

# Integrated Behavioral Health Action Coalition (IBHAC)



## Meeting Summary

March 22, 2019



SafeRx Santa Cruz County

### Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to bring together the IBHAC and SafeRx Santa Cruz County coalition members to give an update on SafeRx's current work and statistics outlining our local opioid epidemic.

### SafeRx Santa Cruz County Update

- Rita Hewitt, SafeRx Program Coordinator, gave an update on SafeRx Santa Cruz County's Steering Committee, Prescriber Practice, Community Education, and Metrics initiatives and the current work done by the coalition.
  - Opioids and Youth: Parent Education Night Classes will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Harbor High school and Branciforte Middle School, respectively.
  - SafeRx is supporting the work of the Harm Reduction Coalition such as International Overdose Awareness Day where naloxone and fentanyl test strips were distributed to the public.
  - A county-wide Medicine and Sharps – Storage and Disposal Survey was conducted by SafeRx and CPP to collect data on how residents are securing, monitoring, and disposing of prescription medications and sharps. The survey also included resources such as a disposal location sheet listing all 52 disposal sites available throughout the county. The survey indicated that 91% of respondents do not lock up their medications, and 50% dispose of their medications at the pharmacy, while 25% dispose of medication in the garbage.
  - SafeRx's newly released pain management guidelines are available online at [www.hipscc.org/PMG](http://www.hipscc.org/PMG)
  - SafeRx and Prescribe Safe Monterey have teamed up to convene the Medication Assisted Treatment Advisory Group to provide support and resources to other x-license providers and their teams.
  - SafeRx has reconvened its Metrics Initiative and will produce a yearly infographic, maintain their report card data, and will release a community dashboard by 2020.

### Decade of Drug Overdose Deaths Review

- Stephany Fiore, Forensic Pathologist for Santa Cruz County Coroner's Sheriff Office, provided a decade (from 2008-2018) review of data on drug overdoses in Santa Cruz County.
  - By a three year average from 2014-2016, the drug-induced death rate per 100,000 in Santa Cruz County ranked 41/58 in the state.
  - 7 of the 466 accidental drug overdoses in Santa Cruz County from 2008- 2018 were pediatric overdoses. Of these seven deaths, three were 18-year-old males, and four were 19-year-old males.
  - Acute drug-related determined deaths increased to 45 deaths in 2018 from 41 in 2017. Of the acute drug-related deaths related to opioids, 13 included heroin, 5 included methadone, 8 included prescription opioids, and one included a designer or novel opioid. Of the acute drug-related deaths related to prescription opioids, three included hydrocodone, two included oxycodone, one included fentanyl, and two included buprenorphine. Methamphetamine was

found to be involved in seventeen of the acute drug-related deaths, by far the most commonly found stimulant compared to cocaine and MDMA/MDA. Methamphetamine was also more prevalent in 2018 acute drug-related deaths than heroin (13).

- The majority of opioid decedent locations in Santa Cruz and Watsonville were located in the heart of downtown for both cities.
- Dr. Fiore finished her presentation by sharing that the decrease in prescription opioid overdose deaths have decreased due to the diligent works of leaders in the county working to decrease opioid prescriptions.

#### 2018 Non-Fatal Overdoses in EMS Data Review

- Mikala Caton, Epidemiologist for Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, gave a summary on EMS response data relating to naloxone administration and drug overdoses.
  - The 2018 annual rate of naloxone administrations were 43 per 1,000 EMS Patient Encounters or about 16.5 naloxone administrations per month. The top three zip codes for naloxone administration were 95060, 95062, and 95076. 69% of the naloxone administered were to men and 63% of the naloxone administered were to white or Caucasian patients.
  - The 2018 annual rate of all non-fatal drug overdoses were 56 per 1,000 EMS patient encounters or about 21.5 all drug non-fatal overdoses per month. Cocaine and opioid non-fatal overdoses were predominantly female patients, while heroin, marijuana, and multiple drug non-fatal overdoses were predominantly male patients. Heroin non-fatal overdoses were predominantly between the ages of 30-39 and Opioid non-fatal overdoses were predominantly between the ages of 50-59.
  - The 2018 annual rate of non-fatal heroin and opioid overdoses were 42 per 1,000 EMS patient encounters or about 17.5 all drug non-fatal overdoses per month.
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#### Year one of DMC-ODS Launch Review

- Shaina Zurlin, Chief of Substance Use Disorder Services for Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, outlined year one of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System in Santa Cruz County.
  - The program is a statewide waiver in partnership with federal government to expand Substance Use Disorder Services that is driven by American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria to provider services to all County residents with active Medi-Cal.
  - The Six ASAM Dimensions (Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential; Biomedical Conditions/Complications; Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications; Readiness to Change; Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problem Potential; Recovery/Living Environment) support a continuum of care services to meet the patients “where they’re at.”
    - Currently, Santa Cruz County has a gap in our withdrawal management care service and are looking at innovative ways to improve this sector in the upcoming year.
  - The number of phone calls to SUD providers quadrupled/tripled when the program first started in 2018 and now has leveled off and maintain at double the number of phones calss that were received before the start of the program.
  - A data sample of 2,268 health records shows 97% to 98% of beneficiaries received the level of care indicated by the ASAM assessment.

#### Next Steps

The next IBHAC meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2019.

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#### **Learn More**

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