

Issues Facing Clark County Regarding Substance Abuse and Mental Health

According to the 2016 Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nevada ranked 45th in the nation in the number of substance abuse/behavioral disorder counselors in the nation per 100,000 residents.

Improve state reciprocity for helping professionals

prohibit pay for patient (brokering)

More flexible funding to address issues as they arise, rather than only for the issue of the day

Better linkages between providers

Lack of real-time data for overdoses

Creation of an App that connects resources in the community, beds, vouchers, etc., in real time

Inclusion of harm reduction strategies into all levels of treatment.

Integration of treatment, and Medication Assisted Treatment into Primary Care settings.

More resources for youth substance use inpatient treatment including SAPTA funding.

Increase funding for evidence based early childhood prevention

Supporting current providers and expanding services/networks rather than closing facilities.

A treatment fund to assist those wanting access to treatment but no financial means to do so.

Funding for a harm reduction clinic that has integrated care including medical, mental health, and risk reduction education for those still using in a stigma free zone.

More Recovery Community Organizations.

Support for collegiate recovery programs.

Additional recovery high schools and alternative peer groups (wrap around services).

Youth advocating to increase legal age for tobacco to 21.

Nye and rural NV Specific: NRS Code NCSO202.055.1 for alcohol compliance checks. This fines the individual clerk, not the business, that is often untrained. Change NRS to include rural counties similar to Clark/Washoe which fines business.

Surgeon General's Vision for the Future for Substance Use

- The problems caused by substance misuse are not limited to substance use disorders, but include many other possible health and safety problems that can result from substance misuse even in the absence of a disorder
- Substance use has complex biological and social determinants, and substance use disorders are medical conditions involving disruption of key brain circuits
- Prevention programs and policies that are based on sound evidence-based principles have been shown to reduce substance misuse and related harms significantly
- Evidence-based behavioral and medication-assisted treatments (MAT) applied using a chronic-illness-management approach have been shown to facilitate recovery from substance use disorders, prevent relapse, and improve other outcomes, such as reducing criminal behavior and the spread of infectious diseases
- A chronic-illness-management approach may be needed to treat the most severe substance use disorders
- Access to recovery support services can help former substance users achieve and sustain long-term wellness

Embedding prevention, treatment, and recovery services into the larger health care system will increase access to care, improve quality of services, and produce improved outcomes for countless Americans.