

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update for Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers the Opioid Update to share information about opioid use and Iowa's efforts to address the national opioid epidemic. Please feel free to submit topics to Julie Jones at julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov.

In this issue:

- **Department News**
- **Iowa News**
- **Opioid News**
- **Upcoming Trainings**

Department News

POMW Training: April 30

The next Prevention of Opioid Misuse in Women (POMW) "Identifying Opioid Misuse" regional training is scheduled for April 30, 2019, in Mason City. The purpose of this program is to expand the prevention strategies that support the decrease of opioid misuse in women. Specific objectives of the training include:

- List the individual and community impacts of opioid misuse
- Identify an evidence-based strategy to screen and address substance misuse
- Identify appropriate opioid overdose recognition and response strategies

For more information about the training, please click on the following link: [POMW](#)

State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant Supplement

The State Opioid Response (SOR) grant will receive \$2.3 million additional dollars allocated through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Additional funds will be used to support the evidence-based practices and strategies allowed and prioritized by SAMHSA and IDPH in the effort to address the opioid crisis.

Iowa News

Current Opioid Related Legislation

As the next funnel approaches, there are still a couple of opioid-related bills that are active. These include:

- House File 580 – *Companion to SF 500, which is the successor to SF 178*
An act relating to the establishment of a needle exchange pilot program by the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- House Study Bill 200 – *Passed committee, successor bill number is HF 623*
An act relating to prior authorization for medication assisted treatment under the Medicaid program.

IDPH will continue to provide updates as this session continues.

Opioid News

HRSA Funding Opportunities

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting applications for the following funding opportunities.

- The Opioid Workforce Expansion Program (OWEP) for Professionals is intended to build upon existing HRSA investments to enhance community-based experiential training focused on Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and other Substance Use Disorders (SUD) for students preparing to become behavioral health professionals. The OWEP for Paraprofessionals NOFO funds this same training for peer support specialists and other types of behavioral health-related paraprofessionals. **Due: May 7, 2019.**

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please click on the following link: [OWEP](#)

- The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation (RCORP-Implementation) is intended to enhance service delivery for substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder. Over the course of a three-year period of performance, grant recipients will implement a set of core prevention, treatment and recovery activities that align with the Department of Health and Human Services' Five-Point Strategy to Combat the Opioid Crisis. **Due: May 6, 2019.**

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please click on the following link: [RCORP](#)

NIH to Test Experimental Drug to Curb Opioid Cravings

A clinical trial of an experimental drug designed to treat cravings associated with opioid use disorder (OUD) has begun in the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center. The Phase I trial in healthy adults will assess the safety of the experimental compound, ANS-6637, and how it is processed in the body when given with another drug that is processed by the same liver enzyme pathway. The NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is helping to conduct the trial, which is funded through NIH's Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) Initiative, a comprehensive program to accelerate research efforts to stem the public health crisis of OUD.

Opioid use causes a surge of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the brain, and habitual use 'rewires' the brain's reward system, possibly generating irresistible cravings to both opioids and associated cues, like injecting equipment or drug use partners. ANS-6637 is being developed by Amygdala Neurosciences, Inc. Pre-clinical studies in animals suggest that the compound inhibits the dopamine surge that accompanies opioid use in persons with OUD, without impacting the background levels of dopamine required for normal brain functions.

To read more about the clinical trial, please click on the following link: [NIH](#)

Upcoming Trainings

- **Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse**
April 16-17, 2019
For more information, please click on the following link: [Des Moines](#).
- **National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit**
April 22-25, 2019.
For more information, please click on the following link: [Atlanta](#).