Carmen Capozzi is the founder and CEO of the non-profit organization Sage's Army. The group is dedicated to raising awareness, compassion and action in addressing the problems related to drug addiction. Carmen was born and raised in Westmoreland County Pennsylvania where there is currently a drug addiction epidemic. Professionally, he is a successful businessman and the owner of Capozzi Flooring LLC.

Carmen founded Sage's Army on March 15, 2012 following the overdose death of his son, Sage, ten days earlier. In the years since the inception of Sage's Army, Carmen has led the group of dedicated volunteers through a variety of community outreach activities. Sage's Army has organized and/or attended marches and rallies aimed at informing the community about the addiction problem. They have attended vigils to recognize the victims of overdoses. Carmen and Sage's Army actively works with the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and various State Representatives and Senators in raising awareness. Carmen has personally aided people with substance abuse disorder in need of treatment who reached out to him for help, and created a phone line in which volunteers can help with those in need. Carmen speaks regularly about Sage's story at local middle and high schools and as far as WV and Ohio.

Carmen is a Certified Recovery Coach and a Certified Recovery Specialist. Carmen is in charge of a family support group twice a month. Carmen actively works with the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission. The Governor of Pennsylvania has appointed Carmen as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and he is a member of the Pennsylvania Prevention Action Network (POPAN). Carmen has testified at public hearings by the House of Judiciary Committee on the Commonwealth's current heroin epidemic. Carmen has been an inspiration to many going through the loss of loved ones and helps them to see that there is hope.

**Abstract – Introductory**

Carmen Capozzi will share the story of his son, Sage, a promising young man who lost his life to addiction. Carmen will discuss how substance use impacted Sage’s life and the other members of his family. Carmen will talk about ways to help an adolescent who is struggling with addiction and how to support a family who has a child with a substance use disorder.
Learning Objectives
By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Identify effective ways to support adolescents with substance use disorders and their families.
2. Utilize community supports when needed for families affected by substance use disorders.
3. Identify resources for adolescents and families in need of substance use treatment.

Resources