

# Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council Meeting

March 16, 2020

## MEETING MINUTES

### IDHS Updates

Director Danielle Kirby, IDHS/SUPR, welcomed the group and gave the following update:

- IDHS communications about COVID-19 and its impact on IDHS programs and providers can be found on the IDHS COVID-19 webpage: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123118>. IDHS is working hard to send out information and guidance as quickly as possible. Dr. Sue Pickett will forward all updates to the Council.
- Dr. Sarah Pointer, Clinical Director of the IL Prescription Monitoring Program shared that the PMP is working with IDPH on an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to share opioid-related datasets. The PMP also is working on a bill that would require naloxone to be co-prescribed for opioid prescriptions.

### Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Updates

Jenny Epstein, Director of Strategic Opioid Initiatives shared that statistics, daily communications and other information on the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the IDPH website:

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>.

### Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) Updates

Dr. Maria Bruni, Senior Policy Advisor, shared the following updates:

- Updated information on integrated health homes will be shared during a virtual town hall meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The presentation can be viewed here: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/cc/Pages/IntegratedHealthHomes.aspx>
- Funding for telehealth for Medicaid populations is being drafted; HFS will hear soon from CMS if telehealth funding will be expanded.
- Doc Assist now provides physician consultation free of charge for Medicaid patients who are pregnant or postpartum women with OUD. To date, there have been 20 requests for this consultation. Council members discussed whether these sessions could be an opportunity to expand access to MAT. Dr. Arvind Goyal will meet separately with Council members who are interested in this issue.

### Council Committee Membership

Dr. Sue Pickett, Deputy Director of Research & Evaluation at Advocates for Human Potential (AHP) and the Council Committee chairs gave a brief overview of their activities (see attached handouts). If you would like to join a committee, email Dr. Pickett at [spickett@ahpnet.com](mailto:spickett@ahpnet.com).

- The Children & Families Committee focuses on the unique treatment and recovery needs of children and family members whose lives have been impacted by OUD. Chair Carie Bires shared that the committee is seeking suggestions from IDPH and IDHS about any new directions for their work. The committee also is looking for recommendations on how it can best serve the Council. It was suggested that the committee could send a survey to the Council regarding child and family-related recommendation for the new State Opioid Action Plan (SOAP).
- The Criminal Justice Populations Committee addresses the intersection of the opioid epidemic and justice-involved populations. Chair Sherie Arriazola shared that committee members will work with the Social Equity Committee on common interests, e.g., racial disparities for justice-involved individuals with OUD.
- The MAT Committee focuses on reducing barriers to treatment and increasing access to medication assisted treatment. In line with guidance from IDHS/SUPR, it will change its name to the medication assisted recovery (MAR) committee. Chair Ron Vlasaty announced that the MAT toolkit is almost complete and ready for release. The toolkit supports Illinois providers who are

interested in delivering MAT. The committee would like to offer technical assistance in conjunction with the toolkit. Future activities will include reviewing and compiling recommendations for policies to ensure that residential program provide access to MAT and other evidence-based treatment.

- The new Opioid Social Equity Committee will develop a social equity statement that will guide its work and that of the Council and make policy recommendation regarding how to begin to address how the opioid crisis has affected different communities in different ways. The Council welcomed the Chair, Dr. Wilnise Jasmin, Medical Director of Behavioral Health at the Chicago Department of Public Health. Council members suggested that, in addition to and as part of the social equity statement, the committee review and recommend interventions and initiatives that can effectively address inequity.
- The Prescribing Practices Committee focuses on promoting safer prescribing and dispensing practices to reduce opioid misuse and overdoses, including provider education and increased use of the IL PMP. Chair Dr. Mike Nelson shared that the committee is reviewing legislation on naloxone co-prescribing. Council members asked if the committee could host a meeting on social distancing for controlled substance prescribers. Providers are nervous about prescribing in the midst of COVID-19 and looking for guidelines.
- The Public Education & Awareness Committee addresses public misperception and misunderstanding about the opioid crisis and works to spread the message on the OUD is a chronic disease, that treatment works and recovery is possible. Chair Karel Homrig shared that the committee has provided input on statewide media campaigns. Council members noted that the committee should continue to provide input on messaging to help minimize use of stigmatizing language.

### **Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Presentation**

Oscar Garduno, Public Health Analyst and Victor Markowski, Drug Intelligence Officer, gave the following presentation on Chicago HIDTA (see attached handouts):

- HIDTA is a federal grant program administered by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). HIDTA provides resources to federal, state, local and tribal agencies to coordinate activities to address drug trafficking in specifically designated areas of the country. Chicago HIDTA includes Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kendall and Will counties. The goal of HIDTA program is to disrupt the illegal drug market by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and money laundering organizations.
- HIDTA's Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) is 34-state initiative to reduce fatal and non-fatal overdoses by developing and sharing information about heroin and other opioids across agencies and disciplines by offering evidence-based strategies. The four goals of ORS include: 1) creating and coordinating shared data regimes that allow public health, law enforcement and others to respond quickly and effectively to the opioid overdose epidemic; 2) developing and supporting strategic, evidence-based response to generate immediate reductions in the number of overdose-related fatalities; 3) promoting and supporting prevention efforts to reduce opioid misuse; and 4) promoting the active engagement of local communities in the discussion, planning and implementation of ORS goals and activities.
- ORS activities and projects include state teams that include epidemiological data analyses and policy analysis of state laws that allow for overdose data sharing, felony arrest notifications and intelligence sharing for criminal investigations.
- The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) is a free nationwide syndromic surveillance tool that provides near real-time suspected overdose data in an ESRI mapping format. ODMAP is designed to facilitate near real-time data sharing and timely responses to changes in overdose patterns such as a sudden increase or spike in overdose event. It links information from first responders and relevant record management to a mapping tool, which tracks overdoses to promote real-time responses across jurisdictions. First responders enter the location of an incident, overdose and naloxone administration information.

- When an increase or spike in overdoses occur, ODMAP sends an alert email notifying users that a spike has occurred in their jurisdiction and/or surrounding jurisdiction. The spike alert is intended to give the public health and public safety community real time alerts to mobilize a response strategy.
- Visit [www.odmap.org](http://www.odmap.org) for agency registration, training videos and recent news. The website is available to the public; data on 45 of Illinois 102 counties are currently available.
- The Cook County Sheriff's Office Treatment Response Team (TRT) pilot project is a post overdose outreach program that used ODMAP and 911 dispatch reports to target individuals who have experienced a recent overdose. Team members (clinicians and officers) do outreach to these individuals about services available to them, provide naloxone training to them and their family and friends, and work with neighborhoods to create a referral system. The TRT transports clients to services, does warm handoffs and provides compassion fatigue prevention to officers.
- The 2019 ORS Cornerstone project focuses on overdose prevention in jails. Project goals include: describing services provided in jails for people with SUD, identifying barriers, facilitators and outcomes of implementing evidence-based overdose prevention strategies, identifying support for evidence-based overdose prevention strategies among correctional staff and knowledge gaps that may affect implementation, and examining differences in correctional staff knowledge and program practices. The project plans to produce a toolkit on implementing jail-based overdose prevention.

### **Illinois Helpline for Opioids & Other Substances**

Chelsea McCarron, Project Manager for the Helpline, gave the following updates (see attached handouts):

- The Helpline online chat feature launched in February 2020. The online chat provides access to a trained specialist live through logging on to <https://helplineil.org/> and clicking on the chat feature.
- The Capacity Management System (CapMan) is a centralized, confidential, secure and integrated system that residential treatment service and OMT providers can use in real time to manage bed availability and/or their program's waitlist for services. Providers also are reminded to update information about their services in the provider portal.
- Live SMS texting will provide access to a trained specialist live through texting the Helpline via a mobile device. It is scheduled to go live in May.
- The Help is Here campaign was launched in September 2019 to make the Helpline more visible and encourage its use. Council members are encouraged to promote the Helpline by following the Helpline on social media, ordering and distributing materials and posting the Helpline badge/banner on their websites.
- As February 29, 2020, a total of 23,098 calls have been made to the Helpline; over half of these calls are from people seeking treatment. There were 71,149 website visits; 51,915 were unique visits.

### **New Business**

Elissa Bassler announced that the Illinois Public Health Institute seeks to hire a program manager for its new opioids initiative. Please email her [elissa.bassler@iphonline.org](mailto:elissa.bassler@iphonline.org) for more information about this position.

### **April Council Meeting**

The next Illinois Crisis Response Advisory Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2020 from 1:00-3:00 PM. This will be a virtual meeting. Information on how to connect to and participate in the meeting will be sent closer to the meeting date. Council meeting minutes and materials (including handouts from this meeting) can found on the Council's website:

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=97186>