

Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council Meeting

September 16, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

IDHS/SUPR Director Danielle Kirby welcomed the group and introduced Kathleen Monahan, the new State Opioid Response (SOR) Director. Ms. Monahan will oversee all of the SOR-funded service projects.

IDHS/SUPR Updates

Director Kirby gave the following updates:

- SUPR is working on the State of Illinois Opioid Action Plan (SOAP) Implementation Report update. The report is not ready to be released but highlights will be shared at this meeting.
- September is National Recovery Month. Governor Pritzker issued a proclamation earlier in the month to help promote our message that recovery belongs in our state and in our communities,
- SUPR has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Oxford Houses. Oxford Houses are independent, democratically-run, self-supporting sober living homes. SUPR will provide funding to two community-based organizations as a two-year start-up loan to set up Oxford Houses for people on MAT. The organizations will provide housing and recovery support services. Residents are required to pay rent. For more information and to view the NOFO go to: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=118693>. Applications are due by October 31, 2019.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Updates

Jenny Epstein, Director of Strategic Opioid Initiatives, shared the following updates:

- IDPH was awarded a Center for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Opioid to Action grant. These funds will support local capacity to collect surveillance data, PMP efforts targeting prescribers with high opioid prescribing rates (“high prescribers”), and six harm reduction organizations statewide. Ms. Epstein will give an update on these projects at the October Council meeting.
- In August 2019, Governor Pritzker signed Senate Bill 1828, Needle and Hypodermic Syringe Access Program Act, into law which legalizes syringe exchange programs statewide. IDPH will operate registration for all syringe service programs (SSP) statewide. The registration website will be active in October. If your organization is interested in offering SSP, contact Ms. Epstein at Jennifer.Epstein@illinois.gov.

IDHS/Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Updates

Dr. Sarah Pointer, Clinical Director of the Prescription Monitoring Program, gave the following updates:

- The PMP is connected with 5,500 locations statewide.
- The PMP website is in beta testing and will be going live soon. The website is more user-friendly and includes new value-added indicators with more indicators.
- As shared in the IDPH updates, the PMP will be working with IDPH via the CDC Opioid to Action grant on prevention strategies related to high prescribers.

Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) Update

Dr. Maria Bruni, Senior Policy Advisory, gave the following updates:

- HFS is working with stakeholders on two State Plan Amendments: a children's integrated health home model and an adult integrated health home model. The adult model will include individuals with substance use disorders who are hard to engage in treatment. HFS is working with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to ensure that health home services are reimbursed through the MCOs.
- HFS submitted a grant application in August to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) for a demonstration project that would expand substance use treatment capacity by paying for services that currently are not reimbursable by Medicaid. HFS will learn at the end of September whether the application has been funded.

SOAP Implementation Report Update

Dr. Sue Pickett, Deputy Director of Research & Evaluation at Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), Ms. Epstein and Director Kirby gave the following presentation on the SOAP Implementation Report Update (see attached handouts).

- The SOAP Implementation Report describes activities undertaken to implement SOAP strategies. The initial Implementation Report was released in May 2018. The updated Implementation Report documents the progress made carrying out activities recommended by the Council to address the opioid crisis. We anticipate that the report will be ready for release in October.
- Highlights of progress to date include:
 - As of July 2019, 119 healthcare systems and 2,978 practice settings are connected with PMPnow, and 59,876 prescribers are registered with the PMP.
 - The Illinois Department of Insurance's Access to Care and Treatment (ACT) program gave presentations and distributed materials at educational events in 2018 on opioid misuse and behavioral health parity in all 102 Illinois counties, reaching 4,500 individuals.
 - The Helpline has received 14,912 calls and 34,511 website hits as of July 2019.
 - HFS covers outpatient methadone treatment in opioid treatment programs through Medicaid fee for services and MCOs for Medicaid eligible patients. Medicaid now covers all three forms of medication assisted treatment (MAT): methadone, buprenorphine and injectable naltrexone.
 - In March 2018, 1.33 million Illinoisans lived in 58 counties that were MAT deserts: counties that have no access to methadone, buprenorphine or injectable naltrexone. As of June 2019, there are 43 MAT desert counties, reducing the population of the state without access to MAT anywhere in their county to 847,523 Illinoisans.
 - IDHS/SUPR's Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) provides a variety of resources to enable almost any organization to be able to distribute naloxone. As of June 2019: 115 programs have enrolled in DOPP; 47,666 individuals have been trained to administer naloxone; 46,055 naloxone kits have been distributed and 3,061 overdose reversals have been reported to DOPP
- In regard to overdoses, IDPH 2018 data show a 1.6% decrease from 2017 to 2018 in opioid deaths statewide, the first decrease in deaths in five years.
 - Non-fatal overdoses, however, have not decreased. Emergency department (ED) visits related to opioid overdose have continued to increase each year from early 2013 through 2018.
 - There was a 67% increase in ED visits due to opioid overdose from 2015 to 2016, 28% increase from 2016 to 2017, and 4% increase from 2017 to 2018 which represents a

smaller increase than experienced in previous years. More information can be found in IDPH's Opioid Semiannual Report: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/opioids/idphdata>

- We face new challenges that require new initiatives to address the changing nature of the crisis. The updated Implementation Report includes proposed new recommendations that build on our progress, address new challenges and incorporate input from the Council and Committees. Proposed recommendations address the growing racial and social disparities of the opioid crisis, examine how harm reduction strategies can reduce overdose risks and stigma, encourage increased collaboration with law enforcement agencies to identify strategies to curtail illegal drug trafficking activities, promote Helpline use by adding user-friendly features and targeted outreach efforts, and call for the creation of a comprehensive single state website,

Committee Reports

Dr. Pickett gave a brief update on the Committees:

- Each committee will reconvene throughout the fall. Please contact Dr. Pickett at spickett@ahpnet.com if you are interested in joining a committee.
- The MAT Committee has completed a rough draft of the toolkit to promote and support providers to implement MAT. The toolkit will be reviewed by the committee and released later this fall.
- As discussed at the June Council meeting, the Council will create an Opioid Social Equity Committee to address the social and racial disparities of the opioid crisis. Please contact Dr. Pickett if you are interested in joining this committee

New Business

- SAMHSA has proposed changes to the federal substance use disorder confidentiality rules, known as 42 CFR Part 2. The rules were originally established to encourage people in need of substance use disorder treatment to seek care by minimizing discrimination against and negative consequences to people seeking and completing drug and/or alcohol treatment. The rules prevent treatment providers from disclosing information about a patient's substance use treatment without patient consent in most circumstances. While the proposed new rule maintains patient consent in initial disclosure, it does not uphold consent in re-disclosure, effectively leaving patients vulnerable to harm through unauthorized re-disclosure after initial consent to a single provider. Council members discussed concerns that one of the provisions in the rule change is to permit opioid treatment programs to report to the PMP. This information has not been previously reported and there are concerns from physicians and patient advocates about breaches of confidentiality. The Legal Action Center of New York has published an article (see attached handout) on these concerns. Council members are encouraged to review the issues related to the proposed rule changes. Comments on the rule changes are due by mid-October.
- Chicago HIDTA shared updates on its ongoing efforts. It reports opioid overdoses to the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) and 175 law enforcement agencies are reporting data to ODMAP to track and help prevent overdoses.

October Council Meeting

The next Illinois Crisis Response Advisory Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Information on Chicago and Springfield locations will be sent closer to the meeting date.

Council meeting minutes and materials (including handouts from this meeting) can be found on the Council's website: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=97186>