



## Cuyahoga County Opioid Crisis Mitigation Plan: Phase One

The Opioid Crisis continues to plague Cuyahoga County. We continue to lose many hundreds of lives each year. Thousands more struggle with the daily challenge of addiction.

Cuyahoga County systems are severely impacted—our Children and Family Services, our Healthcare system, Legal system, Justice system, Job and Family Services, our Medical Examiner and others have been strained by the impact.

As Cuyahoga County receives Opioid settlement monies from various pharmaceutical companies, we pledge to distribute the money in a considerate, practical way—an approach that relies on enhancing existing programs we know work and introduces new programs to our County that have proven to be effective elsewhere.

This Opioid Crisis Mitigation Plan (OCM) will develop further as more monies are released. The following is Phase One.

It is our overall goal to:

- Treat addiction as the disease that it is, not stigmatize addicts or their families.
- Reduce the high level of imprisonment for drug related offenses through diversion, treatment, residential and training programs
- Address drug use early on with school children

The OCM Plan is comprised of four areas of focus: Prevention, Treatment, Diversion and Education.

Other areas of concentration in this phase include our Legal system as well as Social and System Supports. Later phases will fund the development of a new Diversion Center, increase recovery/sober housing supports and provide support for programs addressing individuals impacted by opioid addiction who are in reentry programs, are homeless, or need workforce training and support.

## **Prevention/Treatment/Diversion**

ADAMHS Board Funding Increase: The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County is responsible for the planning, funding and monitoring of public mental health and addiction treatment and recovery services delivered to the residents of Cuyahoga County.

Three areas of funding:

### **1. Residential Treatment:**

Expansion of 32 Residential Treatment Beds & Expansion of Partial Hospitalization & Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Program for 260 clients:

There is a shortage of Residential Treatment beds in Cuyahoga County for men and women who have completed withdrawal management (detoxification) and who are in need of intensive 24-hour support and inpatient services. The proposed Residential Treatment Program at Stella Maris for men and women will provide services from 45 days up to 6 months of continued care for 260 clients.

Residential Services include medical care, administration of Medication Assisted Treatment (injection of Vivitrol every 30 days to aid the work of staying sober), and individual and/or group counseling and programs that focus on developing personal accountability and responsibility.

Treatment involves a step-down approach to help client's transition from residential care to outpatient treatment including PHP. This funding will allow for the expansion of the PHP Program to serve an additional 312 clients.

Funding will also provide for:

- Conversion of 16 beds from dormitory Recovery/Sober Housing to men's Residential Treatment beds.
- Addition of 16 beds for women's Residential Treatment Beds.
- Increase in the number of Partial Hospitalization Program participants.
- Room, board and transportation for 32 clients at Y-Haven or similar sober housing facility for men and women receiving Outpatient Program services at Stella Maris.

Investment: \$5,433,207

### **2. St. Vincent Charity's Rosary Hall:**

St. Vincent Charity's Rosary Hall has been at the forefront of treating drug dependency for more than 60 years – treating more than 60,000 addicts and 110,000 alcoholics with the compassionate care that is the hallmark of St. Vincent Charity. Our Psychiatric Emergency Department is a critical safety net service and is 1 of 2 in the state of Ohio and 1 of only 7 in the nation.

Funding will provide for:

- Peer Recovery Support in all transitions of care:
  - St. Vincent Charity's Rosary Hall would like to focus their initial efforts with the over 300 individuals who come to their emergency department as a result of an overdose. Only one-third of these patients are admitted into the hospital, that means that over 200 individuals need follow-up outreach to provide options and support in their efforts to determine if they are ready to seek addiction recovery services.
- Expand Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP):
  - The PHP is a type of outpatient treatment program for addiction patients who require a higher level of care than standard outpatient care is able to provide. Clients in a PHP receive comprehensive treatment services and medical monitoring during the day, but they don't stay overnight at the facility. St. Vincent Charity's Rosary Hall is looking to expand its capacity to serve approximately 130 individuals on an annual basis.
  - The IOP starts with four 3-hour IOP group sessions per week and individual counseling, followed by an eight- to 12-week program with one 1.5-hour aftercare group session per week. St. Vincent Charity's Rosary Hall expects to offer a third session of Rosary Hall that would enable them to serve over 245 individuals annually.
- Establish a panel for integrated care:
  - This coordination of care will increase access to the right care at the right time, and support clients through care transitions within the community's continuum of addiction and behavioral health services.

Investment: \$2,000,000

### **3. Peer Recovery Coaches/Support:**

Establish Thrive ED Program in the majority of Hospital Emergency Rooms in Cuyahoga County. There is a need in Cuyahoga County for expansion of Thrive ED, an innovative program with the goals to link individuals in an emergency room that survive an overdose to immediate withdrawal management, treatment, MAT or other recovery support services, as well as reduce emergency room visits and increase the opportunity for clients to enjoy long term recovery.

Currently, Thrive Ohio Certified Peer Recovery Coaches are stationed 24/7/365 days per year in the MetroHealth emergency room to immediately assist individuals living with an opioid addiction make the decision to receive withdrawal management and other services. The expansion of the Thrive program will extend to all emergency departments within the University Hospitals Health System and The Cleveland Clinic.

The expansion of Thrive ED will provide 24/7/365 days per year on-call service to the majority of emergency rooms in Cuyahoga County and will also include follow-up services such as,

transportation, digital peer recovery support, inpatient recovery support and education. A data and an evaluation component will also be implemented.

The Thrive ED program began in November 2017 in the MetroHealth emergency room. In the first 12 months, Thrive ED interacted with over 1,200 clients and assisted in getting over 300 into detox or other immediate treatment. Other individuals were linked with IOP, MAT or other recovery programs. Families were also provided with information to help in the healing process.

Peer Recovery Coaches/Supporters are an important part of the recovery process by offering a shared understanding of what it is like to live with substance use disorder, proof that recovery is possible and help for people become more engaged in their own recovery.

In Ohio, peer recovery supporters become certified by taking an in-person training or by having three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. Regardless of the pathway to certification, individuals must also have completed 16 hours of online E-Based Academy courses, which include topics such as ethics, human trafficking and trauma-informed care, pass the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services exam, sign and agree to the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services Code of Ethics and pass a Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) background check.

This proposed program will create approximately 60 jobs for people in recovery from substance abuse disorder and/or co-occurring disorders.

Investment: \$3,068,000

***Diversion Program Initial Phase Investment:***

Rather than making the County jail the default repository for low-level drug offenders, we will create a diversion program whose parameters are still to be determined. The County is currently working with a consultant and a committee to determine details.

Investment: \$2,500,000

## **Education**

***Drug Intervention Program:***

Students take a test which looks for four traits that are precursors to drug/alcohol abuse. Teachers are given intensive training in the curriculum and then conduct workshops for the high-risk students. The Preventure curriculum is currently in Bay Village and funding would allow an expansion into ten other schools.

Results: This drug and alcohol prevention program has been shown to:

- Reduce illicit drug use rates by 30-80 %
- Reduce risk for other mental health problems such as Anxiety, Depression and Conduct Problems

- Reduce drinking rates by 40-60 %
- Reduce binge drinking rates alcohol use by 50 %
- Delay onset of drinking and binge drinking
- Reduce risk for alcohol-related problems

Investment: \$90,000

***Drug Abuse K-12 Educational Program:***

Family and Children First Council will administrate and fund a Drug Abuse K-12 Educational Program. Similar curriculums are currently being used in Westlake, North Olmsted, Bay Village, Euclid, Richmond Heights and Parma.

Investment: \$300,000

**Legal**

***Expand Drug Court:***

The goal of the drug court program which began in 2008 is to break the cycle of recidivism by addressing an offender's drug dependency.

Drug Court adheres to science-based principals, only accepting those who are assessed as drug dependent. Drug Court has graduated hundreds of individuals, returning them to their communities as sober citizens.

The County will fund an additional 4<sup>th</sup> Drug Court Docket. The docket would serve the high risk/multiple conviction clients that don't qualify for the existing Drug Court dockets because of program requirements and limitations.

Investment: \$632,246

Currently, the Drug Court suffers from a weeks-long backlog regarding clinical assessments, which results in offenders waiting in jail for weeks awaiting assessments. Funds will be used to hire more clinical assessors.

Investment: \$300,000

***Prosecutor's Office:***

Funding for 4 additional prosecutors in the Children and Family Services Unit and 2 additional crime analysts in the Crime Strategy Unit.

Investment: \$1,127,500

### ***County Jail:***

**Support for addicted inmates in Cuyahoga county jail.** MetroHealth will identify individuals with addiction and will treat these inmates using specially trained medical professionals focused on suicide prevention, substance withdrawal and addiction treatment. MetroHealth will use new resources to hire additional medics, nurses and providers to support the inmates housed at the main jail and will invest in telemedicine resources and staffing to support the same level of treatment at the Bedford facility.

Investment: \$1,772,427

**Create an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)** with a main MetroHealth OTP hub and a treatment unit at the county jail which will be federally licensed to treat opioid use disorder with methadone and buprenorphine. We will utilize new resources to hire a supervisor responsible for the application process, hiring and regulatory compliance and medical staff to support the OTP.

Investment: \$931,906

### **Social Supports**

#### ***DCFS START:***

START (Sobriety, treatment and Recovery Teams) provides special intensive interventions to families referred to DCFS who have confirmed chemical dependency problems. Participation in the program is based upon either a mother's positive toxicology screen during the second or third trimester of pregnancy, or at the time of delivery, or at an infant's positive toxicology at birth.

DCFS is seeing an increase in positive toxicology infant referrals over the last 4 years. Moms addicted to heroin and other opiates need intense treatment and attention to keep from relapsing. Previous research has shown that mothers involved in START were 1.8 times more successful in achieving sobriety than those not involved in START. Funds will be used to increase staff by 34.

Investment: \$3,500,000

#### ***DCFS Board and Care:***

Currently, Cuyahoga County has the highest number of children in custody in 12 years; board and care costs which include network homes, group homes, residential centers, independent living, emergency shelters and agency foster care are significantly impacted. Seventeen percent of these board and care costs are attributed to the effect of opiates.

Investment: \$1,000,000

***Medical Examiner:***

The Medical Examiner's office has been severely stretched by the increased deaths over the course of the last three years due to the opioid crisis.

Additional supports include new toxicology testing instruments, new personnel (one full-time epidemiologist and one social worker to work with families who have lost loved ones and to connect them to services).

Investment: \$600,000

**Total: \$23,155,286**