

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.

Acknowledgement: This presentation is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and is supported by Grant Number H79TI081559.

Disclaimer: The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policies of SAMHSA; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government

Suggested citation: Korchmaros, J. K. (December, 2019). Evaluation of the impact of a collaborative approach to address the opioid epidemic in Pima County. Paper presented at the *Motivational Interviewing: An Approach for Public Safety and Criminal Justice* training, Tucson, AZ.



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