil in Cincinnati

Carfentanil is so new to authorities, according to a New York Times article Sept. 5, that the Hamilton County coroner's office "had to call zoos, rural veterinarians, federal law enforcement authorities and a licensed manufacturer in Canada to find a sample" to use to calibrate drug-testing equipment.

It's "an animal tranquilizer used on livestock and elephants with no practical use for humans," and my MacBook spell-check doesn't yet recognize the name of the drug.

A mere 2 milligrams of carfentanil can knock out a 2,000-pound elephant, and an amount smaller than a snowflake can be deadly to a human.

Suspected to be a test batch that was permeating the Hamilton County (Cincinnati) area, the potent mixture monopolized two-thirds of the police officers on the street, flooded emergency rooms and had first responders carrying two to three extra doses of the antidote naloxone for themselves in case of ingestion or any physical exposure. Calls went out to declare the epidemic a public health emergency.

While one quick spray of naloxone is typically enough to reverse a heroin overdose, Cincinnati first responders found that they had to use two, three or up to five doses to revive people from the carfentanil-laced heroin during that deadly wave of overdoses. ■

What's Kasasa®?

It's like earning money.
Just more of it.

2.15% APY*
on balances up to \$25,000
if qualifications are met

0.02% APY*
on all balances even if
qualifications aren't met

And it's easy to earn our highest rates...

Just do the following transactions & activities in your Kasasa Cash® account each monthly qualification cycle:

- Have at least 12 debit card purchases post and settle
- Be enrolled in and agree to receive eStatements



www.geobanking.com
(770) 226-8800
6190 Powers Ferry Rd,
Ste 150
Atlanta, GA 30339

Ask for **free Kasasa® checking**

*Qualification Information: Account transactions and activities may take one or more days to post and settle to the account and all must do so during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in order to qualify for the account's rewards. The following activities do not count toward earning account rewards: ATM-processed transactions, transfers between accounts, debit card purchases processed by merchants and received by our bank as ATM transactions, non-retail payment transactions and purchases made with debit cards not issued by our bank. "Monthly Qualification Cycle" means a period beginning one (1) business day prior to the first day of the current statement cycle through one (1) business day prior to the close of the current statement cycle. Reward Information: When your Kasasa Cash account qualifications are met during a Monthly Qualification Cycle, the following rewards will be distributed to your account(s): (1) Balances up to \$25,000 receive an APY of 2.15%; and balances over \$25,000 earn 0.389% interest rate on the portion of balance over \$25,000, resulting in a range from 2.15% to 0.40% APY depending on the account's balance and (2) ATM Fee Reimbursements: You will receive reimbursements for nationwide ATM fees incurred during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in which you met your Kasasa Cash qualifications. An ATM receipt must be presented within sixty (60) calendar days of transaction for reimbursements of individual ATM fees of \$5.00 or higher. When Kasasa Cash qualifications are not met ATM fees are not refunded, all balances in your Kasasa Cash account earns an APY of 0.02%. Rewards are credited on the last day of the current statement cycle. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APYs are accurate as of 08/15/2016. Rates and rewards are variable and may change after account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Additional Information: Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, and other requirements apply. \$100 minimum deposit is required to open this account. Receipt of electronic statements is a condition of this account. Enrollment in online banking is required to view your electronic statement. Limit 1 account per social security number. There are no service charges or fees to open or close this account. Contact one of our Georgia Banking Company customer service representatives for additional information, details, restrictions, processing limitations and enrollment instructions. Kasasa and Kasasa Cash are trademarks of BancVue, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A.

Member FDIC