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Congratulations

Come Join Us

**OTPG 10th Annual
Conference**

Lake Lanier Islands,
Georgia
November 17, 2017

Board Members:

Jonathan Connell President	Leslie Sitcoff Secretary
Brook Etherington Vice President	Stacey Pearce AATOD Delegate
Chip Fuller Treasurer	Zac Talbott Parliamentarian



real help = real hope

OTPG QUARTERLY NOV. 10, 2017

An OTPG Conference Note

By Joelyn Alfred | Lakeland Centres Treatment Center



Come join the Opioid Treatment Providers of Georgia for the 10th Annual Fall Conference as we celebrate this year's theme of "Making Strides In Medication Assisted Treatment & Marching Towards Recovery." An opportunity for educational exploration awaits you! The arena of conference

activities will include numerous educational opportunities. We urge you to take advantage of the wisdom of your colleagues and peers and saturate yourself in the knowledge that the conference has to offer. We proudly welcome the well renowned Mark Parrino as our keynote speaker. **November 17, 2017 will be here before you know it, so share the good news. Tweet it, Facebook your friends and affiliates, or just pick up the phone. It doesn't matter how you do it, just do it. Come join OTPG and help make a difference!**

For More information: Visit www.otpggeorgia.org download the registration form.

A late fee will be applied after November 3rd.



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**An Opportunity for Education and
Patient Advocacy**

By Ali McCorkle, LPC | DM&ADR

I wanted to share with everyone about a recent opportunity to provide training and education to our local police force. As you know, Naloxone is the opioid overdose "antidote," that we commonly refer to as Narcan. Many of our police officers and first responders in Georgia already carry Naloxone while on duty. With a little research, I realized that this is not always the case. A neighboring town with a small police force was not equipped to administer Naloxone, nor had the means to purchase this for their officers. As we well know, law enforcement can occasionally pose a challenge when advocating for Medication Assisted Treatment. Inspired by the great work of the Georgia Overdose Prevention Program, I saw a great opportunity.

I first reached out to the Chief of Police. He said that often his officers arrive on the scene of an emergency before EMS arrives. In the past, they have had drug overdoses and were not able to help until EMS arrived. After researching potential options, I found the Kaleo Cares Program, through Kaleo Pharmaceuticals. Kaleo manufactures Evzio, which is an auto-injectable form of Naloxone. It currently retails for approximately \$3,800 without insurance, however they provide Product Donation Grants in certain circumstances. I applied for this grant on behalf of the police department and was granted enough products for each officer free of charge. The paperwork from start to finish took about 6-8 weeks.

I found the officers to be especially grateful, and excited about the possibility of being able to use the medication and potentially save a life. I took the opportunity to give a presentation on Medication Assisted Treatment, before providing the training on administration and safety of Evzio. The officers were incredibly receptive, and I was so excited to see all the questions they had. As we well know, much of the misunderstanding about MAT comes from lack of knowledge.

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An Opportunity for Education and Patient Advocacy

By Ali McCorkle, LPC | DM&ADR

They asked great questions about driving safety, what services we offer, how patients get take homes, etc. In many cases, officers do not get the chance to see the patients that are thriving in treatment, but only the patients whose choices lead them to break the law. It was important to me that these officers also hear about the patients they don't get the chance to see. I left feeling very positive and hopeful about working together in the future, and they were very grateful for the information.

As a Joint Commission accredited program, this type of advocacy is exactly what we can use towards our Community Education Plan, not to mention the wealth of education I was able to provide our local law enforcement officers. I would encourage any OTPG members who may live in a small town, to consider reaching out to their local police force. Perhaps they are in need of Naloxone themselves, and you can use this opportunity to educate them on your program and MAT in general. Please feel free to contact me at athensclinic@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



Poems By Antonio Merriweathercraig

Dope

When I wake and when I lay
From each breeze
These compulsive ways
I punch I kick I swing
I fight for my life
This war of dark nights
My secrets are shame
Withdrawals such pain
Am I already dead
In the wake of my wave
Hell, in sin of my ways
I pray and trade ego for
strength
I'm alive
Come
Emerge from that hole with
hope
My bloods now clean
No trace in my stream
I dream
One day at a time
Such powerful people
You fighters inspire
Hold and fight
Dare not to retire
Repertoire!

Fear

I'll fly away I say
I see here I don't belong
A flightless bird I've been
A fool of my own creation
Somewhere in between these
bitter folds
Is me
A disease or just a sinner's
woes
I freeze still needing thinner
clothes
Pump my fists to the place
where Gods are made
I am the sole vanguard for a
better day
Beat this and win
He hesitates to greet the abyss
that's within
Under my own weight
Face to face with my sins
Can't back down or slack now
It's clear
It's near
My fear
Life of the hooked one!



By Stacey Pearce | GPA Treatment of Macon, Inc.

I hope this AATOD update finds you all well and enjoying the change in weather as much as I am! If it stays similar for the next couple of weeks, we should be able to welcome AATOD President Mark Parrino with some familiar temperatures and not shock him with our astoundingly hot summer weather we had in early October!

Speaking of conferences, the next AATOD Conference will be in New York City, March 10-14, 2018. We have a room rate that is only \$10 per night more than when we had the 2009 conference in NYC! Make sure you get your hotel room and register for the conference soon. This year, the Awards Banquet is going to be on Monday night instead of Tuesday, since Monday is the evening that the Broadway shows all take a night off. We may also have an exciting Friend of the Field Award recipient that you'll want to make sure you come and see! There will also be on-site and virtual clinic tours at the 2018 conference, so you can see clinics that are in different parts of New York.

One of the interesting things discussed during the September AATOD Board meeting was how the various states are using the CURES Act money they have received. Many states have funded free Narcan overdose rescue inhalers, while others have actually funded treatment at OTPs for persons without Medicaid or other public support funds and can't afford treatment otherwise. Some states are developing the Vermont Hub and Spoke system to connect people to treatment and address multiple issues the patient may be experiencing. It also seems that some states are spending the funds on prevention efforts. I think it will be interesting to see if any of the initiatives in the various states are more successful than others.

We also explored how many board members know whether clinics are consistently testing for fentanyl. It was determined that the clinics that regularly test are having a significant number of positive results. Georgia doesn't require OTPs to test for this substance, but it may be worth exploring adding it to your drug screen panels. This could get expensive, but I think you should contact the lab that performs your testing and find out the cost. Another idea would be to add it to all your drug screens for one month to determine if your area is experiencing a lot of fentanyl use since this may be a regional issue.

I recently sent out a few documents generated by AATOD, and there was also a direct email blast from AATOD with the documents. You should look at the AATOD Fact Sheet for Criminal Justice and the OTP Siting Policy. These are both located on the AATOD website. In Georgia, the Siting policy is very relevant since we will have our first open enrollment period beginning December 1, 2017 after a year and a half moratorium. There is a mandatory attendance meeting held by the State for anyone interested in submitting a Letter of Intent during the open enrollment period. Details for the meeting can be found on the DCH website, where you will also find the regional map, the proposed regulations for final adoption, and the new initial application packet.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the next OTPG meeting on November 16th and the conference on November 17th!



Message: from the President

By: Jonathan Connell



As most of you know, this will be my last term as the President of OTPG. It has truly been my pleasure to serve this organization for the last ten years. Over a decade ago one of my mentors challenged me to serve on a non-profit board. He told me that I would grow in my leadership abilities and as a person. He told me that the only uniting factor you have on a non-profit board is your purpose.

When I started my Presidency eight years ago, we were dealing with the Opioid Crisis, or so we thought. In 2017, the Opioid Crisis is growing faster than ever, but is finally now gaining the attention it so greatly needs. And there remains a great deal of work that needs to be done to confront this crisis. It is my belief that we can no longer put our heads in the sand, but instead we must join hands to confront this crisis in our state. I believe that OTPG is in a prime position to lead that charge in the state of Georgia. I understand that many of you see each other as business competition, and some have even questioned each other's marketing and clinical practices. It is my opinion that we need to unite with the same common purpose to combat the Opioid Crisis in our state. This crisis is attacking our country, our state, our community and our homes. The real enemy is the crisis, not each other. Medication Assisted Treatment is the gold standard for treating this disease, therefore we need to start acting as partners instead of competition.

As I walk out the door of this Presidency, I want each of you to know that we have a lot of work to do. It is my hope that we can build off the momentum that we have created. Financially, we are stable. We have a stronger relationship with our regulators on the state level than we've ever had. OTPG has been contracted by DBHDD to provide trainings on MAT all over the state. This opportunity will generate more revenue for OTPG and allow programs in these areas to educate and combat the stigma associated with Medication Assisted Treatment. I also anticipate more legislative challenges in the coming months. Therefore, we need to continue our relationship with our lobbyist and stay actively involved in the legislative and regulatory conversations in Atlanta.



I am confident that our next President will answer the call and provide new insight and enthusiasm so that OTPG continues to meet the challenges it will face in the years ahead. Thank you again for your trust in my leadership and giving me this unique experience. I look forward to seeing you at our annual conference at Lake Lanier!

Sincerely, Jonathan Connell

SPECIAL "Marie" AWARD





The providers of Georgia nominated and AATOD is awarding Stacey Pearce with the Nyswander/Dole "Marie" Award! At the March 2018 AATOD Conference, Stacey will receive the award for extraordinary service in the opioid treatment community and improving the lives of patients in our treatment system.

Upcoming Training EVENTS

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real help = real hope

OTPG is proud to introduce on-site training and education
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Schedule a free consultation TODAY.
Call Joelyn Alfred at (770) 840-9912

On SALE NOW!

The OTPG video "Exploring the World of Opioid Addiction" is for sale. \$40.00 for non-members of OTPG and \$10.00 for member clinics. Call Brook Etherington (404) 377-7669 or email betherington1@gmail.com

Come Join Us! become an OTPG member

The annual membership dues are listed below and are based on the current patient census of your facility.

- 0-149 patients: \$250
- 150-299 patients: \$500
- 300-499 patients: \$1,000
- 500+ patients: \$1,500

Please visit our web site for more information on membership.



OTPG 10th Annual Conference.

Lake Lanier Islands, GA
November 17, 2017
8:00A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

OTPG is approved as an education provider by NAADAC, GACA & ADACBGA and will award 8.5 continuing education credits to participants who attend the full conference.

Get to know the OTPG board members visit www.otpggeorgia.org

The benefits available to members of OTPG:

- Four free one CEC trainings during 2017
- Access to free hotline maintained by Jackson-Lewis PC, labor and employment law specialists
- Membership with the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)
- Discounted education opportunities
- Affiliation with community organizations
- Updated state and federal information to include statistics, changes to regulations, available funds, etc.
- Chance to network within our industry
- Ability to purchase discounted copies of "Exploring the World of Opioid Addiction"