



## Forum for Families: Coping After the Overdose Death of a Parent or Child

*Sponsored by PA Family Support Alliance and Highmark Caring Place*

**Wednesday, September 20, 2017**

Registration 8:30 AM

Program 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Highmark Caring Place

3 Walnut St., Suite 200

Lemoyne, PA 17043

[Directions](#)

*What you have feared would happen, has happened. A loved one has died from substance use. Unsure who can be trusted, you don't draw attention to your feelings or how your loved one died. You fly under the radar. You may withdraw. You have conflicting feelings about your loved one. You feel like you don't relate well to even your best friends anymore. You feel like no one gets you or what you are going through.*

We know these scenarios are real. Whether a parent grieving the loss of an adult child or a child who has lost a parent to addiction, this forum will provide you with an understanding of grief from the perspective of those who have experienced the tragedy of overdose death. We will talk about:

- How children grieve and how the child's experience differs from an adult's grieving process.
- Special challenges for families who have lost someone due to overdose, such as shame, isolation and anger.
- Coping with the loss of a child while caring for a grieving grandchild.
- Personal stories of coping and finding meaning in the tragedy.
- Resources and support available to help your family.

Presenters:

**Beth Bitler, Program Director for PA Family Support Alliance (PFSA); Terri Bowling, Child Grief Specialist at Highmark Caring Place; Terry and Lori Mishler, founders of Sara's House of Hope; and participants in Highmark Caring Place program** will offer information, support and personal stories of coping after the death of a loved one due to drug overdose.

This session is offered to **families affected by the death of a loved one due to addiction**. There is no charge to attend, but pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register, email [bbitler@pa-fsa.org](mailto:bbitler@pa-fsa.org). For questions or more information, call PFSA at 717-238-0937.

