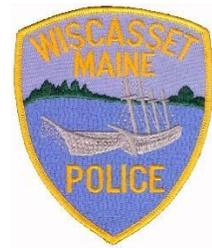
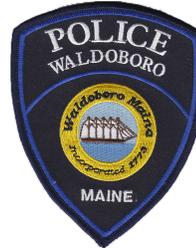


Lincoln County Recovery Collaborative

A Joint Strategy by local Lincoln County Law Enforcement Agencies and their Community Partners



**MID COAST
HOSPITAL**



LincolnHealth
MaineHealth

Seeking help is a personal decision.
Effective Prevention, Treatment and Recovery take ongoing community commitment.

Resolve :

Now comes, the Boothbay Harbor Police Dept., (BBHPD), the Damariscotta Police Dept. (DPD), the Waldoboro Police Dept. (WPD), the Wiscasset Police Dept. (WiPD), and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) hereinafter referred to as "Lincoln County Law Enforcement (LCLE)" who are desirous to form a coalition to combat the harmful use and effects of the use of heroin, fentanyl, opioids, and other illicit substances; and

Whereas, the citizens of Lincoln County share the concerns of LCLE with regard to the threat that harmful use and effects of the use of heroin, fentanyl, opioids, and other illicit substances pose to our County, have formed a group to discuss and address the concern, and are also desirous to form a coalition with LCLE and other community stakeholders; and

Whereas, LincolnHealth (LH), the Mid Coast Hospital's Addiction Resource Center (ARC), and other community resource providers share the same concerns and are desirous to partner with a coalition of citizens of Lincoln County and LCLE to collaboratively address the harmful use of and the effects of the use of heroin, opioids, and other illicit substances in Lincoln County,

Now therefore, the LCLE, LH and Mid Coast Hospital's ARC agree to address collaboratively the harmful use of heroin, fentanyl, opioids, and other illicit substances as follows:

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The recent heroin and opiate epidemic has spared **no** community or law enforcement agency. Deaths in Maine from both prescription painkillers and heroin *quadrupled* between 1999 and 2013.¹ In Maine the rates of heroin trafficking/sales (DEA) arrests are highest in the MidCoast region.² The rate of drug affected babies born to women in Maine has increased 480% from 2005 to 2014.³ Statistics like these make it abundantly clear that the impact on people's lives is far larger than deaths and crimes.

As communities strive to reduce the impact, supply and availability of illicit opiate drugs, local partnerships have been forged between law enforcement, social service agencies and health care providers seeking to collaborate on creative initiatives. We know that we cannot arrest our way out of this problem and that there must be a multi-pronged approach of enforcement, treatment and public education.

Maine and the nation are currently dealing with "over prescribing" of opiates that exploded in the 2000's which has consequences that are only now being realized. In 2014, there was an average of 69.2 prescribed narcotic pills per capita in Lincoln County.⁴ With prescription costs rising and access reduced through programs such as the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP); users are switching to the cheaper more available heroin on the streets. Even more recently fentanyl mixed synthetic heroin, which is 10 times stronger, has driven up the overdose death rate.

Research demonstrates that integrating buprenorphine medication prescriptions with addiction treatment, known as Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) results in the best retention in treatment and recovery over time. After 1 year 75% remain in treatment, as compared to 20% mortality rate within 60 days for non-MAT.⁵ Stigma, lack of availability of trained healthcare providers, geography and variation in care currently create barriers to MAT access in Maine.

Police in Lincoln County have had wide success identifying, investigating, and successfully prosecuting persons responsible for distributing heroin or other illicit drugs. Police officials often have lists of persons known to have purchased illegal drugs from past and ongoing investigations. Here in Lincoln County some law enforcement officials have even performed active outreach to known drug users for their own safety. This is done to prevent them from simply moving onto being a supplier themselves, engaging in criminal behaviors, fatal overdose, or harm to others. This practice by law enforcement is being expanded and

¹ Maine DHHS: SEOW Special Report: Heroin, Opioids and Other Drugs in Maine. Diomedea, MPPM. Oct. 2015

² Maine DHHS: SEOW Special Report: Heroin, Opioids and Other Drugs in Maine. Diomedea, MPPM. Oct. 2015

³ Maine DHHS: SEOW Special Report: Heroin, Opioids and Other Drugs in Maine. Diomedea, MPPM. Oct. 2015

⁴ Maine DHHS: SEOW Special Report: Heroin, Opioids and Other Drugs in Maine. Diomedea, MPPM. Oct. 2015

⁵ (2003) Lancet 361, 662. Kakko J, Svanborg KD, Kreek MJ, et al

formalized through a coordinated effort now known as the Lincoln County Recovery Collaborative (LCRC).

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Reduce the number of opiate overdoses in the county;
2. Expand access to addiction treatment options and resources; inpatient, outpatient, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT);
3. Raise awareness throughout the community about the seriousness of the addiction issue to empower and motivate community members to be engaged in local solutions/strategies;
4. Reduce the stigma associated with addiction and correctly identify it as a brain disease;
5. Encourage responsible prescribing practices across disciplines; medical, dental and veterinary;
6. Expand the utilization of community prescription drug take back days and drop locations;
7. Create a collaborative culture between healthcare providers and addiction specialists to use informed best practice models to treat individuals at various stages of drug addiction, withdrawal and recovery;
8. Expand access to Naloxone and training for the administration of Naloxone to preserve life.

ROLE OF PARTNERS IN THE COLLABORATIVE

1. Response from Law Enforcement

Proactive Outreach to People with Substance Use Disorders

Due to their distinctive mission and front-line public safety duties and responsibilities, local law enforcement agencies learn the identities of known and suspected heroin users in each of the towns they serve and adjacent communities. Police have unique, direct and "around-the-clock" access to such information without legal privacy limitations, enabling officers to provide targeted outreach and facilitate intervention.

The identities of people with substance use disorders come from three (3) primary sources:

1. Response to 9-1-1 calls about overdoses;
2. Information gathering during criminal investigations into suspected drug distribution; and,
3. Community policing officers engaging users within their respective areas of responsibility.

First Responder Overdose Case Referral

Following any response to a suspected heroin/drug overdose (fatal/non-fatal), investigating officers are required to file a report summarizing the investigation and identifying all persons involved. Officers and sheriff deputies on scene act as liaisons connecting an overdose survivor and his/her family member(s) with an “Angel” (see below) volunteer and appropriate local services.

Criminal Investigative Information Referral

Following the arrest of a dealer the case investigator(s) share the identities of the dealer's customers with each law enforcement agency (LEA) having jurisdiction. The local LEA then reaches out to identified heroin/opioid and other drug users to encourage them to seek treatment. If a user refuses to cooperate with the LCRC, the LEA is encouraged to consider whether or not prosecution is appropriate for their role in a given drug distribution operation or for unlawfully possessing drugs. Our hope is that users will feel safe and empowered to avail themselves of the resources offered in order to avoid criminal prosecution. Note: this component of the program will continue to be used at the discretion of and only upon the approval and participation of the Chief of Police/County Sheriff.

Field Police Officer Referral

The Lincoln County LEAs operate under the philosophy of community policing. Through this approach, officers and deputies become familiar with persons who reside in and/or frequent their respective patrol areas. While on patrol, they often come into contact with known drug users who are under the influence of opiates/heroin. Officers and deputies can now refer such persons to whom they have provided outreach to the LCRC who will offer services to these individuals and their families and track their needs/outcomes.

This initiative brings together law enforcement with social workers, health care professionals and other clinicians, including (but not limited to) mental health and addiction disorder professionals, to proactively engage in outreach activities to provide support/resources to known drug users, their families and other loved ones.

2. Response from Healthcare and Clinical Providers

Mid Coast Hospital's Addiction Resource Center

Introduction

Mid Coast Hospital's ARC offers a full range of addiction and mental health treatment services between our Brunswick and Damariscotta locations. Since 2008, ARC Damariscotta has continually expanded to match the community need for the treatment of opioid dependence. Treating nearly 300 people in 2015, the program began with one counselor and now employs 3 physicians, nurses, therapists, addiction counselors, and recovery coaches embedded in the community through the LC Sheriff's Office and Two Bridges Regional Jail. ARC, is offering integrated MAT in all its programs and admits clients within 1 to 5 days of initial call. Broader access to MAT from 1 of 6 other private sources in Lincoln and Knox Counties can take an average of 21-60 days.

Commitment

In this collaborative effort ARC will maintain its low wait time for treatment while continually improving upon it through leading improved patient linkages with other providers in the region. Access to addiction treatment, reduced waiting, improved access and better coordination of care across the system will result in reduced mortality, NAS incidence and overall improved population health.

LincolnHealth

Introduction

LincolnHealth is a not-for-profit health system providing a wide spectrum of services in Lincoln County. The Mission of LincolnHealth is to: Ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, and affordable care. The Vision is: *Working together so our communities are the healthiest in America, LincolnHealth will ensure a trusted environment of health and wellness where the community first seeks care and services, and where employees want to work and providers want to practice.*

Commitment

In this collaborative effort, LincolnHealth will participate in discussion, community outreach, and education. Elevating the issue of the use and effects of heroin, opioids and other illicit substances to be a central issue of the LincolnHealth Strategic Plan starting 2016 that will be under the direction of our Medical Staff. This work will include compliance with the State of Maine Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) and

promoting responsible prescribing practices. Additionally we will work to connect individuals seeking help through the collaborative with the CarePartners Program and local Integrated Behavioral Health Clinicians in physician offices across the county to support our overall community goal; that every person in Lincoln County has a primary care physician.

3. COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Law enforcement, health and clinical provider partners to this agreement understand that ultimately success also relies upon local commitment and participation by the people of communities they serve. While impractical for community members to be parties to this agreement, health care and the treatment of addiction are also strongly influenced by culture, and associated values, not just medical science or best practice in law enforcement. Therefore, the role of community in the collaborative is critical.

Local individuals, including clinical professionals such as social workers and substance abuse counselors, local clergy and community civic organizations, and people personally impacted by this issue, have come forward to express interest in being involved in the Recovery Collaborative, and we anticipate a robust and coordinated community response as part of this collaboration. Moving forward, we look forward to recognizing many such Recovery Collaborative Community Partners and celebrating their collective work to support long term addiction prevention and recovery.

Lincoln County “Angel” Volunteers

Lincoln County’s “Angel” Volunteer Program is created with the knowledge that individuals in the community are concerned about the broad impact and ripple effect that addiction has and are willing to be part of a solution to support the recovery of others. It is intended to provide support and expand, not supplant, existing services and initiatives that help residents navigate and access local social services including mental health and addiction as well as housing, employment and other key resources. The recovery experience is unique for everyone. Angels can help to guide individuals to explore available resources that best match their own needs.

This program is coordinated by licensed substance use disorder clinicians from Mid Coast Hospital’s Addiction Resource Center (ARC), the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office and local Police Departments. They will train community volunteers to assist local LEAs when individuals come to departments seeking help with addiction. “Angels” may serve as mentors to program participants and liaison between LEAs and various resource providers. They can serve as a key

part of the initial recovery process and aid individuals with addiction and their families to navigate a wide variety of resources including, but not limited to, the following:

- Assisting with the intake process as a companion for participants.
- Assisting LEAs by making initial contact with ARC for screening/placement.
- Providing comfort and address other personal needs during intake at the local LEA.
- Will assist ARC or LEAs in connecting participants to local resources as needed.
- Provide information for family support resources.
- May assist LEAs with follow-up visits to participants.

Raising Community Awareness and Taking Positive Steps

Seeking help with an addiction is the first step in a long journey to ongoing recovery. A supportive and non-judgmental environment in the community substantially increases the likelihood of successful recovery. We seek to have a community culture that is conducive to behavioral and healthy lifestyle changes which support individuals in the recovery process, their families, and a healthy community as a whole.

As LCRC Community Partners meet they may look for ways to start or provide support for tangible projects in the community to achieve collaborative goals that help people have a meaningful life without addictive substances (both prevention and recovery). These efforts which put a public and human face on addiction as a community problem will be selected and managed by community members. Community Partners may seek grants, raise funds or contribute in many other ways. Projects may include; public art, sharing people's stories, creating social opportunities without substances, poster campaigns, speaking at community organizations and the creation of sober housing.

Through public conversation we can increase understanding about addiction as a chronic health problem requiring long term treatment and reduce the stigma of admitting addiction or seeking help.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES STATEMENT

The Lincoln County Recovery Collaborative understands the value of measuring the success of any program. We will make the commitment to track relevant measures, and report back to the community on successes and challenges learned as the collaborative develops.

Resolved and Initiated; July 15, 2016 by:

Sheriff Todd B. Brackett
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Chief Robert Hasch
Boothbay Harbor Police Dept.

Chief Ronald S. Young
Damariscotta Police Dept.

Chief William Labombarde
Waldoboro Police Dept.

Chief Jeffrey E. Lange
Wiscasset Police Dept.

Lois Skillings
President and CEO of Mid Coast–Parkview Health

Eric Haram
Executive Director, Mid Coast Hospital's Addiction Resource Center

Cindy Wade
Executive VP & Chief Operations Officer, LincolnHealth