

Summer & Winter used to be my favorite time of year. When your child may be living on the street and on drugs, this time of year, is hard for a parent of a drug addicted child. In the winter you worry they will freeze to death or that they are completely in despair and cold and cannot get warm. In the summer they may die from heat stroke and when they are high, they do not think about drinking water or shade. My child was around 14 years old when he started using. I will always remember how when I called for help, I called the doctor's office and there was nothing that could be done to force a child into treatment. How when he went to counseling, I was told by the counselor that they could not share any information with me concerning what my son was struggling with. I called the police when he tried to hit me. I was told that I just needed to wait until he was "in the system" to get any help. I was told by the Washington County police department in July of this year when he was released to probation (he was in jail for failing to report to probation). . He left my home to live with his drug dealing father at 14 years old. His drug dealing dad was arrested in Tigard on 2/7/17 for being a felon in possession of firearms, and for dealing cocaine, heroin & meth. I had been telling the Washington county police that he was doing this and that he had inherited a lot of money. So, they set the bail high at \$500,000. He bailed himself out for \$50,000. (The bail amount was changed after he bailed himself out on 2/14/1017 and can be seen when you google the news story as the bail being \$50,000.) This story can be found but is slowly being removed from the web probably because his dad has been arrested a few times since then and never made to serve time. It seems money can buy freedom. ***These are horrible statements; they make no sense, much like measure 110 in Oregon. I thought that measure would not have made it onto the ballot if they didn't have the resources set up ready to go as they indicated there would be for the re-direction for the drug addicted & the related crimes. It was a complete failure.***

Today my son is 29 and was recently shot while making a drug deal somewhere in Portland. I lost hope that I could "save" him. Parents of drug addicted children or adult children suffer from ambiguous grief, meaning we live every day knowing that our child may die and there is nothing that we can do about it. I spent 14 years trying to save my son from his dad, make him come home or get into the recovery support community. I also suffer from Continuous Traumatic Stress Disorder from the experience. We know there are things worse than death. When someone's child has a disease like cancer, people are sympathetic. When your child suffers from drug addiction society asks "where is the mom/parents" the parent is blamed. That is why there really are not a lot of interviews of parents with drug addicted children. There was a time when my son's PO in Washington County made the statement that they had never seen more needles than what they found in his room at a clean & sober house he was at. Yet, he was never ordered to drug court or sent back to prison for his failure to report to his PO or because he was still using.

The issue with Drug addiction and the high crime rate it creates will never be resolved as long as we allow people who are mentally not able to stop harming themselves, who are harming themselves. what we need is to go back to involuntary commitment for people who are a danger to themselves and affect society, where they will be forced to not use drugs for a minimum of 6 months which is how long it really takes for someone to start the

healing of the brain from drug addiction. Some people are concerned about involuntary commitment because "people have rights" . What about the rights of people who are not safe in their homes because of people who are out of their minds on drugs and in front of homes owned and rented by taxpayers, homeowners who cannot sell their homes because of the drug addicted people living on the street on their street? What about their rights? ***We need to bring back to something like the Work Progress Administration program that President Rosevelt started in 1935 and give the addicted a choice of becoming valued members of society*** or involuntary commitment.

~ An addicts mom