

Fact Sheet: Prescription Drug/Opioid Misuse and Abuse Prevention

Updated: September 23, 2016

<p>Overview</p>	<p>To address the prescription medication abuse and the opioid crisis in Washington the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) along with partnering agencies support prescription drug misuse and abuse prevention strategies that align with the Washington State Opioid Response Plan.</p> <p>Prescription drug/opioid, misuse and abuse is a critical health issue; particularly the dangers associated with abusing prescription pain medications (opioids) and illicit opiate drugs. Young adults ages 18-25 are the largest group misusing opioid pain relievers and other medications. Opioid misuse and abuse can lead to dependency, addiction and an increased risk of death from overdose. Most young people who misuse and abuse prescription drugs are taking medications prescribed to others, often friends and family members. It is estimated that up to sixty percent of prescribed medications are unused by patients and much of this unused medication remains in private homes. Often these unused medications are not stored securely in homes providing easy access to young people and others seeking medications to abuse. Prescription drug abuse including opioids is linked to abuse of and addiction to other non-scheduled opiates such as heroin.</p> <p>Since 2014 DBHR has supported over ten Targeted Enhancement Project (TEP) Grants to qualifying Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI) coalitions enabling grantees to purchase, install and maintain permanent secure medication drop boxes. The intent is to reduce availability of prescriptions medications in communities.</p> <p>DBHR staff are key members and leads of the Prescription Drug & Opiate Misuse and Abuse Prevention Workgroup implementing the following goals and strategies of the Washington State Opioid Response Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with community coalitions to implement strategies to prevent youth prescription drug misuse.• Identify prevention funds from which mini-grants can be awarded to organizations and coalitions to implement key actions of the Washington State Opioid Response Plan.• Educate patients and the public on the importance and ways to properly store and dispose of prescription pain medication.• Promote the use of home lock boxes to prevent unintended access to medication• Through the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative DBHR provides prescription drug education and promotes State and National initiatives including
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	<p>the Bi- annual Drug Enforcement Agency National Prescription Medication Take Back Days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide education and resource materials on the DBHR substance use prevention and mental health promotion website, www.TheAthenaForum.org. • DBHR supports and promotes the Washington State Department of Health administered Prescription Drug Monitoring Program intended modify healthcare providers prescribing practices and prevent prescription drug abuse and overdose deaths.
Eligibility Requirements	Targeted Enhancement Project (TEP) mini-grants: Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative coalitions with demonstrated need and local key leader's readiness and support to implement project.
Authority	DBHR is authorized as the Single State Agency to receive and administer the SAMHSA Partnerships for Success Grant that supports the community prescription take-back projects.
Budget	Partnership for Success Targeted Enhancement funds for mini-grants: approximately \$15,000 annually. All other prevention education and awareness efforts are unfunded and implemented with existing staff and resources.
Costs and Numbers Served	Since 2014, the Partnership for Success Targeted Enhancement grant funds have supported the installation of 8 community wide permanent secure medicine drop boxes. In addition, since 2014 over 1000 pounds of medications have been collected in the 8 community wide secure medicine drop boxes.
Partners	This work continues through ongoing partnerships with the Washington State Department of Health, Labor and Industries, Health Care Authority, University of Washington, Washington State University, Washington Sate Poison Center, several other state agencies and local providers supporting the goals of the Washington State Opioid Response Plan.
Oversight	<p>Internal Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery</p> <p>External Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/ Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.</p>
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