

Opioid Prevention Coalition Information Summary

Goal

To facilitate and collaborate across state agencies, community organizations, coalitions, local health jurisdictions, providers, and other partners to achieve the 6 primary objectives of the State Opioid and Overdose Response Plan's (SOORP) first Goal, which is to prevent opioid and other substance misuse, and associated harms.

Overview

In 2008, the Department of Health began working on Washington State's opioid response plan by convening an interagency workgroup to address and coordinate efforts around the opioid epidemic, including educating providers on the opioid prescribing best practices. Later in 2016, the Governor issued Executive Order 16-09, which directed state agencies to implement key elements of the Washington State Opioid Response Plan (now called the WA State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan). This plan is overseen by the SOORP Executive Sponsor Group. The Opioid Prevention Workgroup (OPW) is responsible for the first Goal under SOORP.

Action items

1. Implement strategies to prevent misuse of opioids and other substances in communities particularly among youth and young adults.
2. Promote the use of opioid prescribing best practices among health care providers.
3. Increase the use of prescription drug monitoring programs to identify opioid use patterns and coordinate care.
4. Educate patients on best practices for managing acute pain and risks/benefits of opioids.
5. Promote the use of safe home storage and appropriate disposal of unused or expired prescription medication.
6. Decrease the supply of illegal opioids.

Objectives/strategies

1. Include the use of upstream primary prevention services such as evidence- and research-based programs, as well as culturally appropriate adaptations. Expand CPWI's access in high-need communities and collaborate with ESDs to implement SAPISP programing. Lastly, provide presentations and training on primary and secondary opioid strategies and grants/funding to recognized tribes supporting this work.
2. Increase opportunities for health care providers to have technical assistance, as well as coaching on opioid prescribing and pain management. Enhance higher education curricula for interprofessional healthcare teams and expand access to evidence-based non-opioid treatments and promising practices.
3. Improve web-based access, integrate with prescribers to help them understand their prescribing practices, and support the creation of a best-practice toolkit for prescribing providers.
4. Implement and disseminate targeted and culturally appropriate public education campaigns on prevention best practices in print and web-based media.
5. Increase the number of drop boxes, mail distribution locations, and take-back events. Educate patients and the public on storing and disposing prescription medications safely.
6. Develop a consistent funding source for the multi-jurisdictional drug-gang task force that will disrupt and dismantle organizations responsible for trafficking narcotics.