

Heroin help

It is a tragedy to read about the deaths due to heroin and other opiates ["Putting a face on LI's heroin problem," News, Dec. 7]. This is something that can be addressed and desperately needs action now. While young people and older adults are struggling with addiction, there are few treatment programs left on Long Island.

Detox is not the only answer. If this were any other disease, action would be taken. Families have few places to turn for help. The cost to the public for addiction is tremendous in hospitalization, loss of productivity at work, emotional turmoil at home and, yes, the deaths of those addicted. We need treatment programs and our schools need to look at how they can do something about it. Stop wasting time. People are dying right here on Long Island.

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Editor's note: The writer is a licensed clinical social worker and alcohol and substance abuse counselor.