

Hypothetical Nonfatal Overdose Review case through a Brain Injury Informed Lens

Breakout Room # _____

A 49-year-old man passed was found unresponsive in his room by a housemate. The housemate-initiated CPR and called 911. First responders arrived and were able to restore breathing. He was transferred to the local hospital and kept under observation, as well as for treatment for wounds around injection sites, for 24 hours.

The roommate told the first responders he had been drinking the night before and he believed he had injected heroin as well. Additional information about the past and recent history includes a bout of meningitis at the age of 10 that required hospitalization, poor academic performance that began in middle school. When he was a sophomore in high school, he was the passenger in a vehicle driven by a friend. They were both intoxicated, and the driver ran off the road. The driver was killed, and the individual was hospitalized with a severe concussion and broken ribs. He experienced headaches for years and according to his family, he was initially prescribed opioids to treat the pain from his injuries.

Additional available information:

- Dropped out of high school
- Worked periodically as a delivery driver for local florists and pharmacies as well as an auto part company
- Maryland case search reveals several short-term stays in the county detention center for theft, assault and battery
- On several occasions he entered outpatient treatment for his substance use but left prematurely, on at least one of those occasions it was reported he had conflicts with fellow group members, and he had reported to his counselor, he couldn't sit still during groups

Looking through this individual's story through a brain injury informed lens,

- Any health or learning related challenges before the age of 10?
- Did he experience any chronic pain or have difficulty sleeping following the car accident that was treated with prescription painkillers?
- Were there any changes in his academic performance after the car accident?
- Is there any report of prior survived overdose(s)?
- Anything else jump out at you?
- **Given what you have learned about this individual, can you:**
- Suggest brain injury informed interventions that may have altered his trajectory prior to the most recent overdose
- Suggest post discharge strategies, supports, interventions following the most recent overdose