

JONATHAN'S LEGACY LEGISLATION

Ending Overdoses and Rebuilding Lives
in Sullivan County, NY

PURPOSE

- To Increase understanding of the crisis
- To expose the failure of managed addiction
- To advocate for a solution that guarantees every person the choice for lasting, drug-free freedom.

CHANGE

M.A.T.

- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the primary state-funded approach to addiction.
- It is the **mandated policy** as the “rehabilitation” path across New York State.
- Billions in funding flow to MAT programs each year.

MAT is built on addiction maintenance, not freedom.

THE REALITY

- MAT's stated goal is "harm reduction"
 - Reduce deaths
 - Reduce risky behaviors
 - Keep people in treatment
 - **Drug Abstinence is not required**
 - **The exclusion of other treatment options with documented success rates is a critical part of the problem.**

Jonathan's Legacy proposes a recovery-first model with the goal of "harm eliminate" freedom from dependency and restores lives.

MAT REPLACES ONE DRUG WITH ANOTHER

- Methadone and buprenorphine are opioids
- Patients remain dependent
- Stabilization is prioritized over freedom



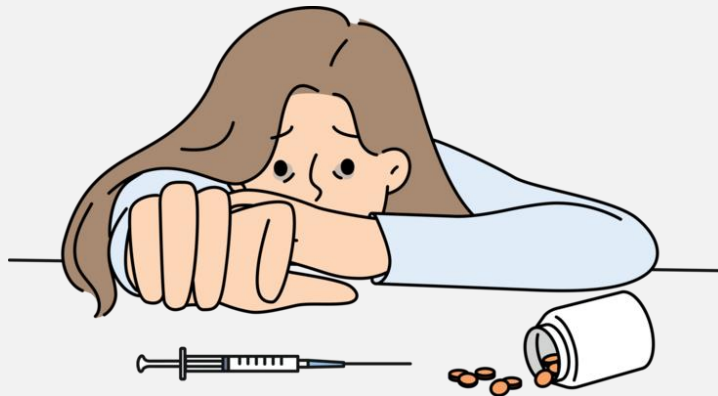
HIGH RELAPSE RATES

- **Over** 60% relapse within one year
- MAT users mix drugs, worsening outcomes
- Relapse = **OVERDOSE** RISK



THE MIX

- Fentanyl is 50x more potent than heroin
- Nitazene is 40 x more potent than Fentanyl
- Xylazine is now ravaging communities in the US.
- MAT drugs cannot match its strength
- **People overdose even while in treatment**



THE OVERDOSE GATEWAY

- Overdose is clear evidence that the individual's addiction is life threatening.
- The person is incapacitated.
- Reviving without rescue is not compassion.
- Resuscitation without a plan is reckless.

WHY?

The Addiction Economy

Addiction is a \$250–350 Billion industry in the U.S.

Legal and illegal systems **both profit from repeat dependency**, not healing.

- Legal: Patients become long-term customers
- Illegal: Addicts become repeat buyers
- **Both: Revenue increases with chronic use**



Same Goal, Different Wrapping

- Both systems rely on dependency for revenue
- Addicts are not patients or victims — **they are customers**
- The difference is legality, not morality



MAT IS BIG BUSINESS

- Methadone \$693M industry - and rising
- Suboxone: \$1.9B industry - and rising
- **Clinics rewarded for enrollment, not recovery**
- Financial incentives drive expansion



A BETTER WAY FORWARD

- Long-term, drug-free programs succeed
 - Address trauma, identity, relationships
 - Emphasize healing, reintegration, freedom
 - **Provide the crucial time required to be wholly restored.**



PROTECT RECOVERY CHOICE

- Require all treatment providers and courts to offer MAT-free recovery options alongside MAT programs.
- Mandate informed consent laws that ensure individuals are clearly told MAT is not the only path to recovery.
- **Make freedom from addiction a choice.**



FREEDOM **TO CHOOSE** FREEDOM

- **Independent & Self-staining**
 - Faith-based long-term recovery homes do not seek state funding or OASAS licensure, yet they have restored lives for decades.
- **Freedom of Choice**
 - Legislation should acknowledge these programs as legitimate recovery pathways, ensuring families can choose them without penalty.
- **Complementary, Not Competitive**
 - These homes do not replace clinical treatment, but they fill a critical gap in long-term, abstinence-centered recovery.



RELEASE OR RESCUE

- **Current System**

- Revive with Narcan
- Release back to danger
- Repeat until death



- **Jonathan's Legacy**

- **Acknowledge incapacity**
- **Initiates Life saving Intervention**
- **The goal – Drug Independence**



The undeniable statistics, the repeated overdoses are repeated sentinel event – Ignoring that fact is willful negligence.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create long-term, drug-free residential recovery programs fully funded as equal alternatives to MAT
- Offer people a path to full sobriety – not just chemical maintenance – with life skills, job training and family restoration.
- Mandate incapacitation at overdose as a life-saving intervention
- Track recovery, not retention
- Protect recovery choice

CONCLUSION

- **Sullivan County stands at a crossroads. Without bold legislative action, overdose deaths will continue to devastate families and communities. Jonathan's Legacy Legislation offers a clear path forward by restoring individual dignity, rebuilding family systems, and reclaiming our communities from addiction—not with dependency, but with freedom.**

