

MIDD Multi-Pronged Opioid Strategies – CD-07

This initiative primarily addresses the adopted MIDD policy goal of *“divert individuals with behavioral health needs from costly interventions, such as jail, emergency rooms, and hospitals.”* The initiative supports the September 2016 Heroin and Prescription Opioid Addiction Task Force prevention, treatment and service expansion and enhancement and user health and overdose prevention recommendations. The task force members and the County have been involved in many activities since 2017 and more is planned in 2019:

Primary Prevention: Promotion of safe storage and disposal of medications to prevent opioid use disorder (OUD).

- **Secure Medicine Return Boxes:** Over 100 medicine return boxes through King County and approximately 39,000 pounds of medicine were collected through the King County Secure Medicine Return program.
- **“Don’t Hang on To Meds:”** Public service campaign through printed products, bags, comics in English and eight other languages, webinars, social media & blog, metro advertisements and return box locator (text MEDS to 667873 resource).
- **Opioid Education Series:** A successful public education series coordinated with the King County Library System, reached over 100 community members.
- **Improve Screening Practices:** In 2017, middle schools across the county were funded by Best Starts for Kids to plan for enhanced screening and services for students.

Treatment Expansion and Enhancement: Creating access to buprenorphine for all people in need of services, in low-barrier modalities close to where individuals live with the goal of providing treatment on demand to individuals seeking medication-assisted treatment (MAT). Treatment on demand is defined as the individual meeting with a prescriber immediately, or on day one or day two, to initiate treatment.

- **Low-Barrier Buprenorphine Contracts:**
In 2018, BHRD contracted for Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD)-funded low-barrier buprenorphine treatment in the community:
 - Downtown Emergency Service Center
 - Community Psychiatric Clinic
 - Valley Cities Behavioral Health
 - Seattle Indian Health Board
 - Crisis Connections Recovery Helpline
- **Crisis Connections Recovery Helpline MAT Locator:**
The resource locator is available to help people located and engage with local clinics and programs that use evidence-based treatments for OUD <http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org/mat-locator/>. People may also contact the helpline at (866) 789-1511. In 2018, MAT access points grew from 45 to 104 sites.

- MAT in King County Jails:**
 \$1.9 million in 2019-2020 MIDD funding appropriated to provide MAT, including buprenorphine and expanded provision of emergency life-saving Naloxone. The funding will support staffing and medications. The first phase of the initiative involves identifying inmate-patients at intake (booking) who have been receiving buprenorphine from community providers, and continuing their prescriptions during their jail stay. By the end of September 2019, Public Health Jail Health Services plans to begin inducting new inmate-patients onto buprenorphine for ongoing medication-assisted treatment, and linking them to community providers to continue the treatment upon release from jail.
- MAT for People Utilizing Shelters and Encampments:**
 \$1.5 million in 2019-2020 MIDD funding appropriated to train providers to prescribe MAT and pay for care managers at community clinics countywide and expand services to those in shelters and encampments. Funding will be allocated to develop a mobile street medicine team and other approaches to reach this population.
- Coordination with HealthierHere:**
 The focus population for the accountable community of health project is Medicaid beneficiaries with OUD and additional beneficiaries who are screened for OUD but not yet diagnosed. The HealthierHere opioid project will support the achievement of the state’s goals to reduce opioid-related morbidity and mortality through strategies that target prevention, treatment, and recovery supports. <https://www.healthierhere.org/our-work/>. This initiative complements the work of HealthierHere and King County personnel participate in ACH activities and coordinate with HealthierHere lead staff.

User Health and Overdose Prevention: Reduce overdose deaths by distributing naloxone to individuals using opioids, their social networks, and professionals who may administer naloxone through the course of their work.

- Naloxone Kits:** Approximately 29,000 naloxone kits were distributed by task force members in 2017 and 2018.
- Approximately 7,300 successful administrations of naloxone to reverse overdoses by task force member organizations in 2017 and 2018.
- Public Health produced and overdose death dashboard in 2018 www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/examiner/overdose. Non-fatal overdose data will be available on the dashboard in 2019.