

## **Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council – Committee Updates March 27, 2017**

### **Prescribing Practices Committee**

The Prescribing Practices Committee's revised preliminary goals include:

1. To better understand prescribing practices in Illinois and relevant practice guidelines for the treatment of pain and appropriate use of opioids and how they are (or are not) being utilized in the clinical setting.
2. To vastly improve education and awareness around appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids for the treatment of non-oncologic pain; this includes primary care health professionals, surgeons, dentists, and pain management specialists.
3. To gain a fuller understanding of how the Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) works for both prescribers and dispensers and how it can be more easily and efficiently utilized in clinical settings.

### **Criminal Justice Populations Committee**

At their last meeting, the Criminal Justice Populations Committee had a presentation on the Sequential Intercept (SI) model to further inform its work, and broad discussions about access, capacity, evidence-based practices and education. The tentative task for the next meeting will be to identify the critical elements of what timely/immediate access to evidenced-based treatment looks like. While it is impossible to focus on all intercepts in the SI model, a re-occurring theme has been on deflection from the justice system and into treatment and connection to community-based treatment from the ER (SI 0). There has also been some discussion around the point of release from jail/prison (SI 4). Once we identify the "what," we can begin to develop the "how" and potentially create a process flow that can be "embedded" or "memorialized" into a model that works to connect people to care in the moment they need it.

### **MAT Committee**

The MAT Committee's revised goal and actions steps are:

Goal: Everyone in Illinois who wants and needs MAT services for opiate use disorder (OUD) has access to it

Action Steps: 1) Develop a user-friendly tool that assists any professional who wants to prescribe MAT with information on how to do it; and 2) disseminate the tool.

The tool will incorporate a recovery approach, be data-driven, and identify issues and solutions new MAT prescribers face. Potential topics include regulatory issues, adequate funding, MAT availability, advocacy, reimbursement and linking with healthcare and ancillary recovery supports. Potential tool dissemination activities include learning collaboratives that provide education and support to MAT providers, program administrators and leadership.

### **Public Awareness & Education**

The Public Awareness & Education Committee's preliminary goal is: Improve public education and awareness across the state about opioid addiction, prevention, treatment and recovery. The committee had a very broad and engaging discussion during its last meeting about many key target audiences, messages and mediums this goal encompasses. The committee identified three priority target audiences: youth, OUD users, and people being prescribed opioids. The general public also is a potential priority target audience. The next meeting will focus on developing an achievable goal and action steps related to messaging.