



ODAAT We Save Lives. We Change Lives.

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When I hear consolidation, I think of ridding the city's departments of the walls and degrees of separation that exist between various departments and agencies. These departments are tasked with providing help and services to individuals in need, but they often cannot offer these services to their clients because of conflicting policies, regulations and clearances between departments.

Different departments often become so competitive with their perception of recognition for their provision of services that the client does not receive the best treatment or resources, leaving their needs entirely overlooked.

As providers, we are all on the same team in the fight against addiction and serving clients. All of our goals are rooted in the client's recovery and getting them back on their feet. With consolidation, I envision more transparency between departments and various city agencies being able to work more effectively in unison for the clients' benefits. This consolidation will also prevent some clients from being able to abuse the services and resources offered to them.

The opioid epidemic is not only devastating the city of Philadelphia, but also the entire east coast, on such a large scale that more open and accessible services from our departments are desperately needed to alleviate substance abuse issues. Clients must have true and uninhibited access to the services they require in order to fulfill their recovery. More open and accessible channels to recovery services will ultimately benefit the client's health and livelihood, and will absolutely improve upon providers' abilities to offer clients their much needed services.