

Treatment and Recovery Support Wayne County SCA

Wayne County, like others throughout the Commonwealth, is experiencing a critically high incidence of heroin/opiate disorder and overdose deaths. Our OD death rate per capita is equal to most urban areas.

Based upon data from the Wayne County Coroner's Office there were 8 confirmed heroin overdose deaths in 2013 and this jumped to 14 confirmed in 2014 making it the leading cause of accidental death in the County that year. So far in 2015 there are 9 confirmed deaths and 4 pending and we are only ½ way through the yr.

In State Fiscal Year 2013-2014, 43% of clients presenting at our office for help identified opiates/heroin as their primary substance. For the first time in the history of the WCDAAs opiate/heroin use surpassed that of alcohol.

In Wayne County, Wayne Memorial Hospital's emergency department reports 23 opiate/heroin overdoses in the 12 month period of June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015. These are individuals who survived the experience

Wayne County's Emergency Management reports receiving 55- 911 calls reporting overdose since January 2015.

We as a society /community are faced with a very serious public health crisis AND lower funding levels than we had a decade ago. All too often treatment decisions are not based solely on clinical rationale but are altered or manipulated based on the availability of funds. Too often Individuals in need are offered inadequate levels of treatment or inadequate lengths of stay they relapse shortly after being discharged and we all wonder why or even worse come to the conclusion that treatment does not work. Treatment of ANY chronic disease MUST be clinically driven and at appropriate levels and lengths of stay in order to be effective. Addiction treatment for Heroin or opiates is no different.

So how do we get ahead of this; how do we have a positive impact:

The consistent availability of right treatment at the right time will have an impact. Here is some of what we are doing in Wayne that is showing promise

Wayne Co recognizes the correlation between opiate/heroin use and criminal activity and for many incarceration is a good point at which to involve treatment. The Wayne County SCA provides drug and alcohol assessments for all inmates (with a D&A background) in the Wayne County Correctional Facility. In 2013-2014 fiscal year 51% of the individuals assessed by our office at Wayne County Correctional Facility presented with opiate/heroin use disorder. The WCDAAs through its provider agency PATH and with support from County government and the

Corr. Facility provides licensed OP treatment in the jail 40 hours per week. The last outcome study completed reflected a recidivism rate of only 10 % for that program. Our District Attorney's office and adult probation have also partnered with WCDAA office to secure an IP grant based on the recognition criminal behavior as a symptom and the need to make Tx available for those who otherwise may have not had access.

The WCDAA views a highly structured Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program as essential in effectively treating those with a more chronic /protracted opiate/heroin addiction. WCDAA utilizes primarily sublingual Suboxone in its MAT program. Each participant is carefully monitored through WCDAA's in-house MAT Coordinator and ongoing treatment participation while in the program is a must. In Wayne County's Suboxone program we have seen families reunited with children, parents regain custody of children, clients become gainfully employed productive members of society and most of all, remain drug-free. If funding were available use of Vivitrol would further enhance the outcomes of medication assisted programs for this population by extending the Medication Assisted Treatment regimen. Wayne along with its colleagues at this table have responded to the DDAP FIA in the hopes of securing funding to do this.

WCDAA is a firm believer in providing all SUD populations with recovery support services. These are services that are either mobile or office based and help our clients rebuild their lives and maintain their recovery in their community. It is well known that re-entry into the community is when some of the greatest barriers and challenges to recovery exist, and the ultimate goal for all clients is living a productive life of recovery within their community. WCDAA has a FT Certified Recovery Specialist on staff, and this has proven very effective in helping people stay in recovery. The recovery support specialist is there to help an individual in early recovery manage basic life necessities, rebuilding of healthy lifestyles. The extra support provided by the recovery support specialist helps this population overcome barriers within the context of a healthy recovery, and provides overall better outcomes by decreasing readmission into inpatient levels of care and enhancing the treatment and recovery experience. Treatment is just the beginning of the journey of recovery and recovery is far greater than not using a substance, it is a whole lifestyle change and many need help with that on a long term basis so they could progress in their recovery

Also essential to a positive impact is the delivery of evidenced based prevention programming in schools and the community, support groups in the school setting for at risk youth, and community awareness and education. WCDAA does this on an ongoing basis through its in-house D&A prevention program.

We must also be able to save lives at time of acute crisis. Thanks to the work of our District Attorney all first responders and police forces in Wayne County now carry the OD reversal medication Narcan.

There is no one single approach but a multifaceted, approach that will lead to the best outcomes. WCDAA thanks Senator Yaw and the Center for Rural PA for this opportunity to speak and respectfully requests your ongoing support for our work. We can make a difference.