

PARENT SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Prospective presenters should attend an appropriate number of Parent presentations before first speaking to become familiar with our presentation styles for parents and how these guidelines are incorporated.

Prospective presenters will meet with the **Director of Parent Programs** or a designated other person to review their speaking outline and timing before your first presentation.

Parent Presentations should last for a maximum of 20 minutes.

Flexibility is required and your presentation may be shorter or longer at times. Leave time for questions.



Remember: This is an opportunity for you to educate others. Have some photos of your child to personalize the message. Check with the Coordinator if a PowerPoint can be utilized in a particular event **if you wish** (optional) to display photos (on a USB stick for laptop). Feel free to bring notes to help guide you *(Please refrain from using alcoholic beverages prior to all speaking engagements)*

**Please add Narcan, the Good Samaritan Law, and One Pill Can Kill to all discussions.
Alumni in Recovery will review with new speakers.**

Share your experience regarding the following:

- Family structure (traditional; divorce/blended; etc.; environment)
- Childhood – what kind of student was your child like while growing up? School environment; sports/activities. Place your child in context of how their school years went.
- The progression and what happened –The “defining moments”: What signs did you specifically see that your child had changed? How did you find out? Was drug paraphernalia present? What was the interaction and your relationship like?
- The active addiction behaviors exhibited: e.g. pathological lying; car accidents; new “friends”; disappearance; etc. What to look for.
- Share what may have been a risk (ie. poor grades, social issues, learning disabilities, etc)
- Explain what you have learned about the disease.
- Share how it affected you and your family.
- What steps did you take to intervene? What resources did you use and what was the result? What were the most successful, if any, and least?
- What happened to your child?
- What it is like now for you and your family?
- Where do you go for help if you suspect or know of a problem?
- Resource List especially if it helped you/your family (i.e. Nar-Anon, Al-Anon, AA, etc.)
- Why you speak publicly?
- Our hope is to continue to increase awareness in our community, especially amongst other parents, of the reality of addiction deaths. End the stigma regarding the disease of addiction