

Rural Response Network Initiative

Highlights from Progress Report for 9/1/22-2-28/23



PROGRAMMING/DELIVERABLES

We developed a questionnaire to gather opinions about alcohol and/or drug problems (substance use disorders), mental health, and barriers people might face in knowing if, how and where to get help. We attempted to gather from identified underserved/minority populations including Black/Latino males, low income men and women, and youth/young adults. There was a version for adults who live and/or work in Oberlin or Wellington and a version for youth/students who go to school or college in Oberlin Wellington. We collected 136 community and 331 youth/student respondents. In process of data analysis, and will share overview at consortium meeting on 4/20.

With Let's Get Real, a consortium partner, we started a recovery group for friends and family at Oberlin College. There were a few hiccups, including poor attendance, so we are looking at moving that to a community site in Oberlin and also implementing one in Wellington. We will be starting an All-Recovery meeting in Oberlin soon as well.

Oberlin Police Department has agreed to be part of the Police-Assisted Project. Both OPD and WPD are MOU members of the consortium. Training with officers and dispatchers is occurring March 30 and March 31st and we will be letting the community know of the addition of this site as part of crisis-response beginning April.

We provided a two hour mental health training (overview of mental health disorders, signs/symptoms, and stigma) and a two hour substance use training (same, plus Project Dawn/Naloxone distribution) with all Oberlin College Campus Safety Officers in January.

Current activities:

Looking for additional sites for distribution of fentanyl test strips and/or to serve as Naloxone distribution sites, especially in Wellington. Any ideas of feedback, please share.

Also for organizations that serve individuals in Oberlin/Wellington who are prescribed Rx meds including opioids and others commonly misused for targeted education and distribution of locking Rx bags and deactivation pouches (i.e. pharmacies, individual practitioners, home health/hospice)

Working out the parameters of a direct linkage program, similar to the Warm Hand-Off program but not 24/7. We will be identifying community sites in Oberlin and Wellington that individuals can go to for help and be linked with a Certified Peer Supporter. We also hope to have Peer Supporters and/or the Care Coordinator from LCADA Way going to Mercy Health Physician practices in each community to assist with linkage to services as well, which we explored with them back in November.

Working with Oberlin College to map out gaps and resources (college and community) along the continuum of prevention, treatment, recovery support and harm reduction services. Providing resource info, locking Rx bags and info on medication misuse, and fentanyl test strips at SIC event April 4th. We are partnering with LCPH, who will have Naloxone and be doing HIV testing. Will also be meeting with Resident Advisors (student staff) on April 6th and will be coordinating education on MH/SUD as part of their 2 week training series before fall semester. Also working to provide campus-wide mental health trainings in May as part of Mental Health Month, and to provide/support MHFA and QPR training this summer and fall. Ongoing work with Campus Safety re potential training crisis response, and coordination of activities/resources (i.e. CIT? MHFA for First Responders? Nord's Tele-crisis project?)

NALOXONE TRAINING AND DISTRIBUTION

Had pop-up Naloxone distribution clinics in Wellington (2 individuals/4 kits) and Oberlin (45 individuals aged 15-24, 57 kits) in November

Have had Naloxone available at 5 additional events on OC campus (147 kits distributed)

Conducted Naloxone trainings and distribution with 3 groups in Oberlin (43 individuals trained/kits distributed)

Rx SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Have postcards with locations to obtain locking Rx bags and deactivation pouches at all resource tables

No new general distribution sites created during report period, however 33 locking Rx bags and 48 deactivation pouches given out by existing distribution sites and/or at resource tables

FENTANYL TEST STRIP DISTRIBUTION

4 additional sites for test strip distribution have been established: Oberlin Public Library, Christ Episcopal Church (hot meals program), SIC at Oberlin College and Ginkgo Gallery

Approximately 113 packs of 3 (339) and 37 packs of 2 (74) test strips were distributed during the report period