



Discussion Questions for April'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 April and her family been impacted by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which events in April's story captured your attention the most?
3. In the video, April states that she felt it was unfair to her son to send him to school without clean clothes and adequate sleep. There are several issues in this statement that prompt discussion. How does stigma against people with addiction and those living in poverty affect attitudes about drug misuse? How did opioids affect April's children and how might it have affected them in the future had April not sought recovery?
4. April credits learning coping skills, identifying resources, and developing deep friendships as essential steps to recovery. What role do each of these play in aiding recovery from substance use disorders?
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?

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