



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Grand Forks Public Health

Grand Forks Opioid Response Grant Progress Report October – December, 2017

Prevention

- Developed a standing order and standing order template for naloxone distribution in the community. Dr. Joel Walz, Grand Forks Health Officer, signed the standing order for the Health Department.
- Purchased initial batch of Narcan Nasal Spray two dose kits for distribution to key locations and individuals at risk for opioid overdose.
 - 35 Narcan Kits committed to community locations for January 2018 distribution:
 - Grand Forks Public Schools – 18 kits for Middle Schools and High Schools
 - UND University Police Department – 15 kits equipping all patrol officers
 - Grand Forks Public Library – 1 kit
 - Grand Forks Withdrawal Management Center – 1 kit
- Developed solutions for Narcan storage:
 - Co-location of Narcan with AEDs with state standardized signage
 - Alarmed Narcan cabinets from a vendor in Canada
 - Temperature monitored solution for police officer carry
- Collaborated with student led efforts to increase access to naloxone on the UND campus.
- Developed a curriculum consisting of a 30 minute online and 30 minute in-person modules to train laypeople on how to recognize overdose and treat it using naloxone.
- Participated in efforts to engage Grand Forks pharmacists through a local pharmacist workgroup.
 - A majority of Grand Forks pharmacies now have pharmacists that can prescribe naloxone.
 - Inspire Pharmacy has a grant to offer Narcan kits for \$25 to the public.
 - Eight Grand Forks pharmacies offer medication take back locations.
 - Altru is conducting medication takeback events three times per year.
- Met with physician and nursing leadership at Altru Health System to discuss our prevention efforts.
- Disseminated information on harm reduction to community behavioral health partners.
- Hired a graduate research assistant from UND to conduct a needs assessment of individuals that use drugs intravenously using funds from an additional \$10,000 grant.
- Future plans
 - Working to develop programs to get naloxone to individuals at risk for opioid overdose at community resource touchpoints
 - Working to identify and contact other public organizations to train and distribute Narcan.

Treatment

- Subcontracted with Valley Community Health Centers (VCHC) to create an integrated Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program which includes counseling and social support.
 - Two providers are currently in the process of obtaining DEA waivers to be able to prescribe buprenorphine (Suboxone, Zubsolv) for opioid use disorder.
 - VCHC has worked Community Medical Services (CMS) from Fargo and Minot to assist with policy development and provider training.
- Implemented a program to provide travel support to individuals driving from the Grand Forks area to Fargo for daily medication dosing as a part of their opioid use disorder treatment plan.
- Met with stakeholders to provide information about harm reduction and MAT and to begin efforts to reduce stigma:
 - Altru Nursing and Physician Leadership
 - Grand Forks Health Officer
 - Grand Forks Mayor's Office and Call to Action Steering Committee
 - Behavioral health community partners
 - Grand Forks County Correctional Center
 - Served as a panelist for an event focused on addiction at Christus Rex on the UND campus
- Collaborating with BCBS:ND Caring Foundation to sponsor a community documentary screening and panel discussion scheduled for January 9.
 - The Opioid Epidemic: Seeking Solutions for North Dakota
 - Panel will represent peer support, evidence-based treatment, and recovery.
- Future Plans
 - Develop a warm hand-off program for individuals presenting to the emergency department with opioid withdrawal or overdose to be referred for treatment.
 - Community Medical Services (CMS) is developing a 24/7 hotline to provide same or next day appointments and healthcare provider guidance for individuals to initiate treatment for opioid use disorder the moment they are ready for treatment.
 - CMS would collaborate with VCHC to get the client to the most appropriate program as quick as possible.
 - Explore the need for an outpatient methadone medication dosing unit to provide additional treatment options for opioid use disorder locally and reduce travel burden.
 - Begin discussions with key stakeholders regarding the development of a peer support framework such as a Face It TOGETHER affiliate in Grand Forks.
 - Increase knowledge and acceptance of MAT among counseling and health care providers in the Grand Forks area.
 - Collaborate with stakeholders to produce a campaign to reduce stigma for MAT and create MAT friendly peer support groups.

