House of the Week

County forum attempts to ‘put a face on addiction’

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

At a special forum set up to discuss drug addiction in Cape May County, many were able to put a face to the faces of a mother who, after 10 years of battling the disease, lost him to an overdose.

That was the theme of the forum put together by Cape May County Treatment Services, with Health and Human Services Director Pat Donevan and Communications Director Launa Rappeporte, presenting A Face On Addiction.

Gabor said the motivation for setting up the forum was the epidemic proportion of heroin use.

Just before the meeting, Cape May County Prosecutor Rob Taylor said since the beginning of the year there have been 88 heroin-related overdoses, 18 of which are attributed to heroin or other opiates, primarily prescription drugs.

“The enormous increase in heroin/opiate use is a huge problem,” Gabor said. “As the ‘Preacher’ Director of the county’s ‘Put A Face On Addiction’ forum, I thought we had to bring this issue out into the open and have a discussion on the problem.”

Speaking at the forum, Ronn Gerber, who identified himself as Jim’s son, said he was able to hold a drug overdose in this year’s Aug.-Sept. 16-5, which is $11 to $20 a bag. Taylor, in a previous interview, said the county’s “Put A Face On Addiction” forum what he and his ex-husband went through with their son, who died of a bad overdose in Aug. 2012, which is $11 to $20 a bag.

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