



Discussion Questions for Dr. Loyd's Story

RCORP-ETC and Project Hope are producing digital stories that showcase how community members have been affected by opioid use disorder in rural East Tennessee. Digital stories have the power to transform communities, because they help people learn about and understand the experiences of others. To facilitate this, we have created discussion guides to accompany each of our digital stories. Discussing the events and themes of a digital story can improve understanding of the opioid epidemic and its effects, and ultimately reduce the stigma associated with opioid use disorder.

1. Let's start by recapping the video. How has Dr. Stephen Loyd been impacted by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which events in Dr. Loyd's story stuck with you the most?
3. Dr. Loyd shares his story alongside his son, Heath, and recounts moments from his past when he used opioids. How might children be adversely affected by their parent's opioid use disorder (OUD)? What ways can we support children whose parents have OUD?
4. Dr. Loyd details his experience with opioid use withdrawal and mentions that although he was a medical practitioner, he was unaware of the symptoms he was experiencing. How can we as community members increase awareness about withdrawal symptoms and OUD prevention?
5. How might we extend support to friends, family members, and peers who, like Dr. Loyd, fear that they risk losing their careers, reputations, etc. by seeking professional help?
6. Approximately two million people currently have opioid use disorder in the United States, and the East Tennessee region has been disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you seek to offer support to someone who has been personally affected? What resources might you recommend?
7. Identify potential challenges that may arise when extending support to someone who has been affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you overcome these challenges while maintaining a comfortable and supportive environment?
8. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?
9. Are there any lingering questions from the video you are still thinking about?

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