

Norfolk County-8 Coalition February 15th, 2024 Meeting Minutes



Time: 3-4 PM
<u>Meeting Location</u> Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84941310043

Attendance Roll Call

Voting members present:

Kylee Sullivan, Dedham
Caroline Kinsella, Milton
Stacey Lane, Norwood
Lenny Izzo, Wellesley

Non-voting members present:

Caeli Tegan Zampach, BME Strategies
Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies

Voting members absent:

Melissa Ranieri, Walpole

I. Opening

The special meeting of the NC-8 Local Public Health Coalition was called to order by Cynthia Baker at 3:09 PM on February 15th, 2024.

II. Review of Opioid Settlement Funding Guidelines

The group reviewed the Attorney General's guidance on the permitted uses of abatement funds, encompassing: opioid use disorder treatment, support for people in treatment and recovery, connections to care, harm reduction, addressing the needs of criminal justice-involved persons, supporting pregnant or parenting caregivers and their families, and opioid misuse prevention education. Opportunities most feasible for local public health to implement were highlighted.

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

February 15th, 2024 Meeting

Minutes



III. Discussion

Participants discussed the possibility of leveraging funds towards a mobile unit to provide residents with recovery, referrals, or other types of support. The group expressed interest in understanding whether other communities were implementing similar initiatives, and how those logistics might be arranged. BME will research further and bring findings to the next meeting.

The group also discussed the facilitation of a regional Narcan training program throughout NC-8 municipalities. Wellesley shared best practices from their recent efforts to increase Narcan availability throughout town buildings. Milton iterated interest in coupling Narcan training with additional topics, such as Mental Health First Aid or another crisis response/harm reduction framework. BME will explore these options further and share additional information at the next convening.

Participants also discussed strategies for incorporating advisory groups or individuals with lived experience into their abatement efforts. Dedham shared their experience from conducting an opioid settlement fund community survey.

IV. Next Steps

Participants agreed to meet again in one month to follow up on highlighted topics and share additional information from further conversations with individual municipal boards of health and other stakeholders.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 PM. BME will send out a meeting poll to schedule the next convening.

Documents and other exhibits used by the public body during the meeting:

Opioid Settlement Funding Discussion Presentation

Opioid Settlement Funding Discussion

February 2024



Approved Municipal Use of Abatement Funds

- 1) Opioid Use Disorder treatment
- 2) Support people in treatment and recovery
- 3) Connections to care
- 4) Harm reduction
- 5) Address the needs of criminal justice-involved persons
- 6) Support pregnant or parenting caregivers and their families
- 7) Prevent misuse of opioids and implement prevention education



Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment

- Expand mobile intervention, treatment, telehealth treatment, and recovery services offered by qualified providers, including peer recovery coaches
- Support evidence-based withdrawal management services for people with OUD and any co-occurring mental health conditions
- Make capital expenditures to rehabilitate and expand facilities that offer treatment for OUD, in partnership with treatment providers
- Treat trauma for individuals with OUD (e.g., violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or adverse childhood experiences) and family members (e.g., surviving family members after an overdose)



Support people in treatment & recovery

- Provide wrap-around services to individuals with OUD, including job placement, job training, or childcare
- Provide access to housing for people with OUD
- Rehabilitate properties appropriate for low-threshold and recovery housing
- Provide peer support specialists that support people in accessing OUD treatment, and other services
- Provide community support services, including social and legal services, to assist in deinstitutionalizing persons with OUD
- Support or expand peer-recovery centers



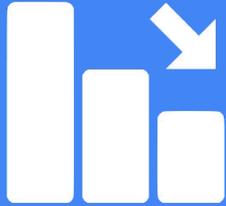
Support people in treatment & recovery

- Provide transportation to treatment or recovery services for persons with OUD
- Provide employment training or educational services for persons with OUD
- Increase the number and capacity of high-quality recovery programs to help people in recovery
- Engage non-profits, faith-based communities, and community coalitions to support people in treatment and recovery, and to support family members
- **Support programs for recovery in schools and/or standalone recovery high schools**
- Support bereaved families and frontline care providers



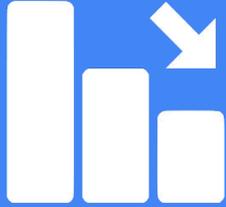
Connections to care

- Support the work of Emergency Medical Systems, including peer support specialists and post-overdose response teams, to connect individuals to trauma-informed treatment recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other appropriate services following an opioid overdose or other opioid-related adverse event
- Support school-based services related to OUD, such as school-based contacts that parents can engage with to seek immediate treatment services for their child; and support prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery programs focused on young people
- **Fund services or training to encourage early identification and intervention for families, children, or adolescents who may be struggling with use of drugs or mental health conditions, including peer-based programs and Youth Mental Health First Aid**



Harm reduction

- **Increase availability of naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses**
- **Provide training and education regarding naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses**
- “Naloxone Plus” strategies to ensure that individuals who receive naloxone to reverse an overdose are linked to treatment programs or other appropriate services
- Approve and fund syringe service programs and other programs to reduce harms associated with drug use



Harm reduction

- **Support mobile units that offer or provide referrals to harm reduction services, treatment, and recovery supports**
- **Promote efforts to train relevant personnel and community members in crisis training and harm reduction strategies**
- Active outreach strategies such as the Drug Abuse Response Team model or the Post Overdose Support Team model
- Provide outreach and services for people who use drugs and are not yet in treatment, including services that build relationships with and support for people with OUD



Address the needs of criminal justice-involved persons

- Programs that connect individuals involved in the criminal justice system and upon release from jail or prison to OUD harm reduction services, treatment, recovery support, primary healthcare, prevention, legal support, or other supports, or that provide these services
- Co-responder and/or alternative responder models to address OUD-related 911 calls with greater OUD expertise
- Public safety-led diversion strategies such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion model
- Participate in membership organizations such as the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative for training and networking and utilize law enforcement training opportunities such as the Safety and Health Integration in the Enforcement of Laws on Drugs (SHIELD) model



Support pregnant or parenting caregivers and their families

- Support pregnant or parenting caregivers with OUD and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, through programs or strategies such as:
 - FIRST Steps Together, a home visiting program for parents in recovery that currently has seven sites serving cities and towns across the state
 - Pregnant, postpartum and family residential treatment programs, including and in addition to the eight family residential treatment programs currently funded by DPH
 - The Moms Do Care recovery support program that has grown from two to ten programs in the state



Prevent misuse of opioids and implement prevention education

- Support programs, policies, and practices that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing drug misuse among youth
- **Support community coalitions in developing and implementing a comprehensive strategic plan for substance misuse prevention**
- Engage a robust multi-sector coalition of stakeholders in both the development and implementation of the above stated strategic plan



Prevent misuse of opioids and implement prevention education

- **Support community-based education or intervention services for families, youth, and adolescents at risk for OUD**
- **Support greater access to mental health services and supports for young people**
- **Develop localized strategic plans that will inform the best ways to institute or enhance strategies to reduce and prevent youth substance misuse**

Strategic Recommendations

- 1) Prioritize funding projects in need of one-time or start-up costs
- 2) Avoid use of abatement funds where other funds are available
- 3) Actively incorporate data collection and monitoring & evaluation to track impact of funding

Examples



Added sharps kiosk or sharps drop off day



Increase social media outreach



Host mental health trainings for town and school staff



Collaborate with PD to provide officers with OUD-specific trainings



Pay staff/consultant for substance use programming

Examples



Create and Train a
Crisis Intervention Team



Fund development of a Local
Substance Use Disorder
Resource Guide



Narcan Training and Distribution
Program



Establish or Supplement Peer
Coaching System



Pass the Money on to
Local Partners

Integration of NC-8 Regional Public Health Nurse

- Leverage connections with community-based organizations to develop a regional referral framework to enhance coordination of care and case management for residents with OUD
- Pursue certification/licensing to purchase and distribute Narcan; lead regional effort to provide Narcan training and education throughout NC-8 agencies and communities
- Collaborate with school nurses to enhance substance use prevention education strategies among school-aged children and adolescents
- Identify community organizations throughout NC-8 for partnership, collaboration, and direct funding support

Technical Assistance

Care Massachusetts (MA state partnership with JSI) is providing technical assistance and support to municipalities seeking to best use their settlement funds.

Types of Support

- Office Hours
 - Offered twice monthly
 - Free registration/attendance
- Individualized Assistance with:
 - Filing Expenditure Forms
 - Help Requests

Next Steps