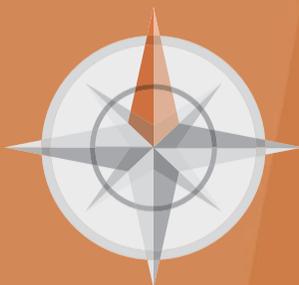


Mercer County Opioid Working Group Strategic Plan November 2018-November 2021

Funded By: Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency



Pennsylvania Overdose Reduction
Technical Assistance Center (TAC) ▲

Mercer County Opioid Working Group Strategic Plan 2018-2021

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Overview

Narrative

The Mercer County Opioid Working Group Three Year Strategic Plan is included in the pages below. The Strategic Plan was developed using the ideas and suggestions generated during the strategic planning workshop held in Mercer County on October 2, 2018. The goals and objectives were updated during the January 2020 meeting to support the needs in the community. The following sections have been included:

Goals: The overarching aim or focus of each subcommittee.

Strategies: The way in which a subcommittee will achieve each goal.

Objectives: The specific steps that need to be taken to complete each goal.

The goals, strategies, and objectives aim to provide an overview of the overarching goal, the strategy for achieving that goal, and the identified objectives. Goals and strategies should not change based on political climate or other outside factors, but the objectives are more adaptable.

As noted above, these activities are adaptable, given funding opportunities and other factors. Working Group members and process and outcome indicators still need to be determined for each activity by the subcommittees.

Disclaimer: The goals that follow are not listed in any particular order. All priorities are considered equal and of high importance to the Mercer County Opioid Working Group.

Contributors

- Mercer County Opioid Working Group
- University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU)

Vision

Working Together to Reduce Overdose Deaths in Mercer County

Goals

Goal 1: Increase Coordination and Collaboration Between Law Enforcement, Public Health Entities, and the General Public to Decrease Supply of Drugs in Mercer County.

Goal 2: Eliminate Stigma and Increase Community Awareness in Mercer County.

Goal 3: Ensure That Every Person in Mercer County Has Access to Treatment at The Appropriate Level of Care, Including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) And Any Special Needs Associated with Their Care.

Goal 4: Expand Resources in Mercer County to Ensure That All Residents Have Access to Non-Treatment-Based Needs Throughout Their Treatment and Recovery.

Goal 5: Coordinate Local Efforts Across All Sectors to Ensure A Unified Approach to Strategies Being Used to Eliminate Overdose and Connect Persons to Treatment/Non-Treatment Services

Goal 1: Increase Coordination and Collaboration Between Law Enforcement, Public Health Entities, and the General Public to Decrease Supply of Drugs in Mercer County

Strategy: Empower law enforcement to enhance and utilize their resources to the fullest extent, including expanding partnerships with local public health agencies and the general public. Through the partnerships, increase the initiatives targeting the removal of drugs and utilize increased surveillance at the local, state, and federal level to decrease the number of illicit drugs from reaching residents.

Objective 1A

By June 2019, increase awareness of and access to opioid removal programs (ex. Take Back Days, Drop-Off Boxes, Real Estate Agency and Palliative Care/Long-Term Living Facility Educational Opportunities).

Objective 1B

By March 2020, coordinate an intensive joint law enforcement and treatment efforts to ensure persons with SUD/OD or active addiction are connected to treatment rather than entering jail/prison system, when appropriate.

Objective 1C

By March 2021, implement county-wide community policing programs to promote the relationship between law enforcement and their respective communities with the goal of increasing the sharing of drug related information.

Objective 1D

By August 2021, provide ongoing training and educational opportunities for first responders (fire, police, ED staff, and EMS) on best practices for investigating an overdose, including personal safety practices, connecting individuals suffering from a SUD/OD into treatment, and sustaining engagement with individuals in receiving treatment services.

Goal 2: Eliminate Stigma and Increase Community Awareness in Mercer County.

Strategy: Launch a public awareness campaign to increase awareness regarding overdose, Substance Use Disorder/Opioid Use Disorder (SUD/ODU), treatment, and recovery for all individuals in Mercer County.

Objective 2A

By November 2019, assess community knowledge and stigma within target populations and identify appropriate community awareness and educational programs.

Objective 2B

By December 2020, facilitate the development and implementation of community-based overdose and SUD/ODU education and awareness events throughout Mercer County based on results of stigma survey data.

Objective 2C

By January 2021, evaluate the change in knowledge and stigma attitudes of participants who attend the educational and awareness events focusing on the signs of a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)/Opioid Use Disorder (ODU), overdose, and SUD prevention, treatment and recovery options.

Target Populations include, but are not limited to the following:

- First Responders (Fire Departments, EMS Agencies, and Law Enforcement)
- Individuals Engaged in Treatment
- County Agencies (Children and Youth, Aging, etc.)
- Families and Friends of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders
- Clergy and Faith-based Members
- Parents
- Pregnant women
- Community members and bystanders
- Medical Professionals

Objective 2D

By October 2021, facilitate engagement of overdose prevention programs for school-based youth.

Objective 2E

By November 2021, implement a multi-platform (ex. digital, print media, and social media, trainings) stigma reduction campaign throughout the county to inform the community on the scope of the SUD/ODU problem, available resources, and promote the sharing of personal stories and experiences to destigmatize SUD/ODU.

Goal 3: Ensure That Every Person in Mercer County Has Access to Treatment at the Appropriate Level of Care, Including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Any Special Needs Associated with Their Care

Strategy: Assess and increase access to and engagement of treatment services available to county residents

Objective 3A

By January 2021, increase awareness of MAT best practices and ensure every individual in the criminal justice system with a SUD/OD has access to all appropriate treatment options.

Objective 3B

By December 2019, assess current barriers and opportunities to improve increase access to treatment.

Objective 3C

By January 2021, identify and address opportunities for warm hand-off for individuals who have experienced an overdose or those who are at-risk for experiencing an overdose to better improve communications between provider systems, Emergency Medical Services, and local Emergency Rooms which will increase access to and retention in treatment.

Objective 3D

By October 2021, educate individuals engaging in treatment about MAT options.

Objective 3E

By February 2021, Mercer County will have sufficient capacity so that every individual, both in rural and urban areas, who needs SUD/OD treatment will have access treatment at the appropriate level(s) of care, and any resources required to ensure sustained engagement.

Goal 4: Expand Resources in Mercer County to Ensure that All Residents Have Access to Non-Treatment-Based Needs Throughout Their Treatment and Recovery

Strategy: Increase local infrastructure to increase the number of services or increase their capacities to assist Mercer County resident throughout their treatment and recovery.

Objective 4A

By May 2019, complete a county mapping workshop to assess current available resources and barriers to accessing resources within Mercer County.

Objective 4B

By October 2019, decrease transportation barriers for individuals with a SUD/OD who are receiving treatment.

Objective 4C

By October 2019, decrease housing barriers for individuals with a SUD/OD who are receiving treatment.

Objective 4C

By December 2020, ensure all individuals pre-treatment, during treatment, and post-treatment receive support and guidance for non-treatment needs (i.e. housing support, job training, etc.) and consistent monitoring for risk of overdose.

Objective 4D

By January 2020, establish a resource “hub” that allows all residents in Mercer County to know about different resources available to them and how to access said resources. Resources will include, but are not limited to:

- Job Information and Training;
- Financial Advising/Coaching;
- Child and Pet Care;
- Support Groups; and,
- Information on access to Treatment for the Underinsured.

Goal 5: Coordinate Local Efforts Across All Sectors to Ensure a Unified Approach to Strategies Being Used to Eliminate Overdose and Connect Persons to Treatment and Non-Treatment Services

Strategy:

Increase coordination and collaboration between law enforcement, the legal system, treatment, and public health services to better align efforts related to interdiction processes and increase linkage to treatment services for individuals, promoting a unified, stigma-free county approach to combating the opioid epidemic in Mercer County.

Objective 5A

By October 2019, host quarterly community meetings between local coalitions and county agencies to ensure that all county overdose reduction strategies align and prevent duplication of efforts.

Objective 5B

By November 2019, establish and execute a communication and data sharing plan between law enforcement and public health professionals to ensure that all agencies are collaborating and working towards a common response plan.