



nurturing families
impacted by substance use

NEXT of KIN
123 Any Street
Northampton County, PA

Dear NEXT of KIN,

On behalf of *Northampton County's Overdose Fatality Review Team*, I wish to express our sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. The purpose of this letter is to offer support and resources and to request a meeting. Oasis Community Center, a support center for families impacted by substance use, is a partner of the *Northampton County Overdose Fatality Review Team*. Northampton County is conducting an overdose fatality review and your assistance would be very beneficial. We are very concerned about the alarming number of overdose deaths of our county residents and would like to learn how, as a community, we can prevent them from occurring. Your feedback and input will provide valuable insight.

You were identified as a next of kin through information we obtained from the coroner's office after the death of your loved one. As part of our review, we wish to listen to your story and find ways to help understand why substance use-related deaths happen, how to prevent them, and how to respond better. We understand that family members and friends can provide us with information we cannot otherwise learn about your loved one, such as his/her life experiences, access to resources, life stressors, and what might have helped. This conversation is vital to better understand what services, resources, and support could be offered to individuals to prevent this in the future. To learn more about the Overdose Fatality Review process and how you can help with the Next of Kin interview, please visit <https://speakupforben.org/overdosefatalityreview>.

If you voluntarily agree to participate, I will meet with you to ask you questions to better understand your loved one's life experiences. Topics will include health, family, and use of providers and social services. This confidential interview can be scheduled at a time that is convenient for you, and take place at the Oasis Community Center, 3410 Bath Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18017. If you live out of the area, the meeting can take place virtually. All information obtained will be strictly confidential and identifying information will not appear in any publications or reports or be given to anyone outside of the review process. *We have prepared a special comfort care package we would like to give to you and hope it will provide a bit of comfort to you during this difficult time.*

I will reach out to you within the next week or so to schedule a time for the interview. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me to learn more about the grief support we can offer to you and your family. I can be reached at Oasis at 484-747-6825 or email me at rhonda@oasisbethlehem.org. You can also visit our website to learn more: <https://oasisbethlehem.org/grief-support>.

Sending Peace and Comfort,

Rhonda Miller

Rhonda Miller, CFRS, Certified Grief Educator
Executive Director | Oasis Community Center & Speak Up for Ben, Inc.
Lead Next of Kin Interviewer | Northampton County Overdose Fatality Review Team