

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Behavioral Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse
Opioid Update: November 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.

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Department News

Reminder: Application Deadline is November 5, 2019, for Opioid Grants

Through funding made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, IDPH is making available four grant funding opportunities to assist communities with addressing opioid issues.

- **Post Overdose Response:** The awarded recipients will be required to create a Post Overdose Response team, designed to respond to opioid overdoses that occur within the community. This will include responding to requests for services from local emergency departments, law enforcement, EMS and other providers, to offer engagement and referral services to individuals and their families that have experienced an opioid overdose. A maximum of three funding awards will be made: up to \$133,000 for each award is available.
- **Recovery Community Centers (RCC):** The awarded recipients will be required to create a Recovery Community Center in their community. Funding from the SOR grant will provide annual support for the education, advocacy and recovery support services offered by the RCC, as a means of further strengthening Iowa's multiple pathways of recovery approach. A maximum of four funding awards will be made: up to \$180,000 for each award is available.
- **Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT):** The awarded recipients will be required to develop a collaborative partnership with an established primary care clinic/hospital and implement SBIRT services in order to increase facilitation of a "warm handoff" for behavioral health services. A maximum of four funding awards will be made: up to \$100,000 for each award is available.
- **Corrections Liaison:** The awarded recipients will be required to create a Coordinator position to work with incarcerated individuals receiving MAT services or being released and needing to access services in the community to which they return. A maximum of four funding awards will be made: up to \$150,000 for each award is available.

These funding opportunities will be awarded through a competitive procurement process to determine the most appropriate candidate. For more information, please visit the Iowa Grants website at <https://www.iowagrants.gov/index.do> and click on the Grant Opportunities page.

Iowa News

Iowa Attorney General Supports Framework for \$48 Billion Opioid Settlement

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller supports a \$48 billion settlement framework with two drug makers and three distributors over their role in the opioid epidemic. “Many details need to be worked out, but this framework is an important step in addressing the crisis,” Miller said. “Any settlement must provide significant funds and treatment drugs to help people recover, as well as include requirements on the companies to prevent more addiction and death.”

The drug manufacturers — Johnson & Johnson and Teva — and distributors — Cardinal Health, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen — have agreed to the settlement in principle. The deal includes \$22 billion in cash over 18 years and \$26 billion in medication assisted treatment drugs and their distribution over 10 years.

To read the entire news release, please click on the following link: [AG Miller](#)

Opioid News

HHS Releases Guidance for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics

After increasing every year for more than a decade, annual opioid prescriptions in the United States peaked at 255 million in 2012 and then decreased to 191 million in 2017. More judicious opioid analgesic prescribing can benefit individual patients as well as public health when opioid analgesic use is limited to situations where benefits of opioids are likely to outweigh risks. At the same time, opioid analgesic prescribing changes, such as dose escalation, dose reduction or discontinuation of long-term opioid analgesics, have potential to harm or put patients at risk if not made in a thoughtful, deliberative, collaborative and measured manner.

To address this issue, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) developed the *HHS Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics*. The guide addresses a variety of issues and considerations to be made prior to initiating an opioid taper, in addition to an opioid tapering flowchart.

For more information on the new guide, please click on the following link: [HHS](#)

White House: Update on Opioid Crisis and Announcement of New Treatment Locator

On Wednesday, October 30, 2019, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Office of Public Liaison held a briefing call. The focus of the call was to provide an update on the opioid crisis and announce the launch of a new treatment locator tool.

The call included updates from Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ADM Brett Giroir MD, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, and White House Advisor Kellyanne Conway. Conway talked about how the country is seeing a reduction in the number of overdose deaths, highlighting Iowa and a few other states for significant reductions. In addition to the update, the new treatment locator was introduced, which provides information on location, treatment options, payment and insurance information, and access to over 13,000 state-licensed facilities.

To access the treatment locator, go to [FindTreatment.gov](#).

Upcoming Trainings

Methamphetamine, Opioids and Poly-substance Use: December 3, 2019

IDPH will be hosting a training titled, A Closer Look: Methamphetamine, Opioids and Poly-Substance Use. The purpose of this event is to provide information about methamphetamine, opioid and poly-substance use, and explore their unique presentations. Speakers will discuss how these particular substances impact individuals compared to other types of substance use.

Following the training, attendees will be able to:

- Identify recent data trends that explain the complex presentation, and effective prevention and treatment of poly-substance use.
- Identify local resources in the state of Iowa for accessing prevention and treatment services.
- Identify the evidence and research that explains the impact on special populations affected by poly-substance use.

The training will be held at the Ron Pearson Center in West Des Moines. For information on registering, please click on the following link: [IDPH](#)