

P. MICHAEL STURLA, CHAIRMAN
414 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202096
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2096
PHONE: (717) 787-3555
FAX: (717) 705-1923




HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE
www.pahouse.com/PolicyCommittee
Policy@pahouse.net
Twitter: @RepMikeSturla

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE HEARING
Topic: State Efforts to Battle Opioid Abuse
The Chancellor Center – Newtown, PA
November 30, 2017

AGENDA

- 11:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 11:10 a.m. Jennifer Smith
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
- 11:50 a.m. Panel One:
- Jacqui Redner
President
Pennsbury School Board
 - Pam Garozzo
Local Resident
- 12:20 p.m. Panel Two:
- George McClay
Chief of Police
Morrisville Borough
 - Diane Rosati
Executive Director
Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission
- 12:50 p.m. Closing Remarks



Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Opioid Epidemic Response

House Democratic Policy Committee
November 30, 2017



Our Focus

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Treatment
- Recovery Support
- 21st Century Cures Grant

Prevention

- **Pennsylvania Prescribing Guidelines:** DDAP is working collaboratively with the Department of Health (DOH) to implement the Model Policy on the Use of Opioid Analgesics in the Treatment of Chronic Pain adopted by the Federation of State Medical Boards in July 2013. To date, we have drafted and adopted ten sets of prescribing practices in order to **prevent addiction and emphasize non-opioid therapies**. Under Acts 122 and 125, emergency departments and other health care providers have new guidelines and restrictions for safe and effective pain relief and management practices.
- **Continuing Medical Education (CME):** Act 125 of 2016 requires safe opioid prescribing curriculum in medical colleges and other medical training facilities. We are collaborating with DOH to implement training for prescribers on the safest prescribing practices for pain management.
- **Prescription Drug Take-Back Program.** Working in partnership with PCCD and PDDA, the Attorney General's office and the National Guard, to reduce the amount of prescription drugs available for potential misuse/abuse. Prescription Drug Take-Back Box locations have expanded from local police stations to include pharmacy locations. There are more than **700 take-back boxes** across the commonwealth's 67 counties and approximately 317,000 pounds have been collected and destroyed since the program began in 2014.

Intervention

Intervention involves targeted efforts to support at-risk individuals.

- **Equipping municipal and state police with naloxone:** Act 139 of 2014 made naloxone available to police, firefighters, and family members and friends of those at risk of heroin or other opioid overdose by prescription. In 2015, Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, then serving as Physician General, issued standing orders that allowed first responders and all other Pennsylvanians to access naloxone. As of October 2017, law enforcement have successfully **reversed more than 4,000 overdoses**. The 2017-2018 budget also provides \$5 million to purchase additional naloxone doses that are being distributed to first responders around Pennsylvania.
- **Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP):** In collaboration with DOH, the Department is educating health care providers on how to identify substance use disorder (SUD) through the PDMP and directing patients who may have a SUD to treatment options. PDMP currently has **more than 97,000 registered users who perform more than 1.1 million patient searches each month**. The program also has an inter-state data-sharing agreement with 13 states and the District of Columbia to ensure patients are not doctor shopping across state borders.
- **SBIRT:** The Department has a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that will add Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in medical practices. This is currently operating in two counties and slated for three more to follow.

Intervention (continued)

- **Warm hand-off:** In the 2015-2020 Block Grant Agreement, the 47 Single County Authorities (SCAs) now must have a process in place that ensures an overdose survivor can access services directly from the emergency department via a process called **warm hand-off**. This is a success and is being modeled in other states. In addition, we have collaborated with physicians at DOH to develop and distribute a new clinical pathways tool to emergency departments across the state to help get overdose survivors and others suffering from substance use disorder transitioned quickly into treatment, rather than advising patients to seek treatment on their own. Certified Recovery Specialists support SCAs and emergency departments in this effort.
- **Overdose Task Force:** First convened in July 2013, the task force originally convened to create a platform for rapid response planning, cross-system collaboration, and information-sharing between a wide range of stakeholders in order to react to and better prepare for changes in drug use trends.
- **Student Assistance Program:** This evidence-based approach involves the coordination of a range of professionals to identify, screen, and refer at-risk youth to appropriate SUD clinical services.

Treatment

- **1-800-622-HELP(4357):** This **toll-free hotline is available 24/7** and provides access to resources by performing a brief screening and warm-line transfer directly to a treatment facility for those in need of services. Since the go-live date of November 10, 2016 the hotline has received **more than 18,000 phone calls** from Pennsylvanians seeking treatment, resources, or information for themselves or a loved one.
- **Open Beds Registry:** Finding an open detox or rehab bed can be challenging. The department now has a voluntary system in place called PA Open Beds. Providers enter their open beds in the system to better facilitate communication regarding bed availability between treatment providers, SCAs, and other treatment referral services.

Treatment (continued)

- **Pennsylvania Coordinated Medication-Assisted Treatment (PAC-MAT):** The Wolf Administration is working to make medication-assisted treatment more widely available around Pennsylvania. Using \$4 million in grant funding awarded through the 21st Century Cures Act, five grantees around the commonwealth are establishing a **hub-and-spoke model of medication-assisted treatment (MAT)**. Addiction specialists will serve as the hubs and will provide support to primary care “spokes” that provide MAT in communities they serve. Grantees include Hershey Medical Center, WellSpan Health, and Geisinger Medical Center.
- **Medication-Assisted Treatment Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA):** The administration also awarded **\$5.7 million over three years to UPMC** as part of the MAT-PDOA grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant is also designed to expand access to evidence-based MAT.
- **Targeted programs for specialty populations:** Our SCAs must prioritize admission and referral to treatment for women, pregnant women with children, injection drug user, overdose survivors, and veterans. 21st Century CURES grant also focuses on special populations that include pregnant women, women with children, veterans, the LGBTQ community, and the Latino population.

Recovery Support

- **Recovery Month:** In September, DDAP held an event in the Capitol rotunda, bringing together a diverse group of people in recovery, family and friends of individuals with SUD, and other advocates and stakeholders to kick-off Recovery Month. The event highlighted stories of individuals and families impacted by addiction in an effort to destigmatize the disease and those impacted.
- **Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A):** DDAP supports the work of PRO-A, a statewide organization of recovery organizations that coordinates recovery centered efforts across the commonwealth to offer training, advocacy, information-sharing, and workforce development initiatives.
- **Peer Engagement Services:** Certified Recovery Specialists offer emotional support and are available to help patients navigate the treatment and recovery processes.
- **Certified/Licensed Recovery Houses:** The department supports requiring all drug and alcohol recovery houses that receive public funds to be licensed or certified by the state and are working with General Assembly members pursuing a legislative solution to concerns surrounding these facilities.

21st Century Cures Act of 2016

- The Cures Act provides states with grant funding to combat the opioid crisis through:
 - Increasing access to treatment;
 - Reducing unmet treatment need;
 - Reducing opioid overdose related deaths through prevention, treatment, and recovery activities.
- Through the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants (Opioid STR), the act provides \$1 billion over two years in funding to supplement opioid abuse prevention and treatment activities through increased access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- These grants will be awarded to states via formula based on unmet need for opioid use disorder treatment and drug poisoning deaths.
- PA awarded **\$26.5 million** in FY 2017-2018.

21st Century Cures Act (continued)

- **Required activities:**

- Develop a needs assessment.
- Develop a comprehensive state strategic plan.
- Design, implement, enhance, and evaluate primary and secondary prevention methods.
- Expand access to treatment, particularly medication assisted treatment.
- Assist patients with treatment costs.
- Provide treatment transition and coverage for patients reentering communities from criminal justice settings or other rehabilitative settings.
- Enhance or support recovery support services designed to improve treatment access, retention, and support long-term recovery.

21st Century Cures Act (continued)

- **Supporting Treatment for Uninsured and Underinsured:** DDAP will use \$12 million in Cures funding support SCAs that provide treatment options for uninsured and underinsured. Funds will be distributed through formulated allocations to each of the 47 SCAs.
- **Increased Public Awareness:** \$3.5 million of Cures grant funds will be use to support a public awareness and outreach campaign to decrease the stigma surrounding SUD and increase awareness of treatment options available in communities around Pennsylvania. \$800,000 of this funding will support the PA Get Help Now hotline.
- **Supporting Drug Courts:** \$3.5 million be used to support expanding and enhancing drug courts through personnel training, accreditation efforts, and by providing additional services to participants. This continues efforts made in the 2017-2018 budget, which provided \$2 million to ensure that drug court participants were being directed into meaningful treatment and recovery programs.
- **Other efforts centered around increasing education on identifying SUD, expanding access to treatment, and strengthening current initiatives like warm hand-off, PDMP, and data collection.**

Other Initiatives

- **Data Collection and management:** DDAP is in the process of implementing a new data system. It is expected to improve availability of data for use in planning and annual reporting procedures.
- **Placement Criteria Transition:** The department has been working to transition from the Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria (PCPC) to American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for placement into treatment. The ASAM criteria is nationally recognized and transitioning will create more consistency for providers and payers. DDAP is working with SCAs to provide training to treatment providers regarding the transition, and we hope to have full implementation by July 2018.
- **Overdose Reporting:** DOH received funding through the Centers for Disease Control's Enhanced State Surveillance of Opioid-Involved Morbidity and Mortality Grant, which is designed to increase timeliness of fatal and non-fatal overdose reporting and create data to support outreach and education efforts. DOH is using funds to collect data from hospitals, emergency medical services, medical examiners, and coroners around Pennsylvania.
- **Involuntary Commitment:** The Wolf Administration is working with the General Assembly on legislation regarding involuntary commitments.

