



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County
Health Department**

Harford County MOOR (Maryland Office of Overdose Response) Opioid Prevention Team (OPT)

Meeting Minutes | May 28, 2024 | 9:30-10:30 AM
Hybrid

Harford County Department of Emergency Services (DES)

Call-in Information:

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/hpp-nrvd-jrv

Join by phone

(US) +1 413-893-3313 PIN: 461 790 880#

Opening:

- Change of OPT Structure
- Mental Health Addiction Advisory Council LHIC meetings are now separate from the Maryland Office of Opioid Response and Opioid Prevention Team meetings and will follow each other.

Overdose Prevention Team: Shawn Martin and Michael LaVecchia

- System Changes
- OOC -> Maryland Office of Overdose Response
- Change from opioids specifically to overdose more broadly
- 5 Priority Pillars
 - Prevention
 - Treatment
 - Recovery
 - Harm Reduction
 - Public Safety
- New URL: stopoverdose.maryland.gov.
- OPT Expectations (Summary)
 - Chaired by reps from the Health Department, and co-chaired by representatives from community organizations or local government agency
 - Must comply with the Open Meetings Act. The agenda must be published 24 hrs prior to the meeting and must reserve 15 minutes for community member comments and updates.
 - Must provide a hybrid option accompanying an in-person meeting.
- Fatal Overdose Trends:
 - A significant decrease since seeing a high in 2018 (151). Low (74) in 2020 then seen stabilization from 2021-2023 (89,91,89).
 - Males continually have higher fatal overdose rates compared to females annually.
 - Race and Ethnicity: White individuals have the highest rates of fatal overdoses. When taking into account population sizes by race, the African American/Black population sees a disproportionate number of overdoses.
 - Monthly trends: March saw the highest number of fatal overdoses (70),
 - City Trends: Aberdeen was highest, Edgewood, Bel Air, Abingdon, HdG, Joppa

- Top causes of OD deaths are primarily associated with opioids and other substances: Any Opioid (546), Fentanyl (483), Despropionyl Fentanyl (258), Cocaine (255), and Alcohol (135).
- Non-Fatal Overdose Trends:
 - 101 non-fatal overdoses in 2021, then a significant increase to 383 in 2022. with 53 so far in 2024.
 - Again, males have higher non-fatal overdose rates than females.
 - Race/Ethnicity: White individuals have the highest non-fatal overdose rates.
 - Monthly Trends: in calendar year 2023, July saw the highest number of non-fatal overdoses (149), and the lowest being May (37).
 - By City: Aberdeen (191), Edgewood (107), Bel Air (123), HdG (95), Joppa (44).
- Overdose Prevention: What is overdose prevention?
 - Encompasses actions taken before, during, and after an overdose to reduce the risk of fatality.
 - Before: Harm reduction strategies i.e. syringe service programs and safe drug use edu.
 - During: Administering opioid overdose reversal medications like naloxone.
 - After: Referring individuals to harm reduction services, treatment for SUDs, and support/recovery.
- Overdose Prevention Best Practices and Evidence-Based Practices
 - Targeted Naloxone Distribution, Medication Assisted Treatment, Syringe Service Programs, Good Samaritan Laws, Drug Checking Services, and Public Communications Campaigns.
- Overview of the Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) Survey
 - a comprehensive survey designed to gather updated information on the various programs and initiatives related to overdose prevention in Harford County.
- Overdose Fatality Review Overview
 - Established and administered by the Office of Population Health Improvement
 - In 23 of 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. These teams conduct confidential reviews of fatal and non-fatal overdose incidents to identify system gaps and prevention and intervention strategies needed to prevent future OD deaths.
 - Program Goals: Identify missed opportunities for prevention and intervention and system-level change to prevent future overdose deaths. Increase inter-agency communication and collaboration on overdose issues. Make recommendations to laws, policies, and/or programs to prevent future deaths. Identify overdose risk factors to improve prevention planning.
- Action Items:
 1. Enhance Trauma Therapy in Treatment Setting:
 - initiate skills-based training sessions for clinical staff encompassing multiple areas
 - Resources and insights: www.traumapolicy.org.
 2. Implementation of a shared database:
 - a. The benefit is knowing exactly what level of care should be recommended
 - b. Prioritize treatment-specific access within the database
 - c. Advocate for legislative support (this is a long-term goal).
 3. Enhanced Oversight for Sober Living Facilities
 - a. Identifying and addressing existing barriers
 - b. Investigate the rationale behind the lack of mandatory certification for all sober living facilities.
 - c. Explore Halfway House Oversight Committee (ACR)
- Public Health Alert
 - Medetomidine, a veterinary sedative, has been detected in Philadelphia's drug supply.

- The health alert provides guidance on overdose response and withdrawal management.
- Similar findings have been reported in Maryland, Ohio, Florida, and Canada.
- Medetomidine is compared to dexmedetomidine and clonidine, which are used in veterinary and human medicine.

Community Member Comments/Updates:

- Public Comments
 - Is anyone doing any research on non-fatal overdose individuals, discussing with them what worked, what didn't work, and what was helpful or not? Collecting this information can get tricky. The idea would be to interview the individual. Private, confidential, and anonymous.
 - Automatic referrals could be connected when an individual comes in to get all information regarding the individual from different sources. Automatic ROI system.
 - Statistics are from the Maryland Department of Health (Maryland Vital Statistics Report) and Overdose Dashboard.
 - Non-fatal reports are coming from EMS, and fatal reports are coming from the Chief Medical Examiner. Individuals would then fill out a survey about what services were offered to them and how did they work for them.
 - Has the HD done anything regarding overdose survivor outreach? A Peer Recovery Specialist makes a follow-up call to those individuals. We aren't allowed to share data about non-fatal overdoses with anyone outside the Health Department, this is MDH policy.

Upcoming Meetings: TBD, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Harford County DES 2220 Addy Rd, Forest Hill, MD 21050