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How is the opioid epidemic affecting you, your family, and your neighborhood? :

I am a mom of a freshman at OSU Newark, a person in recovery and I work in the Opiate recovery field. I am seeing more and more families who are affected, teachers who are uneducated and a community divided and filled with stigma. This epidemic is unlike anything I have seen both from a personal and professional standpoint.

What do you see as causes of the epidemic in your community and in Ohio? :

Causes start at home, pills in cabinets, depression, anxiety & there is a need to fix our life's problems and a pill is the answer, sometimes. There aren't enough ways to express how as a community we need to support one another and our neighbors.

What steps might we take as a state to combat the opioid epidemic? :

There is just not enough funding nor are there beds open. We want to help people, but there isn't enough education, Support or continuing care.

What might we do as individuals and a community to reduce opioid abuse?:

Come together. Support each other. Educate. Reduce stigma. Funding. Support. Have spaces to talk and help each other.

Anything else you'd like to share?:

There are lots of ways to help and offer solutions, but the money and community support needs to be there.