

REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON OPIOID ABUSE
 NOTES FROM DISCUSSION TABLES
 10/23/14

What stays with you from the speakers?	Barriers/concerns?	Opportunities/possibilities?
We treat mental issues different than substance abuse.	Not enough beds available or access to output care.	Prevention strategies
Not enough funding and resources or beds available.	Public leaders are not willing to discuss or talk about issues.	Treatment available for those who want it
The stigma attached to substance abuse.	Nobody gets angry at people selling the drugs. Not getting any dealers off the street. No sentencing involved.	If we should be spending so much \$ if it is not helping
Parents can't be case managers!	Low bail	Could we spend the money else where
Lack of communication between the different levels involved local, state and federal,	Difficulty of open dialogue-often a "reaction" rather than pro-action \$(Building teens time with healthy activities
The grades for the students (surprised they were so high)	Parent denial, esp. higher class	Teach parents as well as kids
Change/break stigma and shifting cultures	Healthcare providers, need to be more educators available	What is the message they are conveying on alcohol, and marijuana use
Happy to hear about use of narcan	High risk users that get sectioned, come back to E.R and not enough help	Possible places to put these addicts as oppose to jail or hospital
Seek help outside of school	Heterogeneous population of users	Funding isn't there, but it's an opportunity
Never thought of epi pens like naracan	Stress is increased and time to cope with stressed	Law enforcement has potential
Important that officers are trained	Medication safety	Teach people how to cope when young
Substance abuse needs to be thought of as mental health	Embarrassment comes with the drugs	Not an instant fix
Surprised about grades	Stigma "doesn't happen here"	More coverage and resources needed
Strong connection with marijuana and cigarettes but not with alcohol	People don't know how to address it	To clarify current bills/ laws
2-7% jump is scary	Frustrating to see resources on the police side	Individual packaging for medication
7% close to 2007 year percentage when there was many over doses	Police doesn't understand treatment side	Prevention! Prevention! Prevention
7% of high school students in Reading admitted to use of heroin	Dealing with parents coming to the realization of their kids being on drugs, having a problem	If women seek treatment, what happens to her children, her possessions, etc?
The statistic that 7% of high school students reported using heroin which equaled to 74 students	What does a heroin abuser look like? Recognizing who the heroin abuser is.	Review and make changes to the judicial system. It's not simply one part. It's the whole picture. Get all of the agencies to work better together
Accessibility of services	No one is quite on expert yet	Awareness More funding
Drug addiction affects the community as a whole	"Addiction create criminals"	Limit stigma
Drug addiction treatment is not as advanced as it should be.	You must remember that addiction is a disease/illness	Drug companies make money by over-prescribing medication to patients. All about the \$. They disregard the patient's health
Candidates do not usually discuss drug addiction; therefore, it was nice to see some show interest and to see cross section.	"Addicts are the most manipulative people." They can find the "ins and outs" to hide their addiction/recent use	Better access to screening for youth. Nurses should screen youth which would help prevent youth from becoming addicts and give care to high risk addicts
Necessary treatment should be provided	Money/funding	Alternative pain managements
Different measures should be taken depending on the situation	Conservative attitudes -> change of attitude needed	Regional approaches to: change, treatment, prevention, planning
Periodic checkups should be done	Insignificant education on addicts	Drug court. Severe & sure accountability for dealers.

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The culture has changed but society hasn't	Money to increase police services for addiction	"Combo centers"
Heroin use is a medical condition	More access to treatment	Addiction issues should be addressed not ignored
It's a crisis	Youth's speaking up	Change the media portrayal and glorification of drug and alcohol
Adults are the same as students	Adult's/youth's at different levels of social media/communication styles	Youth education + participation in prevention
Heroin use is closely connected to tobacco use	How many students use hookah pens/bring alcohol to school	Beds: gender specific age specific. Services for youth/adults?
Mental health stigma. Addiction is a mental health issue	Slow moving in getting things passed	Youth clubs/groups should be created and sustained. For exa: SBIRT – prevention programs
Surprised that more parents are not present=apathy	Peer-pressure	Grandparent support group
Mental health funding	Trying to get parents involved	If everybody gets conditions for release (in court), how do we get to them?
Fragmented services system	Attitude towards heroin dependent people	School led programs. Less MCAS; more Health Ed
Need case mgs. After hospitalization of O.d.'s.	Lost hope for addicts to recover	Behavior Heath treatment; continuum of care
Doctors over prescribing; sports injury	No funding for narcotics detecting	Judges make higher bails
Lack of ways to ID users	Information is shared but it doesn't go anywhere	Librarians participate in behavioral health training
Surprised that heroin use is up + others are down	People are not aware/ as connected than they should be to this issue	Communication needs to be better local to state -> police to legislators
Comprehension work down in reading	Insurance	Rx-restrictions-database
How do we deal with pain? Some drink alcohol, use drugs, become violent, etc	The only person that can motivate themselves to quit is themselves. Outsiders can provide support, but the person is the final motivation.	Regular opportunity for police/teachers/healthcare workers/etc to check in w/ representatives about what's going well, what isn't, ideas for change, etc
Work/effort of speakers	Adolescent invincibility	Alternative therapy coverage by insurance (i.e. acupuncture)
E.R did not treat drug addicts fairly/kindly	"domestic terrorists murders"	Melrose "guiding good choices"
Insurance only takes into treatment so far	Drug dealer punishment	Drug registry must have to register in the state system
	Legalization of MJ	Education of dentists (over prescription of pain-killers)
	Challenges of "gateway" drugs	Reach out to as many as possible and decrease the numbers of addicts
	Providing help to those who have nothing/no one	Bail bonds-man
		Youth/peer leadership connected to coalitions
		Development of "treatment teams"
		Are laws getting more lenient for drug dealers