Engaging Communities to Enact Change: an Evaluation of Interdisciplinary Efforts Aimed at Reducing Opioid Abuse in Rural Oregon

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## The Problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Prescribing Rate (2016)*</th>
<th>Opioid Hospitalizations ('12-'14)</th>
<th>Opioid Deaths ('12-'16)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coos County</td>
<td>134.1 per 100</td>
<td>16.59 per 100,000</td>
<td>2.56 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>76.3 per 100</td>
<td>10.51 per 100,000</td>
<td>6.64 per 100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>66.5 per 100</td>
<td>9.98 per 100,000</td>
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</tbody>
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*Note: Coos County is higher than SA in all 9 risky practices measures reported by OHA*
Path Forward

- Prevent the onset of addiction
- Decrease the number of existing opioid use disorders
- Reverse opioid overdose to decrease mortality
Southwest Oregon Opioid Summit

Coos Bay, OR.
October 2016
228 Attendees
Southwest Oregon Opioid Summit

Evaluation Approach

Pre/Post Survey Analysis
- Pre-Survey sent to 250 conference registrants (45% response rate)
- Post-survey sent to same group (24% response rate)

Stakeholder Interviews
- Local pharmacists, law enforcement personnel, providers
Conference Demographics

- Healthcare: 51%
- Social Services and Public Health: 21%
- Tribes: 8%
- Law Enforcement: 8%
- Community Organizations: 7%
- Government: 3%
- Education: 2%

Multiple, including Coos: 8%
Multiple, excluding Coos: 2%
All, statewide or federal: 4%
Primary Outcomes

**Increased Awareness of Regional Problem**
- Promote improved prescribing practices
- Increased acceptance of alternative therapies
- Increased MAT availability and use

**Formation of multi-sector workgroups**
- Topics include MAT expansion and insurance coverage
- Drug disposal and take back event organizers
- Public education promotion

**Enhanced public education efforts**
- Reported 71% increase in education efforts
- Development of PSAs (drug disposal, naloxone use, at risk populations)
Drug Takeback

61% reported that drug take back programs became more available since the summit.

Persistent Barriers: Storage of disposed drugs, security of drop box sites, cost associated with maintenance, no needle acceptance.

Areas of Progress: Boxes at capacity, emptied twice a week (30 pounds), 31% increase in event staffing, exploring needle program.

Next Steps: Creation of 2-3 more drug take back boxes to meet needs, develop needle take back program, increase public awareness and importance of drug takeback.
Medication Therapy

62% reported that medication assisted therapy became more available post-summit.

Persistent Barriers
Lack of prescribers, increased burden on MAT providers, inability for some mid-level providers to prescribe.

Areas of Progress
MAT coverage under Medicaid, ability to treat 350 patients (as of Jan ‘18), training to providers, naloxone use, 5.9 Fills per 1,000 in ‘16 Q4 to 9.6 in ‘17 Q4.

Next Steps
Increase buprenorphine waiving among physicians and extenders, promote awareness of resource availability of providers and patients, new MAT program.
PDMP & Prescribing

**80%**
Reported that **PDMP** use had increased since the summit

**Persistent Barriers**
Remaining difficulties in software access, availability, education, and accessibility, stable program utilization

**Areas of Progress**
Increased awareness of reporting features, increasing use of non-opioid therapies, 47.7% of prescribers using ‘16 Q3 to 61.7% in ‘17 Q3, decrease in Opioid prescribing

**Next Steps**
Provide ongoing awareness of prescribing best practices both on individual and system level, understanding of importance of non-opioid therapies
Summary

- Substantial progress has been made in opioid reduction efforts in S.W. Oregon
- The enhanced awareness has improved prescribing practices and awareness about opioid dependence.
- As a result, more patients are seeking treatment services
- Multi-sector partnerships have made strong progress on payment and reimbursement models to support increased treatment capacity
- In sum:
  - Bringing together key stakeholders can catalyze fruitful partnerships
  - Continuing education and updates on best practices is necessary in rural communities
Thank you!