Effective Health/Law Enforcement Partnerships to Combat the Opioid Epidemic

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Learning Objectives

- Understand background of the opioid crisis, law enforcement’s role and historical challenges to collaboration
- Learn strategies or approaches to strengthen Health/Law Enforcement collaboration
- Learn of successful collaboration efforts
- Review funding opportunities to support your health and law enforcement partnerships.
Opioid overdoses continued to increase in cities and towns of all types.*

SOURCE: CDC's Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) Program, 16 states reporting percent changes from July 2016 through September 2017.

* From left to right, the categories are:
1) non-core (non-metro), 2) micropolitan (non-metro), 3) small metro, 4) medium metro, 5) large fringe metro, 6) large central metro.
THE TRAGEDY OF LIVES LOST

U.S. Mortality Rate

Mortality rate (per 100,000)

Drug overdoses
Auto fatalities
Homicides

Sources: CDC, NHTSA, FBI
CDC 2017: Overdose Deaths
Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths by state, 2017
“When I came out of the police academy, it was law enforcement enforcing the law,” said Kevin Coppinger, the sheriff in Essex County, Mass., and a former police chief in Lynn, Mass. “Now police officers have to be generalists. You have to enforce the law, you have to be social-service workers and almost mental-health workers.” (Washington Post, 3/12/2017)

“We can’t arrest our way out of this problem.”

**2017 Snapshot in time: Police Opioid Responses**

- **Louisville, KY:**
  - 52 emergency overdose calls in 32 hours

- **Hamilton, OH:**
  - 174 overdoses reported in one week

- **Charleston, WV:**
  - 26 people died over a few hours
GOAL OF PARTNERSHIPS

Reduce
- Opioid overdose, arrest & incarceration

Improve
- Outcomes for people with opioid misuse

Protect
- Safety: Person, Community, First responders

Save
- Resources
+ Legislative, political, community pressures
+ Law enforcement must respond to all complaints
+ Confidentiality
+ Divergence in language, perspectives, roles and responsibilities
+ Stigma
+ **Timely** access to treatment and supports
+ Challenges for innovative approaches – sustainability
+ Poor alignment of Healthcare and Justice reform
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>Harm reduction and syringe exchange, Good Samaritan Laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Naloxone first responders, diversion not arrest/incarceration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Multi-sector collaboration &amp; co-led strategic planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data and Information</td>
<td>Share and use information to track, plan and respond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Joint operations, data collection and information sharing, early warning systems, diversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Shared messaging and media campaigns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY: LEGISLATION & CAMPAIGN

+ Good Samaritan Laws provide legal protection to individuals who call for help during an overdose
+ "Save a Life – Call 911" campaign launched in June 2017
+ Encourages New Yorkers who experience or witness an overdose to call 911 and seek medical attention
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY: PROCESS & PRACTICE

Quarterly meetings with over 30 city, state, federal, and regional agencies to review fatal overdose cases

Goal of preventing overdose mortality

Uses existing datasets to generate information to tailor targeted interventions and policy responses

Meetings result in the creation of a “punch list,” actionable objectives to be followed-up on prior to the next meeting
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY: PRACTICE & POLICY

LEAD
LAW ENFORCEMENT
ASSISTED DIVERSION

HOPE
Heroin Overdose Prevention & Education

IS HERE TO HELP

ENGAGE IN SERVICES, AVOID A CRIMINAL RECORD.

HOPE offers:
- Addiction Treatment
- Certified Peer Mentors
- Recovery Support
- Community-Based Health Service

Don't let this arrest define the rest of your life.

Health Management Associates

Overdose Response Strategy

CRISIS CARE CENTER
THE RESTORATION CENTER

Funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS
OVERDOS RESPONSE STRATEGY

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Lake County’s Quick Response Team

Percentage of referrals by community since November 2017

- Mentor-on-the-Lake, 4 percent
- Willoughby, 11 percent
- Eastlake, 10 percent
- Willowick, 1 percent
- Willoughby Hills, 1 percent
- Fairport Harbor, 2 percent
- Grand River, 2 percent
- Perry, Perry Township, 3 percent
- North Perry Village, 3 percent
- Painesville, 40 percent
- Madison Township, 6 percent
- Concord Township, 11 percent
- Mentor, 4 percent
- Kirtland, 3 percent

Source: Lake County ADAMHS Board

Graphic by Cheryl Sadler

Editor’s note: Communities have joined the program on a rolling basis over the past year. All but Wickliffe have since joined as of Nov. 14.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Federal
  - SAMHSA
  - CDC
  - Bureau of Justice Assistance
  - HRSA
  - Office of National Drug Control Policy
  - CMS

- States
  - Pass through federal grants
  - DOJ

- Foundations
  - CHCF
  - RWJF

- AG - Lawsuit Settlements
  - Pending with 40+ states
  - $100-300B
CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR JURISDICTION

Assessment
How can you jurisdiction build or strengthen law enforcement/health partnerships? What more can be done? Push the envelope!

Leadership
Who is the champion (or champions) to lead the effort?

Resources
What resources are needed to begin building partnerships?

Action
What are concrete steps to begin your cross-sector collaboration?

Long Term
Can you sustain these efforts?
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