

The Many Faces of Addiction: Ending the Stigma

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Gov Christie And Pastor Joe Carter Host Summit to End the Stigma of Drug Addiction

Gathering at The New Hope Baptist Church to Shine Spotlight on “The Many Faces of Addiction”

CALL TO ACTION, ENDING THE STIGMA AROUND DRUG ADDICTION & TREATMENT:

This afternoon, the Governor joins with Pastor Joe Carter of The New Hope Baptist Church for a call to action and conversation – bringing together public leaders, treatment professionals and advocates, and survivors of drug addiction – focused on ending the stigma around drug addiction and treatment.

- [FLASHBACK VIDEO: Gov Christie & Fmr. Gov McGreevey \(who is participating in today’s summit\): We Don’t Agree On Every Issue But We Agree On This](#)

“The Many Faces of Addiction: Ending The Stigma” will feature a series of panel discussions focused on bringing many voices together in an effort to change the way we talk and think about addiction. Since even before taking office, Governor Christie has discussed how we need to change the way we view addiction and the misconceptions about who it impacts, how it affects lives, and how we deal with it as a society.

His message: it can happen to anyone.

The Governor has often spoken about this point in deeply personal terms in the past, reinforcing the fact (and what the data bears out) that this affects families across the socioeconomic spectrum and throughout geographic areas of the country:

- Among persons aged 12 or older, the rate of current illicit drug use in 2012 was 11.7 percent in the West, 9.6 percent in the Northeast, 8.6 percent in the Midwest, and 7.7 percent in the South. (U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services, [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#), September 2013)

- In 2012, the rate of current illicit drug use among persons aged 12 or older was 9.9 percent in large metropolitan areas, 9.2 percent in small metropolitan areas, and 6.8 percent in nonmetropolitan areas. Within nonmetropolitan areas, the rate was 8.3 percent in urbanized counties, 5.9 percent in less urbanized counties, and 4.8 percent in completely rural counties. (U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services, [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#), September 2013)
- Both city and country programs were similar in terms of gender distribution for example. In both cases more than two-thirds of those who enter programs are male. There was also a similar prevalence of concurrent mental health conditions which accompanied the substance abuse. (["Comparing Urban and Rural Drug Use | Drug and Alcohol Abuse,"](#) *Addiction Treatment Magazine*, 5/8/13)
- Rural residents were more likely to abuse marijuana, alcohol or prescription drugs. Rural-dwelling citizens often start using substances younger and seem to generally only seek out help once they have broken the law. Education and intervention programs in rural areas could become more targeted with this information in hand. (["Comparing Urban and Rural Drug Use | Drug and Alcohol Abuse,"](#) *Addiction Treatment Magazine*, 5/8/13)
- Urban drug users come from an ethnically diverse background, have low education and employment and tend to use harder drugs like cocaine and heroin. (["Comparing Urban and Rural Drug Use | Drug and Alcohol Abuse,"](#) *Addiction Treatment Magazine*, 5/8/13)

Governor Christie: My Friend Fell Victim To Addiction



The Governor Has Taken Bold Steps To Bring Innovative And Compassionate Reforms To Issues Of Addiction, Treatment, And Recidivism That Are Saving And Helping To Reclaim Lives:

- **Instituting A Landmark Mandatory Drug Court Program For Nonviolent, Drug-Addicted Offenders.** Focusing on treatment, rather than merely incarceration, gives these individuals the actual services they need to overcome addiction, which is often the underlying cause of their criminality.
- **Providing Legal Protections For Good Samaritans In Drug Overdose Situations.** Governor Christie joined with Jon Bon Jovi to sign the bipartisan Overdose Protection Act into law, providing legal protection to people who are in violation of the law while they are attempting to help a drug overdose victim and eliminating negative legal action against health care professionals or bystanders who administer overdose antidotes in life-threatening situations.
- **Supporting Successful Transition For Those Who Have Sought Out Treatment And Counseling Services From Inside Prison.** In April 2014, Governor Christie signed legislation that allows drug treatment programs in state prison facilities and jails to be licensed, providing a bridge to other state services like job training and assistance programs for inmates who have received counseling and treatment to stay off drugs and away from crime once they're released.
- **Helping Inmates Reclaim Their Lives By Attending College.** Led by Rutgers University in partnership with the Christie Administration, the New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium (NJ-STEP) is providing access to college for qualified incarcerated students, while assisting in the transition to college life upon their release into the community. Currently, there are nearly 500 inmates participating in the program, in 6 of New Jersey's 13 State correctional facilities, with the aim of expanding over the next four years to serve 2,000 inmates in 10 facilities.
- **Statewide Heroin Antidote Program To Train And Equip First Responders With Immediate, Lifesaving Response To Overdose.** Governor Christie announced the statewide expansion of the successful pilot program that was launched in Ocean and Monmouth counties earlier this year to help reduce the number of heroin-related deaths by training and equipping police officers and first responders to administer the antidote Narcan to overdose victims.

THE SUMMIT DETAILS: Today's summit will continue to build on that record of changing perceptions on these issues. Here are the details: the summit begins at 1:00pm at The New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, can be viewed on livestream throughout the event [here](#).

Here's a rundown of the general schedule for the afternoon, along with information on the specific panels and participants:

Welcome Remarks From Pastor Joe A. Carter

The Many Faces of Addiction: Video Presentation

We Play A Part In Ending the Stigma: A Conversation Between Pastor Joe A. Carter and Governor Chris Christie

Panel Discussions:

Stigma As A Roadblock To Recovery

Moderator: **Michael Santillo**, Administrative Director of Clinical Services, Eva's Village

- **Dr. Manuel Guantez**, Chief Executive Officer, Turning Point
- **Evelyn Sullivan**, Managing Director, Pittsgrove Treatment Facility of Daytop New Jersey, Inc.
- **Dr. Lou Baxter**, Executive Medical Director, Professional Assistance Program of New Jersey, Inc., and Addiction Medicine Consultant, Division Mental Health Addiction Services
- **Dr. Michael Shore**, Outpatient Private Practice Physician of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine and Medical Director for Elm Lifelines, a Women's IOP Program

It Can Happen To You: Ripple Effect Of Addiction

Moderator: **Governor Jim McGreevey**

- **Chief Larry Mihlon**, Chief of Police, West Long Branch Police Department
- **Rob Glander**, Physical Education Teacher, Daytop New Jersey, Inc.,
- **Kass Foster**, Co-Founder, Parent to Parent, Inc.
- **Thomas Dwyer**, Founder and Executive Director, Gateway Center for Counseling and Recovery

The Story Of Addiction Isn't What You Think

Moderator: **Laurie Dhue**, News Anchor and host of "For the Record," TheBlaze TV

- **Ray Lucas**, Former New York Jets Quarterback and Addiction Peer Counselor for the P.A.S.T Retired Athletes Medical Group
- **Jesse Schenker**, Chef and Owner of recette and The Gander

The Many Faces Of Addiction

Moderators: **Pastor Joe A. Carter and Governor Chris Christie**

- **Rev. Anthony Keith Hawthorne**
- **Craig Hanlon**
- **Valerie Banks Jones**
- **Shirley Reaves**
- **Wilda Ramos**
- **Latanya Thompson**
- **Doreen Hickson**

A Call to Action: Closing Remarks From Governor Chris Christie