

**Public Hearing: Heroin Crisis Facing Pennsylvania
August 19, 2014**

**Pre and Post Graduate Healthcare Provider Training and Education as
a Significant Strategy in Preventing Overdoses in Pennsylvania**

**Jan Pringle, PhD
Director, Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU)
Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh**

A. Introduction

1. Present name, affiliation and background;
2. Express appreciation for being asked to present this testimony on the important public health concern of overdose and overdose deaths in Pennsylvania.

B. Objective of Testimony

1. Briefly provide information about some of the work being conducted by PERU at the University of Pittsburgh to address overdose and overdose deaths in Pennsylvania;
 - i. Allegheny Overdose Prevention Coalition (AOCP)
 - ii. OverdosefreePA
 - iii. POSITIVE Program
2. Present Evidence that professional education can be an important strategy for addressing overdose risk;
 - i. Component of educational program – pre-professional;
 - a. *AHRQ, CDC, AMA, Wisconsin State Law, etc. ALL call for medical student education on overdose risk*
 - ii. Component of educational program - post-professional;
 - a. *AMA, Unv of Mass, Unv Conn (pharmacy), Oklahoma State Call for Action, PDMP's, Tufts University, SAMHSA, Project Lazarus (Wilkes County NC), etc. ALL call for physician and/or prescriber education.*
3. Specifically highlight the need for professional education with respect to how to identify patients at risk for overdose and clinically manage patients so that their overdose risk is minimized:
 - i. Prevalence of training programs in the pre/post-professional area across Pennsylvania that would address needs of this training program;
 - a. *University of Pittsburgh Medical School (some); UPitt Nursing School (some); UPitt Pharmacy School (some); LECOM (Medical,*

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*Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry); Temple University Medical School,
among others. No set curriculum used by all.*

- ii. Strategies for increasing the prevalence of effective pre/post-professional training programs in Pennsylvania;
 - a. *Develop a standard curriculum, provide curriculum to all allied healthcare provider schools in PA, develop a learning collaborative to discuss ways of improving curricular outcomes and to support curricular sustainability.*
 - iii. Methods for ensuring sustainability and high fidelity of pre/post graduate educational programs;
 - a. *Pre/Post Tests*
 - b. *Proficiency Checklists*
 - c. *Trained Preceptors and Clinical Sites*
 - d. *Fund Training*
 - e. *Learning Collaboratives*
 - f. *Scholarly Activities*
4. Provide summary of recommendations and next steps
- i. Develop a standard curriculum for medical students, nursing students, pharmacy students, dental students;
 - ii. Make curriculum available to all PA healthcare provider schools;
 - iii. Provide nominal funding to support training;
 - iv. Establish learning collaboratives that will support continuous improvement of curriculum and its sustainability;
 - v. Publish curricular evaluations and strategies.