
SUD Oversight Policy Board

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Agency: Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority

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The [Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network](#) (DWIHN) provides services and support for adults and children with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children with serious emotional disturbances, and individuals with substance abuse issues. The Substance Use Disorders ([SUD](#)) [Oversight Policy Board](#) collects data to make assessment and determines the need for, and institutes several treatment, prevention, and recovery programs in Detroit and Wayne County. These programs include [Narcan Training](#) and the [Synar](#) Tobacco ID Program.

The Stats

According to a DWIHN mid year report presented by Board of Directors Member Cynthia Arfken MD. there were 915 deaths due to overdose in 2018, 54 percent of those deaths occurred in the City of Detroit. In 2019 so far there are 491 deaths from overdose with 53 percent in the City of Detroit. According to demographics for 2018 and 2019 there is a similarity in males in Detroit and Wayne County. The mean ages are about the same. This report also reveals there is no major shift in overdose deaths. The biggest problem in Detroit and Wayne County is [Fentanyl](#) and [Cocaine](#). There has also been a small rise in the deaths caused by [methamphetamine](#).

The Recommendation

Board Action: 20-76 The SUD Department unanimously approved a recommendation for a \$48,000.00 increase in funding for the Synar Program, which now has new requirements to include education and monitoring the sale of [Electronic Nicotine Device Systems \(ENDS\)](#). Providers must do research to identify what outlets sell ENDS in Wayne County. Also devices must be purchased for educational purposes. Adding training and monitoring of ENDS is something that could impact the Synar rate which is very good right now in Detroit and Wayne County. These funds will come from unallocated funds. This program would fund undercover minors to go out with an undercover officer to go to various locations and attempt to purchase ENDS just like they do with tobacco products.

The Presentation

Brian Spitbergen, Ph.D, Division Director for Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Support Services at Wellspring Lutheran Services presented a proposal for a pilot project to develop a

working relationship for the use of a cell phone application that could help a person with SUD during a time of crisis or moment of clarity to get treatment. Spitbergen cited getting people into treatment is a real challenge and this would keep them engaged from the first point of contact. Spitbergen explained that access to care has always been an issue. Someone could be anywhere during a moment of crisis. People often struggle with the question of what do I do in that moment of crisis. Spitbergen also stated "When people need help they need it now and when they have to wait they can lose that moment of clarity". Having a cell phone app people can use will help to bridge any gaps there may be. "This app will help individuals with SUD to prevent them from using again or even committing suicide" Spitbergen said. This application would save money because keeping the person engaged during crisis or clarity will reduce the chances of them using or committing suicide. When they use again it could increase expenses to care for them because most often it involves detox and hospitalization. Board Members questioned Spitbergen about the app's wait time, ability to determine which type of help does the person needs, and the apps digital marketing. There was no voting on this issue. According to SUD Director Darleen D. Owens this was a presentation that will help to gather more information. To be fair Director Owens suggested a similar program My Strength do a presentation as well.

The Preliminary Findings

DWIHN Staff from Substance Use Disorders, Managed Care Operations, and Quality Improvement conducted a comprehensive site review of the [Access Center](#) on October 30th through November 1st. Randomly selected phone calls, and calls brought to staff's attention were selected for review. According to April Siebert, QI Director, some preliminary findings dealt with Access Center's phone etiquette, wait times, and inquiring about advanced directives. Comments from call reviewers included the following:

- Great Job explaining Supports Coordination and appointments
- Clinician was friendly and engaging
- Clinician was welcoming and provided a warm environment for the caller to ask questions
- Caller was provided timely and effective responses to their request for assistance

The next step is to review the final findings and report recommendations and request Corrective Action Plans (CAPS) if available, also continue to monitor and encourage members and providers to provide any complaints or issues through the proper reporting process. "I'm hoping for the report to be complete by the first part of November," Siebert stated. Board Members requested for this to be a follow up item for the next meeting.

New Law Affecting Patients

Interns from the [Wayne State Physicians Group](#) presented findings of a public needs survey at the Methadone Clinic to access gaps in services, new changes for Medicaid, Vaping, and Primary Care. The six question survey included questions like age, Do they Vape? If so, where do you get your supplies? Who pays for the treatment that you're receiving? Were they aware of

the changes in the [Healthy Michigan Plan](#) that requires them to work at least 80 hours a month? Do they plan to comply with the state requirements to keep benefits? This law would not affect individuals who are in treatment for substance use. Findings revealed that 38 percent of the patients were covered by Medicaid, 18 percent of patients were on the Health Michigan Program. 83 percent of clinic patients had a primary care physician. Only seven patients admitted to vaping, and they got their supply from smoke shops, gas stations, and online. The top 4 reasons patients reported for not vaping was they smoke cigarettes instead, some thought it was unhealthy. Other patients said they were not interested, and others said they didn't smoke at all. Board members suggested they keep a close eye on this new state law requiring people to work, it could become a "Big Mess".

Directors Report

The board has received a \$400,000.00 grant from the State of Michigan. The Year End Report demonstrates the need for additional funds to include vaping programs. According to the report, alcohol is the number one drug of choice, and heroin is second. "For the last three years Heroin was number one and now it's alcohol," Owen's claimed. Owens accredited this improvement to those who work directly with patients in treatment and recovery programs, as well as several others who work in the field. Also included in the report; the board is currently working with the Department of Corrections to see how many clients receiving treatment. The Board is also planning to roll out a program to address Marajuana use along with vaping. Also included in the Directors report are plans to distribute Narcan Kits to hotels and restaurants because clients often go into restrooms and use.

Matthew Yascoots, the State Opioid Response Coordinator, also reported that there was a \$800,000.00 in new grant money and there is 2.1 million dollars for the fiscal year 20. Currently 2233 Naloxone (Narcan Kits) have been distributed in Detroit and Wayne County. The mobile triage unit goes out into the community to give treatment services and counseling sessions. So far they have seen 1685 people.

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