



SOR 2.0 2021 Newsletter

In September 2020, DSAMH was awarded a second State Opioid Response (SOR) grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). DSAMH is calling this [SOR 2.0](#) and aims to achieve three overarching goals:

1. Decrease opioid overdoses statewide through low-threshold access to treatment
2. Improve understanding of and engagement and retention in treatment
3. Identify and engage high-risk populations in treatment through universal screening and direct, efficient referral

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DSAMH Has a New Director

On August 2nd, Joanna Champney joined the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) as the Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH). Ms. Champney formerly served as Chief of Planning, Research & Reentry at the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC). During her tenure at DOC, Champney established and led the new Office of Reentry following Governor Carney's issuance of Executive Order 27 to improve prisoner reentry. As part of the Governor's Executive Order, she served as a Commission member of the Delaware Correctional Reentry Commission (DCRC) and is currently Chairing the Commission's Transition Team. Most recently, Champney oversaw implementation of several large federal grants that supported system improvement, program evaluation, and cognitive behavioral therapy and vocational training for incarcerated people. In partnership with the Bureau of Prisons, Champney also implemented compliance tracking processes for provision of clinical care to incarcerated people who have mental illness. She also was instrumental in the recent redesign of the DOC's prison-based substance use disorder treatment program, Road to Recovery (R2R), which has now implemented modern, evidence-based set of curricula and has adopted a treatment track system to differentiate between levels of care. Prior to joining state government, Joanna served as the Executive Director of the Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ), which serves a variety of justice-involved populations through direct services, advocacy and policy reform work.

Statewide OUD/StUD and Overdose Prevention Efforts

SOR GRANT ADVISORY COUNCIL. DSAMH has established a State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant Advisory Council to provide feedback and guidance on program development and implementation. To ensure that diverse and valued perspectives are included in guiding the SOR initiative, the Advisory Council is comprised of a cross section of key stakeholders including, health systems, healthcare providers, peers, family members, employers, and contractors. Many of the Advisory Council members served as Tier Award Program application reviewers and the meeting included TAP Program updates. The SOR Advisory Council held their second meeting on August 23rd. Alexia Wolf, Chief of Social Determinants and Support Services, presented on the Peer Recovery Specialists role at the state. Committee members also provided feedback and insight to help guide the SOR educational campaign initiative.



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PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS DEPARTMENTS. To support a coordinated, statewide effort to address opioid use disorder (OUD)/stimulant use disorder (StUD) and overdose prevention, DSAMH has partnered with several other state agencies to advance the activities highlighted below:



- **Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families (DSCYF):** Implementation of evidence-based training and programs for parents, middle and high school sports and extracurricular teams, and out-of-school time programs.
- **Department of Education (DOE):** Development of a digital drug and alcohol digital toolkit that will be available to school districts statewide. The toolkit will include a parent and educator guide, tips for talking with teens, and topic-specific sections on alcohol, opioids, marijuana, prescription drugs, stimulants, and methamphetamine. Links to other external, evidence-based resources will also be included. The toolkit is anticipated to launch in Fall 2021 and will be available on both the DSAMH and DOE Health Education webpages.
- **Department of Labor (DOL):** Support the expansion of services to employers to develop career pathways that link qualified individuals in recovery to jobs. In addition, support staff training for how to effectively and appropriately support clients who may be struggling with addiction or in recovery .
- **Department of Correction (DOC):** Increase recovery resources support for justice-involved individuals with an OUD/SUD or co-occurring diagnosis disorder.

Tier Award Payment Program Updates

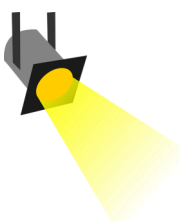
The Tier Award Program (TAP) is in full swing! To date, 22 grants have been executed and 12 grants are being processed to provide Tier 1 which are focused on screening for substance abuse and tobacco use. There are currently 14 grants being executed and 8 applications being processed for Tier 2 and 3 that are in the final review stages. These proposals focus on increasing access to treatment through evidence-based engagement strategies for individuals with opioid use disorder or substance use disorders.

OPIOID RESPONSE PROVIDER NETWORK LEARNING COLLABORATIVE. On September 27th, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM, DSAMH hosted a Learning Collaborative meeting for the Opioid Response Provider Network. The Learning Collaborative provided an overview of the SOR 2.0 and TAP goals, addressed specific grant requirements, and data reporting. Providers were given the opportunity to participate in one of six breakout sessions. These breakout sessions covered a variety of topics, including peer use and integration, screening, evidence-based approaches to positive substance use disorder screenings, integrating screening tools into health information technology, best practices for warm hand-offs, and an overview of special populations in Delaware.

Opioid Response Provider
Network Learning
Collaborative
Held September 27, 3-5PM

Project Spotlight: Community Wellbeing

Initiative



The Community Well Being Initiative is a framework adopted by DSAMH to reach Delawareans who are struggling with social, economic, emotional and substance use problems, but who do not seek help through formal services. To implement this initiative DSAMH has partnered with Network Connect, Center for Structural Equity, Minds In Motion, and the Wilmington Community Advisory Council. Currently, 22 community members have been hired and trained as Community Wellbeing Ambassadors and Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) form the foundation of this program. SPR is an evidence-based intervention designed to provide support in the weeks and months following disasters such as the Covid- 19 pandemic and the opioid epidemic.

As trusted individuals in the community, Community Wellbeing Ambassadors help community members gain skills to manage distress and cope with stress and adversity. Stigma or negative viewpoints on having a behavioral health disorder and seeking mental health services are very common in our communities and can be a barrier when it comes to asking for help. For instance, according to the American Psychiatric Association's [Mental Health Facts for African Americans](#) guide, only **one in three** Black adults who need mental health care receive it. The Community Wellbeing Initiative reduces these barriers by placing Community Wellbeing Ambassadors in the community to identify individuals who need help. When a youth, families, or community ...



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...members are identified, the Community Wellbeing Ambassador works with them to recognize their top needs and priorities. They engage in problem solving and help individuals and families develop a plan to address their needs. The Community Wellbeing Ambassador also provides information and connects to a service or resource. Sometimes seeking out a mental health or emergency service is half that battle, so having someone to help navigate these services is key!

Upcoming Education and Training Opportunities

Below are trainings highlighted in SAMHSA's Opioid Response Network (ORN) Impact Bulletin. Please note that some of the events listed below may have already occurred. The full bulletin can be found [here](#).

Providing Affirming Care for LGBTQ+ People in Substance Use Treatment Settings - New, One of a Kind Training: The Columbia University Department of Psychiatry Division on Substance Use Disorders has created a one of a kind, web-based training funded by ORN that will help substance use disorder treatment providers deliver more affirming care to their LGBTQ+ clients. It will help participants identify key components of care for LGBTQ+ people, and how to make the treatment environment and staff interactions more welcoming for LGBTQ+ clients. This course launches in September 2021 and Continuing Education is provided by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. Email orn@aaap.org to receive an individual update when the course is live. Please share with your colleagues.

Hot Topics in Addiction Medicine Webinar Series Launches: This series from the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine takes a look at practices in addiction medicine highlighted by events in 2020. At the end of this ORN-funded series, participants should be able to discuss regulations regarding methadone maintenance and temporary changes enacted since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic; research findings regarding the use of benzodiazepines in people with opioid use disorder on agonist treatment; and racial and ethnic disparities in the treatment of pregnant women with opioid use disorder. [Read more and register here](#).

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Monthly Behavioral Health ECHO Program Continues: The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is continuing its ORN-funded monthly Behavioral Health ECHO Program designed to support providers in integrating behavioral health best practices into their care. Behavioral health clinicians, chemical dependency counselors, social workers, peer mentors, harm reduction specialists, community health representatives, psychologists, health educators, prevention specialists, and others are welcome. [Sign up here](#) to be notified for future sessions. All sessions are provided at no cost and Continuing Education is provided by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. Past presentations and more information available [here](#).

Upcoming Recovery Leadership Forums from Faces & Voices of Recovery: Faces & Voices of Recovery Leadership Forums are multi-day trainings that examine how and why shifts happen in the addiction recovery movement, factors that drive success, and strategies that advocacy groups and leadership can employ to effect change. Upcoming ORN-funded forums will explore leadership styles, supervision, servant leadership, keys to sustaining momentum and more. It is an opportunity for leadership development for broad array of professions. Read more and register for the [Aug. 24 - Aug. 26 training here](#) and the [Sept. 7 - Sept. 9 training here](#).

Health Privacy Laws and Protected Health Information Trainings for States: Fear, shame and stigma are some of the biggest obstacles to clients initiating and maintaining treatment for substance use disorders. Privacy protections help overcome these obstacles to care. Federal health privacy laws (including 42 CFR Part 2, HIPAA, and FERPA) are meant to set a minimum standard to protect the confidentiality of client treatment information. An upcoming ORN-funded project from CAI, an ORN partner organization, aims to bring training regarding Protected Health Information to a select number of states nationwide seeking to address common questions around the health privacy laws and their application in practice. [Read more and share](#).

Process for Developing Mobile Van Treatment Services - New Webinar: ORN partner organization the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence has recorded a webinar on the process of developing mobile van services for opioid treatment programs. It 1) features speakers who have operated mobile van services; 2) provides details on federal and state funding support; 3) discusses the cost of purchasing vans from leading manufacturers; 4) provides updates on reimbursement mechanisms to support the use of such vans for patients who have Medicaid/Medicare eligibility; and 5) begins the development of best practice guidelines in using such vans to extend the reach of OTPs. [Access here](#).



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Upcoming Education and Training Opportunities

Bridging HIV, HCV & SUD: Innovations in the Field Webinar Series: Join the ORN partner organization the National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development for a free, monthly 'Brunch & Learn' webinar. Each session in the series highlights an innovative model and approach to treating substance use disorders in people at risk for and living with HIV. The next in the series is coming up on September 10 and will focus on evolving models of integrated care for patients with substance use disorders with a focus on experiences at a tertiary medical center and emphasis on helping patients navigate transitions of care. [Read more.](#)

On Deck! Things Coming Up in the Near Future

Be on the lookout for education campaign application process, upcoming training opportunities including webinars and conferences and the launch of the Addiction Treatment Resource Center (ATRC) website.