

HARM REDUCTION EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA



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CURRENT EFFORTS

- Expansion of Medicaid reimbursement for Medication Assisted Treatment
 - Currently 7 OTP Providers in Las Vegas with a total of 11 locations
 - Numerous OBOT Physicians with DATA 2000 waiver to prescribe Suboxone/Subutex
- Formation of partnerships such as the Southern Nevada Opioid Advisory Council and Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance to increase efforts to educate on harm reduction techniques in common & uncommon communities.
 - Last Outreach: Harm Reduction / Overdose Prevention / Naloxone Use at the Association of Professional Piercers Annual Conference & Expo
- Establishment of Trac B Exchange (Syringe Exchange Program)
 - Offers syringe exchange, HIV / Hep C / STD testing, naloxone distribution, education, safe injection equipment, medical consultation, treatment screenings, and more.
 - Created first syringe vending machines in the nation (currently 2 in the community with approval for placement of at least 5 more).
- Community Engagement / Outreach
 - Monthly Outreach with Southern NV Health District, Trac B Exchange, Aids Healthcare Foundation, and HELP of Southern NV in local parks, tunnels, etc.
 - The Giving Project – Monthly outreach event for numerous providers with homeless population in the homeless corridor
 - Establishment of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Departments LEAD Program – diverting low level non-violent offenders to social service providers in lieu of incarceration.

STATE TARGETED RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- Grant created from funds received by Nevada from the 21st Century Cures Act
 - 3 Awardees in Nevada each given a territory to expand efforts in (Center for Behavioral Health only provider in Southern NV)
 - Each provider created an action plan to expand access to services in needed areas.
 - All providers are expected to 1) Expand to include all 3 FDA approved MAT medications within their program and 2) Establish Mobile Outreach Recovery Teams to support hospital emergency rooms with patients presenting with opioid related issues (overdose, intoxication, abscesses, etc.)
- Center for Behavioral Health
 - Applied funding to implement the utilization of Peer Support Specialist for patient retention, naloxone distribution free of charge to those at risk for an overdose or those who know someone at risk, and expanding services to include co-occurring disorder counseling.
 - CBH's Mobile Outreach Recovery Team consists of a Substance Abuse Counselor and Peer Support Specialist
 - Team is currently being utilized by Metro's LEAD program with a business agreement with North Vista Hospital and verbal agreement from UMC.
 - Year 2 funding will be used to expand criminal justice programming by supplying Clark County Detention Center with a full time Substance Abuse Counselor and pilot programming for implementation of MAT programming into correctional facilities prior to release from incarceration.

ACTIONS NEEDING SUPPORT

- Funding to subsidize medication assisted treatment fees for individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid, undocumented, or are ready to access treatment but have not applied for insurance yet.
 - Currently only one facility in Southern Nevada receives funding to support those individuals needing assistance with treatment fees (Adelson Clinic).
 - Only one detox facility (Westcare) receives funding to support these individuals and many need to attend detox before beginning a MAT medication
- Funding to create a Harm Reduction Clinic
 - Those still using are often scrutinized by the Medical / Mental Health community and do not actively seek services.
 - Providing a safe space for people who use drugs with access to primary medical care, mental health, syringe exchange, testing / treatment, access to substance abuse treatment, social services, etc. would improve community health.
 - Insurance also becomes a barrier when accessing services because many individuals do not have identification to obtain insurance. Offering services free of charge would remove this barrier.