

Colerain Township - Opiate Event Audience Questions and Answers

February 25, 2015

Questions not answered at the Event

How much money is allocated for treatment?

- Every solution is based on prevention

Prevention has been recipient of a large share of substance abuse funding. The recognition that within this Opioid Epidemic there is a necessity for more treatment capacity. This treatment capacity comes with a high price tag. A greater capacity for treatment is coming. Why? Because at the end of the day it is a medical problem that can also be a lucrative business. (Recovery Advocate)

What are you doing for the addicts?

Advocates are working 24/7 for Addicts. Recognition of the addictive behavior as a Disease, requiring a standard of care and a treatment plan. The planning and treatment protocol requires a continuing education of the physicians. In an attempt to increase accessibility to Naloxone which can save lives, it is important that local pharmacies and pharmacists stock and train to properly fill the prescriptions for Naloxone (reference Ohio State House Bill 04). It is important to provide resources that are up to date and accessible for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers, law enforcement and Emergency Room's as work is continuing to provide those affected persons and families' access to Recovery. Reentry projects, education projects, peer navigation, family support and accessibility to treatment are a high priority. (Recovery Advocate)

How do parents get help for their kids?

- The numbers are in the packet, but who do they call?
- Is there a resource to lead them through?

A 24/7 helpline at the Addiction Services Council helps addicted persons and family bridge gaps to Recovery. Support groups for addicted persons include Nar Anon, NA, AL anon, AA, NotOneMore. There are faith based support groups as well. These are absolutely necessary tools for ANYONE affected by this Opioid Epidemic. There is a misconception that an addicted person must reach 'rock bottom' before they want to seek help to recovery. Sadly, "rock bottom" for heroin users is often represented by death. Get help. (Recovery Advocate)

What are the schools doing to communicate to kids?

- The "this is your brain on drugs" is no longer a relevant message

The Northwest Local School District (NWLSD) includes drug education in the District health classes. Ohio State House Bill 367 requires each school district to include instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention in health curriculum.

The Governor's Opiate Action Team is to submit instructional recommendations to the Ohio Dept. of Education (ODE) by July 1, 2015 (The NWLSD does not have the instructional recommendations as of March of 2015) and ODE is required to publish recommendations on their website.

We have our Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) Clubs at both District high schools that promote a drug free and alcohol free lifestyle through various activities at each school as well as at their feeder middle and elementary schools – Red Ribbon Week, Prom Promise and performances at feeder schools are major activities. (NWLSD Representative)

What is the Township doing to shut down the hotels/motels where they stay when kicked out of the house?

Local police departments cannot shut down a motel for providing legitimate public access to a privately owned motel or hotel. Meaning, if the customer provides the funds required to pay for a stay. Private businesses can establish individual standards of behavior for their customers. Many departments are aware of their community motels and hotels and the clientele that frequent the business, often because of the frequency and types of incidents handled by the officers and firefighter/medics who respond to the particular motel/hotel. If the number and types of incidents reach a point the departments identify the business as a problem, they have options to contact management and/or ownership to discuss the problem, in an attempt to seek cooperation toward the reduction or elimination of the problem. If that option does not result in a desired change, then the totality of the incident and problems at the motel/hotel can be reviewed for consideration by the local prosecutor's office. (Law enforcement)

In the 60's when LSD and so many other drugs were so popular what changed that they fell out of popularity?

Understanding the cause and effects of the Opioid Epidemic is crucial to getting people the help they need. Over 70% of heroin addicted persons started with opiates. Overprescribing by physicians, as well as inappropriate prescribing continues to create more addicted persons. Understanding the cause and effects of the Opioid Epidemic is crucial to getting people the help they need. (Recovery Advocate)

Where can I get naloxone? And why would I want to have it?

Naloxone accessibility. (Reference Ohio State House Bill 04) (Recovery Advocate)

Will we ever distribute Narcan kits?

- What is Colerain Township's stance on this issue?

The Colerain Township Community Health Collaborative understands and supports the need for Narcan and want to work within our community to help make Naloxone available through our local pharmacies for those in need within Colerain Township. (Colerain Township Community Health Collaborative)

Do you feel that addicts are set up for failure in our current legal system? This needs to change

The important part in properly responding to this question is that the varying members of the Criminal Justice System (Police, Courts and Corrections) need to learn more about the disease of opiate addiction. If there is a greater understanding, then the total person can be evaluated as part of the criminal act or behavior exhibited by the person who finds themselves into to the Criminal Justice System. Sadly for the addicted person and often another victim of crime, there is a very good chance the victim of the crime has no understanding of why they have become a victim of crime. It is not the victims fault, but often the question from the victim is why the crime happened to them. To properly address the addict, the crime and the significance of the harm must be known. Ultimately, the addicted person is responsible for their criminal behavior. Sometimes the crime committed by the addicted person requires action through the Criminal Justice Center. (Colerain Police Department)

Hospitals need to address "pain" differently – They are making addicts

Yes. Addicted persons are set up for failure in the current medical and law enforcement systems. Opportunities to make positive change are evident in steps taken by the Colerain Township Community Health Collaborative forward thinking. (Recovery Advocate)

How will the availability of naloxone affect the addition, long-term?

Opiates are highly addictive and easily abused. Careful and cautious prescribing is absolutely necessary. Alternatives should be used. (Recovery Advocate)

Everyone says the addict has to hit rock bottom. Can you (a family) have an effect before rock bottom?

Currently, death and overdose rates demand that Naloxone be accessible to addicted persons and their families. Representatives from various backgrounds are of the opinion that every opioid prescription should be accompanied by a Naloxone script. I agree. (Recovery Advocate)

What role does a relative, once removed, have supporting their loved one, without enabling?

Support does not mean a person in active use can bankrupt loved ones, steal or become socially unacceptable and unaccountable. There must be parameters for behavior and the legislated consequences for actions remain intact. That said, as stated above by the Police Department, there must be increased understanding of the disease and its impact of people as it leads to a greater understanding of behaviors. (Recovery Advocate)