

# Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council Meeting

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## MEETING MINUTES

IDHS/SUPR Director David T. Jones welcomed the group.

### IDHS/SUPR Updates

Director Jones gave the following updates:

- The Illinois SUD Advisory Council met with SUPR to discuss holistic and integrative models of care for individuals with SUD. SUPR is particularly interested in mobile models of care to meet the unique needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities and connect people to treatment across the state. If you are interested in sharing ideas about mobile models please contact Ron Vlasaty, SUD Advisory Council Chairperson, at [rvlasaty@fgcinc.org](mailto:rvlasaty@fgcinc.org).
- On January 14<sup>th</sup>, HHS announced new practice guidelines for administering buprenorphine for treating OUD, including eliminating the X-waiver requirement. However, this announcement occurred during the transition between the Trump and Biden administrations, and the new guidelines will not be implemented at this time. The Biden administration stated that they are taking the guidelines under advisement and are committed to making buprenorphine more accessible to individuals with an OUD.
- Discussion:
  - Council members inquired about SUD funds included in the COVID relief bill and the McKinsey settlement. SUPR is working with the Attorney General and IDPH to identify a process for how funds will be distributed. A recent report “Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation” released by Johns Hopkins University provides guidelines for spending and policies supported by the settlement funds. The report can be found at <https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Litigation-Principles.pdf>

### IDHS/Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Updates

Sarah Pointer, PharmD, Clinical Director of the PMP, gave the following updates:

- The PMP recently started the data sharing process with IDPH with the goal of displaying overdose data in PMP patient profiles.
- The PMP continues to move forward with the injury and accident notification system. This system will help the PMP identify at-risk patients (e.g., individuals with an accidental injury or opioid overdose) and notify prescribers of the potential risk so that they can implement early interventions. The PMP is currently piloting this system and has secured funding to add another 60 pilot sites. Please contact Dr. Pointer at [Sarah.Pointer@illinois.gov](mailto:Sarah.Pointer@illinois.gov) if you are interested in serving as a pilot site.
- The PMP is expanding interstate data sharing through EHR connections via the RxCheck Hub. There are currently seven states connected through RxCheck and there are eight states the testing phase. State Hub data sharing status can be found at <https://www.ilpmp.org/CDC/stateHubsDataSharingStatus.php>
- The PMP plans to go live with the Helpline next month. The Helpline will provide a referral option for prescribers who have patients in need of substance use treatment.
- Discussion:
  - Council members asked if Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) submit data to the PMP. OTPs are currently not providing data to the PMP. However, IDHS collects this data and the PMP is currently working on a data-sharing agreement with IDHS to obtain OTP data.

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

Jenny Epstein, Director of Strategic Health Initiatives, gave the following updates:

- IDPH will release a new Naloxone Standing Order shortly before the current one expires on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Pharmacists and OEND programs that do not receive the new Standing Order by the 24<sup>th</sup> should email Ms. Epstein at [jennifer.epstein@illinois.gov](mailto:jennifer.epstein@illinois.gov). General information and Standing Order registration can be found at: <https://idph.illinois.gov/Naloxone/>.

- Illinois is currently in phase 1b of its COVID vaccination plan. For up-to-date information regarding vaccinations, please refer to IDPH's COVID-19 website at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>.

## **HFS Update**

Dr. Arvind Goyal, Medical Director, gave the following updates:

- HFS reviewed and responded to the OUD Withdrawal Management Subcommittee recommendations (see attached report). The written response addressed three key areas: 1) opportunities for increased dollars for OUD providers; 2) evidence-based OUD treatment approaches and connections to ongoing community-based medicated-assisted recovery (MAR); and 3) the need for all OUD patients to receive case management, care coordination, and transitional care.

## **Presentation: Fatal Opioid Overdose Disparity in Cook County**

Mojde Mirarefin, Epidemiologist IV, Cook County Medical Examiner, gave the following presentation on fatal opioid overdose disparities between 2016 – 2020 in Cook County (see attached handouts):

- From 2019 to 2020, non-Hispanic Blacks experienced the highest positive change in rate and percentage for fatal opioid overdoses, accounting for nearly half of all opioid overdose deaths. Males comprised 77% of opioid overdose deaths. Among age groups, positive changes in rate and percentages were the largest among older populations between 55-64 years.
- Data on the type of opioids involved in fatal overdose deaths showed increases in despropionyl fentanyl, fentanyl, methadone, isotonitazene and bupropion across all racial/ethnic groups between 2019 and 2020.
- Residence zip codes with the highest number of fatal opioid overdose deaths between 2016 and 2020 varied across racial/ethnic groups. The neighborhoods with the highest rate of fatal opioid overdoses included Austin, Garfield Park, and Roseland for non-Hispanic Blacks; Dunning, Oak Lawn, and Portage Park for non-Hispanic Whites; and Lawndale, Belmont Cragin, and Logan Square for Hispanics.

## **New Business**

- The Perfectly Flawed Foundation received a small grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to purchase a harm reduction minivan that will provide services in LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam Counties. If you are interested in learning more about the minivan services, contact Luke Tomsha at [Luke@perfectlyflawed.org](mailto:Luke@perfectlyflawed.org) or at 815-830-8675.
- Healthcare Alternative Systems (HAS) is seeking to hire a Harm Reduction Coordinator to help with summer projects in Chicago. This is a contract-to-hire position. If you or someone you know is interested please contact John Werning, Lead Harm Reduction Coordinator, at [jwerning@hascares.org](mailto:jwerning@hascares.org).

## **March 2021 Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm. This will be a virtual meeting. The meeting agenda and information on how to connect to the meeting will be sent out to the Council closer to the meeting date. Minutes from prior meetings can be found at:

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