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Iowa Opioid State Targeted Response (STR) Project Summary

The Iowa Opioid State Targeted Response project will expand capacity of the existing regional prevention and treatment provider network with a focus on accessible opioid treatment.

Treatment providers across the state will convene local efforts to develop a thorough community assessment and strategic action plan involving multi-sector stakeholders. The assessment and planning processes will provide the foundation for implementation of evidence-based practices, including medication assisted treatment (MAT) of opioid use disorders (OUD).

The focus of this project is to build community capacity for a successful community response to the opioid crisis through the following goals:

- Build an enhanced, statewide infrastructure to address opioid misuse in Iowa
- Increase awareness of opioid risks through statewide prevention efforts
- Increase the use of medication assisted treatment and other evidence-based practices in Iowa

The Iowa Opioid STR project will leverage the service improvements gained through other opioid grants, making these evidence-based practices more accessible to the community of focus (18-44yr olds) and other Iowans affected by opioid use disorder across the state.

To achieve the first goal of enhancing infrastructure to address opioids in Iowa, IDPH will provide training and professional development opportunities for professionals in healthcare and behavioral healthcare across the state. IDPH will also develop a statewide strategic plan with the following priorities: overdose prevention, increase MAT capacity, community education, funding for MAT.

The second goal of statewide prevention efforts will include localized information dissemination of national best practices. An additional objective includes statewide environmental efforts through a media campaign to raise awareness of the risks of opioids. Lastly, prevention efforts will include the enhancement of Iowa's prescription monitoring program (PMP).

The third goal of increasing MAT services includes the following objectives: assessment of community needs and readiness, as well as strategic plans by each treatment provider. Implementation of plans will prioritize the awareness of naloxone and increase MAT services. Expanded opioid treatment capacity will benefit Iowans across the state through regional, community-based, or telehealth partnerships with medical service providers.

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