INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO COMBATING OPIOID AND HEROIN ABUSE

Presenters:
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Jason Snyder, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Human Services
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OVERVIEW OF THE CRISIS

- 2015 was a record breaking year for Drug Overdoses
  - 52,000 Overdoses (compared to 46,000 in 2014)
  - 36,000 were from Opioids (including Heroin – 13,000)

- Overdoses from Opioids have increased over 500% since 2000
  - Primary reason for the increase was legal prescription drugs

- 2014 – 89% of people diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorder did not receive treatment
PENNSYLVANIA

• The 8th highest drug overdoses in 2014
  • 21.9 per 100,000 people (compared to 12.7 in 2004)

• Heroin accounts for 37.8% of all drug rehab admissions
  in Pennsylvania
  • 3rd highest in the country
Jason Snyder
Special Assistant to the Secretary at Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
• Centers of Excellence: help ensure that people with opioid-related substance use disorder stay in treatment to receive follow-up care and are supported within their communities.

• The Centers of Excellence embrace every individual’s unique treatment path and focus on a holistic treatment method, not just treating the addiction.

• Each patient at a COE receives integrated care and evidence-based, medication assisted treatment and will have health navigators to assist them in their journey to recovery.
CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE

- 45 Opioid Use Disorder Centers of Excellence throughout the commonwealth.
- The centers coordinate care for people with Medicaid, and treatment is team-based and “whole person” focused, with the explicit goal of integrating behavioral health and primary care.
- You can find more information and where to find locations of Centers for Excellence at: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/substanceabuseservices/centresofexcellence/index.htm
CAMDEN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

· Housing First program which started in Camden, NJ as a pilot project in 2008 serving 25 individuals.

· Outcomes
  · 97% housing retention
  · 82% maintained recovery
  · 98% saw successful family reunification
  · 47% maintained supportive or market-rate employment
  · Zero death by overdose
PEOPLE ARE DYING

In Philadelphia:

- Drug overdose deaths have spiked, with over 900 such deaths in 2016.
- In 2016, there were more than twice as many deaths from drug overdose in Philadelphia as there were from homicide.
- Philadelphia’s Kensington neighborhood is now “ground zero” for the purest, cheapest heroin on the East Coast.
Housing First ends homelessness, one person at a time.

- Homelessness and drug use often overlap and the harms of substance use are exacerbated by homelessness. Responding to the twin problems of homelessness and substance use is an important aspect of strategies to both end homelessness and manage the opioid epidemic.

- Before launching this new team, Pathways worked with over 40 people with addictions to heroin and multiple other opioids. Though the demographics are a little different, the data shows that these folks had very similar outcomes to our participants with mental health issues and dual diagnoses.

- 89% Housing Retention Rate, after five years, with the most difficult to serve, chronically homeless, multi-impaired folks in Philadelphia. Most importantly, they didn’t die.
Brand New Program for 2017 Focused on Heroin Users at “Ground Zero”

- 60 Housing First apartment units with Modified Assertive Community Treatment services that wrap around the person in the community setting.
- Medical services provided in our clinic and in the community through a partnership with Project HOME’s federally qualified health center.
- Medication Assisted Treatment through a Centers of Excellence grant in partnership with Project HOME and Prevention Point.
- A Harm Reduction approach that encompasses needle exchange, Narcan disbursement and training, along with education and treatment.
- Bringing Services and Treatment to the Streets.
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Supervised Injection Facilities (SIF) or Consumption sites

- In 2016 there were over 100 SIFs operating in at least 66 cities around the world in nine countries (Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Spain, Denmark, Australia and Canada).

- In April 2016, the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program opened the "Supportive Place for Observation and Treatment" or "SPOT" (not an injection site)

- On January 27, 2017 the Mayor of Seattle announced plans to establish the first two supervised injection facilities, called Community Health Engagement Locations (CHELs)