Evaluation of the Impact of a Collaborative Approach to Address the Opioid Epidemic in Pima County

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Opioid Epidemic

- The most fatal drug crisis in U.S. history (National Safety Council, 2018)
- 11 million people misused an opioid pain reliever in the past year (SAMHSA, 2017)
- 2.1 million people have opioid use disorder (SAMHSA, 2017)
- In AZ in 2018, 1,375 suspected opioid deaths and 9,335 suspected opioid overdoses
- In Pima County, 102% increase in opioid-related emergency visits and 91% increase in inpatient stays between 2008 and 2016, totaling an estimated $431 million in healthcare costs.
Overarching Goals

- Reduce overdose deaths - Save Lives
- Offer avenues for people suffering from substance use disorder to access appropriate evidence-based treatment
- Reduce crime and improve quality of life in communities
Challenges

- Addiction is a chronic, relapse-prone disorder.
  - Median 27 years from 1st use to last use and median 9 years from 1st treatment episode to last use (Dennis et al., 2005)

- Many people with substance use disorder do not get treatment
  - only 7.7% of young adults and 12.3% of adults aged 26 or older with SUD received substance use treatment at a specialty facility (Lipari et al., 2016)

- Multiple reasons for not going to treatment
  - 42% of adults in need of treatment do not go for it because they are “not ready to stop using alcohol or drugs” (Ali et al., 2015)
  - People believe that they should be “strong enough” to handle it on their own (Schuler et al., 2015)
  - They fear being stigmatized (Schuler et al., 2015)
TPD’s Deflection Program

- Deflecting people away from arrest to appropriate substance use treatment and related services
- Led by Chief Hall
  - Considered existing programs
  - Reviewed existing research
  - Developed partnerships with providers and researchers
- Implemented Deflection Program in July 2018
U-MATTER

- SAMHSA U-MATTER grant awarded Sept 2018
- *Unified Medication-assisted Treatment Targeted Engagement Response*
- Supports behavioral health peer support co-responders.
- Supports partial evaluation of the Deflection Program specific to individuals with opioid use disorder appropriate for MAT (started Nov 1, 2018).
- Supports officer and peer support training concerning identification of substance use treatment need and encouragement to engage in treatment.
- Expansion of network of entities involved in facilitating connections to substance misuse treatment, such as pretrial services.
Deflection Program Components

- **Deflections:** Officers have discretion to deflect individuals
- **Angel Program:** Non-discretionary connection to treatment provider
- **Outreach:** Law enforcement/behavioral health peer support co-responders
Process

- Officers or co-responders identify person with substance use issues eligible for deflection/connection to treatment.
- Officers or co-responders encourage person to get immediately connected to treatment.
- Transport to provider.
- Assessment of physical, mental, and behavioral health issues and needs.
- Development of treatment plan.
- Offer of appropriate treatment and related resources.
- Monitoring, outreach, and support.
Evaluation

- Main goal: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation to inform project improvement
- Training to support program efforts needed
  - Multiple opportunities to encourage people to engage and stay engaged in treatment
  - Opportunities to address challenges and reduce barriers to treatment
- Motivational interviewing (MI) (Miller & Rollnick, 1991): person-centered approach to address ambivalence and encourage behavioral change
Offering Deflection

- **793** total deflections since start of evaluation (November 1, 2018).
- 13 individuals utilized the Angel Program.
Identifying People Open to Treatment

- Officers are identifying people who are willing to consider treatment.
- Of subjects offered deflection (N=740)...
  - 47% definitely wanted to get substance misuse treatment.
  - 29% were undecided/unsure about getting treatment.
  - 24% definitely NOT interested in substance misuse treatment.
Encouraging People to Consider Treatment

- Officers are encouraging subjects to get connected with treatment providers.
- Of the 394 subjects undecided about or not willing to get treatment...
  - Officers had the opportunity to encourage 86% (338) to consider deflection.
- Of the 338 subjects officers encouraged to consider deflection...
  - Officers persuaded 37% (126) to go to treatment.
    - 23% (77) were immediately transported to a provider.
    - 9% (29) plans to go to treatment on their own.
    - 6% (20) unknown if immediate transport.
Outreach Efforts: Targeting Locations

- 58 times co-responders visited targeted community areas to identify people who have substance use issues and encourage them to seek treatment.
  - 2 to 45 people reached each time
  - 305 contacts total
Outreach Efforts: Targeting Individuals

- 203 contacts with targeted individuals.
- Talked with 85% (173) about substance misuse treatment
  - 57% (99) self-identified as needing treatment
  - 14% (25) otherwise identified as needing treatment
  - Had opportunity to encourage 97% (168) to consider treatment
Outreach Efforts: Targeting Individuals

- 104 (60% of 173) offered immediate transport to treatment provider
  - 23% (24) definitely wanted to get substance misuse treatment.
  - 58% (60) were undecided/unsure about getting treatment.
  - 19% (20) definitely NOT interested in substance misuse treatment.

- Of the 80 subjects undecided about or not willing to get treatment...
  - Co-responders persuaded 25% (20) to go immediately to treatment.

- 36% (37 of the 104) were transported immediately to treatment provider.
Key Points

- Because of our jobs, we often come into contact with individuals with substance use issues.
- Consequently, we have many opportunities to encourage individuals to get treatment and to support them in their journey to recovery.
- The Deflection Program & U-MATTER provide even more opportunities to encourage and support individuals in their journey to recovery.
- Trainings like the MI training today can help provide tools/skills that can strengthen the impact of your encouragement and support.
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