



# **STATE OF THE HEROIN CRISIS**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2018**



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The Hamilton County Heroin Coalition (HCHC) is a collective group of experts and community members who are committed to a broad scale, sustained, and collaborative effort to address the issue of addiction in our community. While more needs to be done, together we are producing results that are saving lives and strengthening families.

This inter-system cooperation is built on four pillars: prevention, treatment, interdiction, and harm reduction. These pillars represent the areas of expertise of those serving on the subcommittees of the HCHC. Additionally, we have engaged local governments, hospitals, and the faith community to help with our work.

The following document and metrics sheet was created using information provided to us from coalition members to give the Hamilton County community insight on the magnitude of the addiction problem, a better understanding of the work the HCHC and its partners, and what we are looking to accomplish in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Driehaus". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Denise Driehaus, Chair

## **Hamilton County Heroin Coalition**

*Emily Manning, Heroin Coalition Program Coordinator*

### **Steering Committee:**

*Neil Tilow, President, Talbert House*

*Mary Haag, President and CEO, Prevention First*

*Kamaria Tyehimba, President and CEO, UMADAOP*

*Tom Synan, Chief of Police, Village of Newtown*

*Tim Ingram, Commissioner, Hamilton County Board of Health*

*Cedric Robinson, Cincinnati Fire Department*

*Patrick Tribbe, President, Hamilton County MHRS*

*Sara Bolton, The Health Collaborative*

*Kelly Firesheets, Interact for Health*

*Moira Weir, Director, Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services*



# PREVENTION: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The implementation focus of the Prevention subcommittee is centered on four prevention strategies: provide information/public awareness, build skills/education, reduce access/availability, and modify policy. Key accomplishments in each of these categories are listed below:

## Public Awareness

- Held eighteen community forums reaching approximately 900 people in neighborhoods.
- Organized community gathering reaching ~150 across Hamilton County.
- Garnered 4 million media impressions from theatre AD marketing.
- Distributed 39,000 pharmacy bags.

## Build Skills

- Hosted “Prevention in Schools” summit: a day –long conference for educators to assist in the development of their own comprehensive substance abuse prevention plans, provide resources, and deliver a train the trainer session on evidence-based prescription programs.
- Organized the “Parenting for Prevention” program is being provided through school PTA programs, workplaces, and other organizations with access to parents in Hamilton County.

## Reducing Access

- Disposed of 900 pounds of medications during Take-Back events
- Installed sixteen permanent drop boxes.

## Modify Policy

- Increased the number of take-back sites, specifically in pharmacies.
- Passed the Good Samaritan Law.

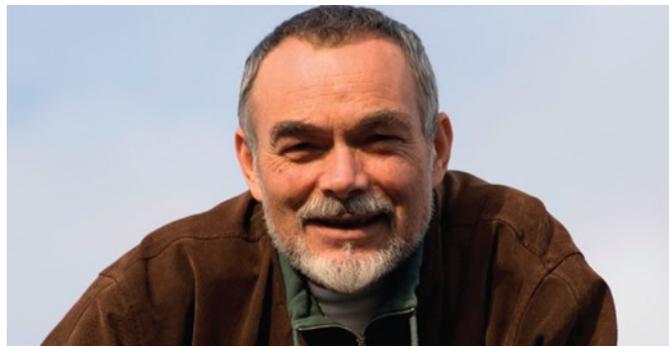


# TREATMENT:

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Treatment subcommittee has focused on removing the barriers to treatment and improving the processes for referrals into treatment. Additionally, the Treatment subcommittee has improved data collection and metrics to assist in communications and de-stigmatization. Successful initiatives of the treatment subcommittee include the following:

- Quick Response Teams collaborating with addiction treatment specialists, police and emergency medical personnel to intervene with persons who have recently overdosed by going to their home and try to get them into treatment. Many have entered treatment for their opiate addiction.
- Quick Response Team model adopted widely in Ohio and other jurisdictions throughout the country. The HCMHRSB currently funds two existing QRTs, one in Colerain Township and one in Norwood. An additional County-wide QRT will be added this spring. Two additional QRTs are funded by the city of Cincinnati.
- Provide expanded access to referrals from hospital emergency rooms. Those who are referred can access clinical assessment and treatment services seven days a week. Also, all residents have access to a crisis hotline that is available 24/7.
- Share resources among treatment providers in the public system to broaden access to opioid treatment services. This has been particularly effective with maximizing physician resources.
- Collect, analyze, and widely disseminate data related to outcomes across the public treatment system, encouraging best practices among providers as well as broadening the community's understanding of the value and efficacy of treatment for addictive disease.
- Building broad community consensus on the need for treatment service expansion. This is the number one goal of the Heroin Coalition and it is strongly supported by officials representing EMS, police, hospitals, public health, corrections, churches, and many other entities.
- 16 bed Engagement Center opened by Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board through a partnership with Talbert House. Clients will receive assessments and necessary treatment services that will help them transition into community-based services.



# INTERDICTION: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Interdiction Committee focuses on law enforcement, including supply reduction and diversion. The committee has developed new tools to connect people with addictions to treatment, while enhancing our county's capacity to investigate drug traffickers. Accomplishments include the following:

- Formation of the HCHC Heroin Task Force, which investigates overdose cases back to the source dealer.
- We have paired with every aspect of the Coalition including Harm Reduction to supply every police officer in our area and increase supply of fire/EMS with Narcan.
- Collaborated with Treatment by forming QRT's, researching pre-arrest diversion programs, transporting those who want treatment, advocating for more treatment options, and increased access and long term care.
- We have a Sub-Committee that is working on policies locally and at the state and federal level of government that would bring legislation that translates to success on the street.
- Advocating and initiating change in the public perception of the issue.



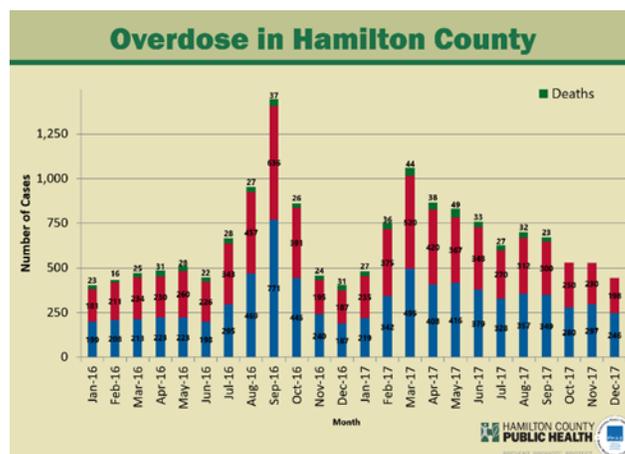
## 2017 FATAL OVERDOSES INVESTIGATED



# HARM REDUCTION: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Harm Reduction Committee has primarily focused on increasing the availability of real-time data to generate a better understanding of the opioid crisis in our community and reinforcing partnerships with our County’s hospital systems to identify priority areas for opioid response.

- Produced an emergency department protocol for treatment of opioid overdoses to standardize emergency department responses across the region. At present, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Mercy Health, and TriHealth have implemented this protocol within their various hospitals.
- Encouraged adoption of SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) in emergency departments and primary care practices to identify substance use disorders more proactively and refer to treatment as soon as possible.
- Hosted the first regional MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) DATA waiver provider training for physicians on October 13th and 14th. The Health Collaborative (THC) has also utilized the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) learning events to educate primary care providers across the state on opioid prescribing patterns. THC used the December CPC+ learning session to discuss the use of MAT in primary care practice.
- Received an award from the Ohio Department of Health’s Prescription Drug Overdose grant, which was used to establish the Overdose Fatality Review team.
- Received an award from the Funders’ Response to the Heroin Epidemic, used to support overdose data surveillance and reporting seven days a week.
- Created the Narcan Distribution Collaborative. The purpose of this collaborative is to distribute 25,000 units of NARCAN Nasal Spray as part of an investigator-initiated study throughout Hamilton County over a two-year period. This project is in partnership with HCPH, BrightView Foundation, and UC College of Medicine.
- Transitioned the bloodborne infectious disease prevention program from UC College of Medicine to public health. The new program will be a collaboration with HCPH, University of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Health Department.



# NEW AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES

**Hamilton County Engagement Center:** Divert and triage post overdose emergency department, EMS and QRT admissions that are medically stable to short term residential care that provides linkage to area providers as well as possible induction of MAT.

**County-wide Quick Response Team:** Expanding the QRT model to include all of Hamilton County and to engage potential clients proactively using predictive analysis. This is a partnership between the MHRSB, law enforcement, UC Institute of Crime Science, and Addiction Services Council.

**Prearrest Diversion:** Researching a new method in our community through officer intervention—charges are held in abeyance or citation, with a requirement for completion of treatment and/or service plan. This research is in partnership with Interact for Health.

**Narcan Distribution Collaborative:** Continuing the work that was started in October 2017 and expanding access to naloxone. The goal is to distribute roughly 2000 doses of the life-saving drug every month through a variety of different pathways.

**Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program:** This is a comprehensive, community based public health initiative that provides disease prevention, education and referral services, including: testing and referral to treatment for communicable diseases (hepatitis, HIV, STIs) and pregnancy testing, hepatitis vaccination, referrals into substance use disorder treatment programs, safe disposal of injection equipment, access to sterile injection equipment, access to naloxone, and distribution of personal care items.

**Emergency Department Protocols:** Engaging more of the hospital systems in Hamilton County to implement the opioid response protocol in order to standardize all emergency departments across the county.

## **7 day access to treatment**

**Increasing outreach initiatives:** Partnering with community coalitions, grassroots organizations, and advocates to increase the Coalition's engagement on a local, individual level.

**Policy initiatives:** Investigating Ohio's involuntary commitment process to see where changes can be made, specifically in reference to Casey's Law.

**Funding for treatment beds in the Justice Center** if the Ohio Capital Bill approved with Hamilton County's request.