

VIRTUAL SITE VISIT:



Baltimore County Department of Health

Advancing the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Capacity Building Initiative and Highlighting Specialized Jurisdictional Support

Field Employee(s): Roger Miller, Recovery Coach

Purpose: Explore Baltimore County's multi-agency overdose prevention strategies, Quick Response Team (QRT) and the impact of peer support.



OD2A Strategies Discussed

- Strategy 6 - Linkage individuals to resources and recovery care
- Strategy 8 - Public Safety Partnerships
- Strategy 9 - Empowering Individuals



Local Partnerships

Department of Health and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Health Centers Network
County Services: Libraries, Animal Services, Detention Center
Community Organizations: Hygeia and Achieve



Data and Surveillance Contributions

Data Collection and Analysis

- Used EMS data to identify hotspots, optimize QRT service hours and guide outreach.

Naloxone and Overdose Prevention Monitoring

- QRT tracks the effectiveness of naloxone distribution through vending machines, trainings and receptacles.

Surveillance of Overdose Trends

- Focused on shifts in dynamics of drug use, including the price of drugs, new synthetic opioids and changes in methods for administration to better guide prevention initiatives.

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenge:

- Single Recovery Coach covers all QRT follow-up
- Inconsistent documentation across sites

Opportunity:

- Recent grant to expand services
- Increased access to naloxone receptacles and community-based overdose prevention



QRT and Recovery

The QRT is designed to enhance the response to overdose trends by:

- utilizing EMS data to identify regions with high concentrations of overdoses and determine the optimal time to respond
- responding to live overdose calls (911 responses) and follow-up calls for non-fatal overdoses
- distributing overdose prevention supplies to increase naloxone access for those at risk of overdose
- building trust with individuals who use drugs and educating families about overdose prevention



Peer Support

Roger serves as a peer recovery specialist within the QRT. His contributions are vital in bridging the gap between individuals experiencing substance use challenges and the support systems available to them. Roger's lived experience allows him to connect authentically with participants and provide immediate support. He understands the local landscape of substance use and recovery services, collaborates with first responders increase awareness, documents encounters and follows up with participants to ensure they receive ongoing support.

JURISDICTION GOALS

Jurisdictions initially set goals to strengthen overdose surveillance and prevention.



Enhance the response to overdose trends for groups affected by overdose by working across collaborating agencies.



Increase the availability of buprenorphine medication in Baltimore County by addressing barriers to accessing and maintaining care.



Assess and link individuals to care using systems-level knowledge and navigation.

OUTCOMES

Field Employees' impact on the Jurisdiction



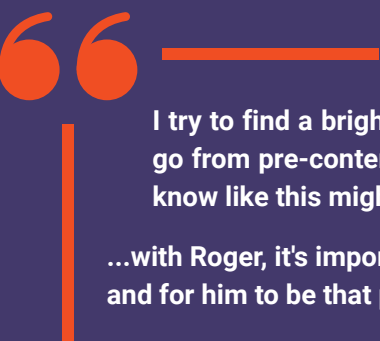
Increased Capacity: Jurisdiction has improved local capacity to provide follow-up care, distribute naloxone and act on EMS overdose trends.



Strengthened Partnerships: Multiple agencies and community groups engage in a collaborative overdose response.



Data Informed Decision Making: Live data analysis drives real-time prevention strategy adjustments.



I try to find a bright spot in each day and recently I've learned it takes 7 to 9 contacts for a person to go from pre-contemplation to contemplation or further stages of change. And so I have to let myself know like this might be the first time somebody's actually said, we care, we're here to help.

...with Roger, it's important to have someone there at the at the site when someone is at their lowest point and for him to be that person to be able to uplift someone when they need lifting.