Opioid Settlement Snapshot II

Introduction

Chester County has received Opioid settlement funds through the PA Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust, which was established in July 2022. This Trust, managed by a 13-member board, collects funds from nationwide opioid-related settlements involving the Pennsylvania Attorney General and various companies in the opioid industry. These funds are then allocated to local government bodies in Pennsylvania.

Chester County is committed to addressing the opioid overdose crisis. The following provides an overview of the County's strategies and initiatives that plan to be funded by the Opioid Lawsuit Settlement. These strategies, in line with the National Settlement's Exhibit E, aim to support individuals, families, and the communities affected by the overdose crisis by promoting proven prevention, treatment, intervention and recovery programs.

Support People in Treatment and Recovery

- Pilot Gateway Horse Works, an equine therapy program for various providers and People in Recovery (PIR).
- Pilot Summer Camp Series at Tree House World, uniting children affected by substance use disorder with a shared activity in which to recover and heal.
- Funding a Recovery Navigator who coordinates Recovery Events in the community

Connect People Who Need Help to the Help They Need

- Supporting the Chester County Human Needs Network
  - 988 Behavioral Health Crisis

Expand/Support Use of Naloxone

- Increasing access to Naloxone (Narcan).
- Continue to educate the community and promote the use of Narcan.
Warm Hand-off Program Expansion:
- Expanding Warm Hand-off referral program (COPE) to PCP and OBGYN providers.

Treatment for Incarcerated Population
- Providing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder at Chester County Prison (CCP).
- Providing Substance Use Disorder training for all CCP staff and management, recognizing the importance of addressing stigma within the criminal justice system.

Address the needs of Criminal Justice Involved Persons
- Support two (2) new Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) positions embedded within the Specialty Courts.
- Support expanded drug testing for probation, parole, and coroner.

Prevention/Education
- Develop, support, and expand evidenced-based prevention programs for K-12.
- Support "Be a Part of the Conversation" Family support and education initiative.
- Promote Medication Safety with Medication Lock Boxes and Pill Pods.
- Expand Medication Take Back Days and Disposal Boxes.
- Raise awareness and educate the community about substance use disorder (SUD) by supporting the Gaudenzia’s Women and Children’s Conference in 2024.
- Support training of the medical community by hosting an education series on substance use disorder and medication assisted treatment in conjunction with the Chester County Medical Society
- Enhance the clinical skills of our contracted in-county providers through a series of lectures hosted by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Services in conjunction with the Philadelphia Area Psychodrama Institute.

Support Faith-Based organizations, grassroots organizations, community-based groups, and school groups
- Pilot Post Prom 2024 events.
- Support Mini Grant applications to provide programming delivered by community-based, grassroots, and faith-based organizations.