THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2023

COBB & DOUGLAS PUBLIC HEALTH

Healthier lives. Healthier community.

GOAL #1 Conduct general awareness activities and provide targeted education to students, patients, families, and the health care industry on substance misuse, prevention, the opioid epidemic, and available resources in Cobb County.

1.1 Provide age-appropriate, evidence-based, culturally competent education and prevention initiatives for students, families, school nurses, and the community.

Cobb Community Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse (CCAPSA) hosted a Teen Day Camp with Georgia Prevention Project. CCAPSA did a full-day Sources of Strength training with 12 Cobb County middle and high schools. There were 79 students registered for the event. Currently, CCAPSA is working with Principals and staff at Barber Middle and Pine Mtn Middle to navigate CCSD's new vetting process. Additionally, CCAPSA Trained a new cohort of KSU fellows in Sources of Strength to implement the program in Marietta PLC. Also completed 1st of 3 trainings with KSU HRSA grant fellows who will be placed in internships throughout the state.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation holds Serial Opioid Survival (SOS) meetings every week.They also print seasonal Recovery Zone Magazines with educational articles. They also handed out Dispose Rx packets at Private Schools Mt. Paran and North Cobb Christian and Marietta High School football Games. Plan to do basketball games this winter as well as other school events as we are welcomed to campuses throughout the community.

The Extension conducts various outreachinitiatives including a car wash, as well as the first of a speaker series designed to increase community engagement on critical behavioral health issues. The discussion targeted business leaders and key people in the criminal justice system.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health (HRBH) has a training grant and is available to provide training to our communities on a variety of issues. HRBH APEX program provides prevention efforts in schools.

Wellstar rolled out Wellstar BH Opioid Pathway in Dec 2022 which includes education for patients and any identified supports on Fentanyl and Naloxone.

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health provides substance abuse education to individuals in treatment and helps link families to services.

Kennesaw State University's Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery provides year round educational events on campus including for opioids, cannabis, and alcohol.

Ridgeview Institute offers professional education/CEUs in person and on Zoom. They offer outreach to school counselors, therapists, and other agencies for education and partnership.

1.2 Increase awareness about community resources, including for safe storage, treatment, and recovery.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health recruited local organizations to list their programs on FindHelp.org and advertized this platform to the community. They also provide DisposeRx at speaking engagements and community events including having provided 4500 disposal packets to Cobb EMS for conference participants.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation participates in speaking engagements at civic organizations and towh hall meetings and promotes safe storage at fundraising events. Daniel Spinney spoke at the recent anniversary of Drug Treatment Court. Held our annual Cardinal's Nest event and talked about what we do at THE ZONE. Over 200 people attended the event.

CCAPSA hosted a community health fair with Dennis Kemp YMCA and disseminated Dispose Rx and educational material. They also attend other community events and give Dispose Rx to the community.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health is engaged with Findhelp.org and encourages other organization to join their network for better access to services and supports. HRBH is currently offering additional training to community organizations, first responders, and county organizations.

Cobb County Police developed a leave behind information card to leave at all narcotic search warrants and arrests that provides information on local resources that mitigate addiction.

1.3 Provide training and support to area physicians on prescribing alternatives to opioids for pain management.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health will be providing additional education and training through their SSG FOX veterans suicide prevention grant in Cobb County.

GOAL #2 Utilize an integrated collaborative means to address opioid misuse.

2.1 Ensure community partners work together to increase synergy and maximize resources.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health facilitated the creation of a strategic plan and will include member progress updates on their webpage.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation continues to work with groups in the community to synergze and maximize resources. They have created a partnership of affliates who provide referral services and have placed all of them in a resource packet.
We will open our 3-36 hour rooms for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's this year. We work with all of our partners to ensure everyone has a feast on Thanksgiving, Christmas and a traditional New Year's meal. People throughout the community bring in dishes to support this effort.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health is working to improve relationships with existing partners and increase community outreach to new partners to improve education, training, and access to services and supports. The HRBH Findhelp.org page is an excellent platofrm to improve access and collaboration among community partners. HRBH is also developing an advisory counsel to identify needs and services in Cobb.

Ridgeview Institute partners with community agencies for continued treatment and discharge planning.

GOAL #3 Increase access to treatment and recovery support services.

3.1 Facilitate seamless transition between treatment facilities.

Wellstar educates ED staff to refer overdose patients to the Zone and other appropriate community-based resources when discharging home.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation sends out quarterly invitations to attend Recovery Roundtable Leadership Council meetings.

Through ARPA grants, **Highland Rivers Behavioral Health** will be providing health navigators to Wellstar to assist with service navigation. HRBH provides discharge planning services to everyone exiting their services to ensure linkage to aftercare services.HRBH is in the process of adding a discharge planner to Cobb County Adult Detention Center.

Ridgeview Alumni Charitable Corporation provides scholarships for outpatient treatment, medication, and housing for those who need, want, and are willing to pursue services after detox and stabilization.

Ridgeview Institute works closely with ERs to offer psychiatric and addiction stabilization.

3.2 Increase number of overdose victims who access treatment after an overdose or encounter with EMS or law enforcement.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation In February The Zone Recovery Coach became a part of the CARES team. He rides with the team every week to make connections and offer resources to those who have recently overdosed. As of the end of august 49 cases have accepted resources.

The Cobb County Sheriff's Office will soon begin to include Highland Rivers discharge planners at the Cobb County Adult Detention Center.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health provided 200 re-entry kits containing naloxone and fentanyl and xylazine testing strips to CCSO to distribute to those with opioid use disorder leaving incarceration.

The Cobb County District Attorney distributed over 100 substance abuse treatment resource brochures to the City of Marietta's A.S.S.I.S.T. program for their officers when they respond to a non-fatal overdose. We've also distributed about 30 leave behind kits with Narcan to the City of Marietta as well.

Highland Rivers Behaivoral Health, in partnership with Cobb and Marietta Police Departments, provides co-response clinicians to assist with crisis intervention, follow-up, and linkage to treatment services. HRBH has a licensed clinician who rides with the CARES Team one day per week. Through ARPA grants, HRBH will be adding a mental health specialist to the 911 center.HRBH is also in the process of relocating adult support services to Smyrna to improve access through public transportation. HRBH al provides ongoing Narcan training and provides Narcan kits at each training.

Ridgeview Institute works with law enforcement and first responders for education on addiction related to their profession.

3.3 Increase number of overdose victims who access treatment after an overdose or encounter with EMS or law enforcement.

The Cobb County District Attorney met with the WellPath agency within the Cobb County Jail to collaborate on providers/resources needed for incarcerated inmates once released such as housing and substance abuse treatment. The purpose of the collab was to provide additional information for offenders to have treatment for substance once released to prevent overdoses and recidivism.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation continues to provide scholarship beds for first month of sober living, allowing money to be freed p to access teatment. 20 scholarships will soon be released. The Zone is working alongside a Sober Living Rehab that allows low-income individuals to access treatment and get jobs. they are then allowed to make small payments to pay back what they could not afford without a job.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health is a safety net provider for individuals with Medicaid or Medicare or no insurance.

3.4 Expand screening and referral programming in a variety of settings.

- No Progress-

GOAL #4 Reduce fatal overdoses and other harms related to opioid use.

4.1 Increase public access to safe prescription medication disposal.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health Provided to Cobb EMC for 4500 event bags, to members of city council meetings, and through several community events and is working with local pharmacies on a pilot program to provide 50 packets/month for opioids or 1500 packets/month for other meds.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation gives out free packets of Dispose Rx at all presentations and events. 2023 Gala 2023 TCN, leave behind bags, civic presentations, and upon request at The Zone.

CCAPSA hands out Dispose RX at community events.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health provides DETERRA wall units by request to community organizations or community members through funds from the HRBH Foundation.

KSU Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery provides prescription take back education and safe prescription education and collaborate with the DEA on take back days. They also distribute safe locking pill bottles.

4.2 Increase access to naloxone and fentanyl test strips .

Wellstar behavioral health team members provide information on how and where to access naloxone for patients presenting to the ED with a confirmed or suspected opioid overdose.

Phoenix RCO, SAHR, Georgia Harm Reduction and other partners have been distributing Narcan and fentanyl test strips through street outreach in neighborhoods with high recent numbers of overdose.

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services have partnered with The Zone and Phoenix RCO to hand out leave behind kits to non-fatal overdose victims who refuse transport.

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation have held 4 Narcan Trainings at The Zone and 417 Narcan units have been handed out at The Zone in 2023. 222 people have received resources from The Zone Street Outreach Team in 2023.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health provided 200 naloxone re-entry kits to CCSO, leave-behind kits to CCFES, 5 hotels/motels provided with naloxone emergency response kits. 30 more planned and provides naloxone kits through their Marietta Pharmacy.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health provides narcan trainings and kits throught HRBH foundation. Currently 170 kits on order.

KSU Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery conducts naloxone training to faculty, staff, and students. 300+ individuals educated last year.

4.3 Reduce rates of SUD-related infectious diseases via syringe access program

Phoenix RCO is in process of creating a program for legal needle exchange (SSP).

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation is working to secure a partnership with an organization who will come twice a month to the Zone and offer syringe services.

GOAL #5 Increase partner access to data for decision-making.

5.1 Enhance surveillance program and data collection efforts to better characterize the scope of the opioid crisis in Cobb County

- No Progress -

5.2 Enhance surveillance program and data collection efforts to determine and characterize the status of the regional supply of illegal drugs

- No Progress -

GOAL #6 Support diversion programs for nonviolent drug offenders.

6.1 Expand diversion of people with SUD who are nonviolent from the criminal justice system to substance use treatment

The Zone/Davis Direction Foundation graduated 7 people through the Zoned for ReEntry Internship class in 2023.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health was recently awarded an early diversion grant that will bring law enforcement, the courts, and community partners together to understand the sequential intercept model and gaps in the intercepts that exist currently in our community.

6.2 Ensure that therapeutic courts and detention centers promote evidence-based treatment including MOUD

The Extension is on track to establish The Extension Inside this year, which will initially provide psychoeducation to men and women who are dealing with substance use challenges and who are experiencing homelessness. When the pilot is fully funded the services will expand to include psychotherapy. This is a joint project between The Extension, the Cobb County Sheriff's Office and Kennesaw State University.

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health has existing relationships and MOUs with the courts.

GOAL #7 Drastically reduce the presence and availability of illicit opioids in Cobb County and surrounding communities

7.1 Reduce presence and availability of illicit opioids in Cobb County

The Cobb County District Attorney routinely conducts investigations into opioid-related deaths.

Cobb County Police Department assigns officers to Federal Task Force units that focus on interdiction of large scale production/transportation/sales and trafficking of illegal opioid based narcotics that impact Cobb County and other Metro Atlanta communities.