

VIRTUAL SITE VISIT:

Kentucky River District Health Department (The Hub)

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

Field Employee(s): Nickia Carpenter and Tabitha Bishop, Lee County HUB Recovery Coaches
Heather Moore Letcher County HUB Recovery Coach

Purpose: Spotlight community-led overdose prevention work, peer support and recovery strategies through The Hub across rural Kentucky.



OD2A Strategies Discussed

Linkage to Resources and Community Care
Partnerships with Public Safety and First Responders
Empowering Individuals
Innovation Prevention Strategies



Local Partnerships

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Law Enforcement
Faith-Based Organizations
Correctional Facilities

Data and Surveillance Contributions



Recovery Coaches collect overdose prevention data, linkage to resource data, community-level feedback and qualitative stories to support real-time data use for prevention.

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenge:



- Emotional toll of relapse and overdose
- Community educational knowledge around community-based overdose prevention
- Lack of stable resources (housing, food, transportation)
- Staff burnout while juggling multiple responsibilities

Opportunity:

- Expanding the HUB model to new counties
- Training EMS and first responders on community-based overdose prevention
- Building structured recovery support systems

Reflections from the Jurisdiction

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At The Hub, we meet people where they are—but we don't leave them there. Every day, we witness the power of compassion, connection, and consistency in helping individuals reclaim their lives. Our mission is more than community-based overdose prevention; it's about restoring dignity, rebuilding hope, and walking alongside people as they find their path to recovery. In rural communities like ours, The Hub isn't just a resource—it's a lifeline.

JoAnn Fraley, Overdose Prevention Program Manager
Kentucky River District Health Department

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Our Hub employees are superheroes. They show up every day with compassion and consistency.

Amber, Staff Member and Person in Recovery

JURISDICTION GOALS

Jurisdictions initially set goals to strengthen overdose surveillance and prevention.



Educate the community on recovery care by hosting events focused on reducing public mis-understanding.



Increase access to Naloxone by hosting quarterly trainings.



Empower people with substance use challenges to access recovery and wraparound services by connecting with peer navigators.

OUTCOMES

Field Employees' impact on the Jurisdiction



Expanded Capacity: Opened a second HUB site in Letcher County.



Strengthened Overdose Prevention and Recovery: Increased recovery resources, outreach and community trust-building.



Increased Community Awareness: Hosted trainings in five locations on recovery services, Good Samaritan Laws and safety myths.

ACTIVITIES

Tasks completed by Field Employees



Expanded partnerships with EMS, law enforcement and treatment centers.



Provided emergency food, clothing, ID assistance and access to health care.



Coordinated substance use treatment.



Facilitated classes on smart recovery, parenting, overdose response and offender correction.



Connected clients to sober and transitional living.

Key Accomplishments

Naloxone distribution campaign for first responders



Kits for community training

Interagency partnerships and increasing awareness

