

Opioid Workgroup Leadership Team Outcomes

January-May 2017

Just six months after the release of Skagit County's Community-wide Action Opioid Plan and Call to Action, multiple organizations, agencies and individuals have stepped up to address aspects of the plan. Energy and enthusiasm for improving the system of supports for individuals facing opioid use disorder is strong.

Evidence-based Prescribing Practices

- Skagit Regional Health (SRH) is leading locally on educating their health care providers on the Agency Medical Directors' Group Interagency Guideline on Prescribing Opioids for Pain and the Washington Emergency Department Opioid Prescribing Guidelines. They have increased training and are reviewing clinicians' prescribing practices.

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is renovating their new didgwálič Wellness Center building on March's Point that will provide holistic outpatient treatment services, including MAT. Estimated service capability is 200-300 clients within the first year of operation. Services will include transportation as well as on-site behavioral health, gambling addiction and child-care services.
- Ideal Option has increased their staff and ability to serve additional clients with Suboxone therapy, a research-based best practice for treating individuals with Opioid Use Disorder.
- SRH has developed protocol for co-prescriptions of Narcan in the ED for those seen with opioid dependence and ED doctors waived to prescribe Suboxone can provide a prescription for the interim between the hospital and an appointment with a MAT provider.

Harm Reduction & Referral to Treatment

- In a partnership between Phoenix Recovery Services and SRH, a Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP) is embedded in the Emergency Department at SHR to provide outreach and evaluations to those who have emergency care needs due to opioid use. The CDP has provided 30 referrals to treatment.
- The work of the Needle Exchange is critical in ensuring the health and safety of the community. In the past six months Phoenix Recover Services has:
 1. Provided over 100 Narcan Kits to save lives
 2. Recorded 20 reversals (lives saved)
 3. Provided 21 referrals to treatment

Prevention

- Public Health will be providing training in SBIRT (Screen Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment) to hospitals and clinics throughout Skagit County. SBIRT is an evidence-based practice that helps prevent misuse of substances before an individual becomes dependent.
- Randy Elde, pharmacy representative on the OWLT, met with pharmacists in Skagit County regarding evidence-based prescribing of opioids and their potential interest in a take-back program. Skagit County is increasing advocates and partners.
- 13 Opioid Presentations have been provided to the community.

Policy

- On March 7, 2017 the Skagit County Board of Health signed a Resolution in support of the **Community-Wide Action Plan and Call to Action**, creating the backbone for future policies.
- New MAT treatment policy established for the Skagit County jail for those entering the Justice Center already on maintenance therapy.

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