

### **Tamar's Center Narrative Report- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021**

Our staff have noticed that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of the women we serve. We've found that as the pandemic grew, support systems, jobs, family and social service programs were disrupted and many clients in recovery lost critical supports.

And some clients relapsed. Since 2020, four Tamar's Center clients have died. We recently learned of their deaths from Officer Lisa Johnson of CPD. These women were substance users who supported their habit with street prostitution.

One client "Margaret" always said she didn't want children but when she got pregnant, she got clean. With our help, she went for treatment at the HOPE program at Good Sam and then to drug rehab at the First Step Home program for mothers in recovery. She graduated from the program and was building a life with her son. She adored him and loved her new life. She kept in touch and reported great happiness with her newfound success.

The pandemic ultimately destroyed this achievement. During the shutdown her support systems became unavailable. Margaret lost her job and began to use drugs again, and ultimately overdosed. This is an example of the hidden impact of the pandemic that we are observing.