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Dr. Joseph A. Shrand , MD

**MNA award recipient 2024**  
**SAMHSA award nominee 2024**

# Drug Story Theater & City of Haverhill Mayor's HOPE Task Force **PRESENT**

"Back to Life", a harrowing yet vital play based on a true story where a casual night of partying takes a tragic turn

October 23, 2024



6:00-8:00 p.m.



Haverhill High School  
Auditorium



**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.drugstorytheater.org>

**Free refreshments &  
educational swag  
bags!**

Drug Story Theater's "Back to Life" performance is designed to engage students, parents and community members in a candid conversation about the dangers lurking in recreational drug use today, particularly the deadly presence of fentanyl and xylazine. Through a compelling narrative and a subsequent talkback session, we aim to shed light on the often-underestimated risks of experimenting with drugs, the critical importance of destigmatizing Narcan, and the real possibility of saving lives by making this life-saving drug readily available. Tonight's performance is funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts DPH

The H.O.P.E. task force is a collaboration of community representatives from various sectors including government, education, safety, health and recreation

- **See** Drug Story Theater's 20-minute play, "Back to Life", performed by real kids in treatment in our program. We will explain that adolescents want 3 things: to take risks, be social and experience pleasure, which can have deadly consequences with the presence of potentially fatal fentanyl and xylazine increasingly found in illicit drugs available today. Narcan can reverse an overdose and save lives
- **Moderate** a talk-back between adolescents in Drug Story Theater and audience members, with questions being answered by Dr. Joseph Shrand, Nationally-recognized expert in adolescent addiction
- **Identify** fentanyl, xylazine and Narcan
- **Recognize** the potentially fatal risk of adolescents experimenting with recreational drugs
- **Understand** the brain science behind adolescent addiction
- **Apply** this understanding to prevent fatalities
- **Destigmatize** carrying and using Narcan to potentially save a life



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