



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

ANISH P. MAHAJAN, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Suite 806
Los Angeles, CA 90012
TEL (213) 288-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

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December 21, 2023

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director 

SUBJECT: **CONFRONTING THE DRUG OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC
(BOARD AGENDA OF JULY 26, 2022, ITEM 11)**

This report is in response to the July 26, 2022 Board motion instructing the Director of Public Health (DPH), in partnership with the Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Medical Examiner, Probation Department, Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Los Angeles County Office of Education, Chief Executive Office inclusive of the Alternatives to Incarceration and Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Pasadena Department of Public Health, other applicable entities and community stakeholders such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, managed care plans, hospitals, community-based organizations (CBO), and faith-based organizations, to develop and regularly update a plan of action to address the growing crisis of overdose deaths related to methamphetamine, fentanyl, opioids and other substances.

The following is the third report back on the following Board directed projects and reflects updates since the report back on September 21, 2023.

Project #1: Build on current planning processes and strategies to support shared goals around reducing the risk of drug overdoses.

DPH's Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) leads, coordinates, and participates in a spectrum of ongoing overdose prevention and response initiatives which involve the entities identified in the motion. DPH invited leadership from these

agencies and priority groups to participate in a third convening on November 6, 2023, to discuss how to continue to advance the overdose-related projects outlined below and to promote the elevation and coordination of these prevention and response strategies within this multi-sector coalition.

The Harm Reduction Steering Committee (HRSC), jointly operated by DPH-SAPC and DHS' Harm Reduction Division (HRD), convened meetings on September 27, 2023, October 25, 2023, and November 29, 2023; and four Listening Sessions with Los Angeles City community members in July that brought together people who use drugs (PWUD), engage in sex work (PESW), have justice system involvement and are experiencing homelessness (PEH) to inform future programming.

DPH-SAPC and DHS-HRD hosted a joint Opioid Settlement Funding Listening Session on October 17, 2023. It was well attended with participants actively discussing what types of strategies and programming should be funded with the settlement dollars and responded to a supplemental survey open through November 15, 2023. Major themes were abstracted to inform how DPH-SAPC and DHS-HRD apply the opioid settlement funding to community-based harm reduction programming.

Project #2: Ensure strategies to address the drug overdose epidemic among populations disproportionately impacted by overdoses, including persons of color, individuals who are justice-involved, people experiencing homelessness, and LGBTQ+ residents.

Since the update on September 21, 2023, DPH, DHS and DMH, continue to implement harm reduction programs and services, directly or in partnership with subcontracted providers. Key data highlights and new developments are as follows:

- DPH-SAPC's seven (7) contracted Engagement and Overdose Prevention (EOP) Hubs, described within the previous report back, conducted 11,944 service encounters, distributed 22,427 units of naloxone, 15,525 fentanyl test strips, 688,803 sterile syringes, and 6,299 wound care kits between September 1 and December 31, 2023. EOP Hubs reported 1,328 overdose reversals and 525 referrals to substance use treatment. Eighty-three percent of encounters were with PEH and the majority identified as Black or Latinx. More than 30 new outreach sites were also added.
- DHS-HRD and its contracted programs conducted 22,848 service encounters, distributed 58,982 units of naloxone to PWUD, PEH, PESW, and people recently released from incarceration; and reported approximately 3,200 overdose reversals and distributed approximately \$1,330,664 worth of harm reduction supplies between July 1, 2023, and November 30, 2023.
- DHS-HRD Overdose Response Team operating in the Skid Row area, and as further described within the previous report back, distributed over 10,000 units/20,000 doses of naloxone, reversed over 30 overdoses with an additional 120

reported reversals from community members and distributed over \$705,000 in harm reduction supplies since the previous report back to PWUD, PEH, and PESW.

- DHS-HRD's countywide Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program, run in partnership with Community Health Project Los Angeles (CHPLA), continues to provide overdose education and naloxone through direct distribution to designated community sites, DHS programs and facilities, and community contractors, as described within the previous board report. The Clearinghouse has been supporting DHS hospitals and clinics to support implementation of naloxone and other harm reduction supply distribution. OEND is expected to distribute 20,976 units of naloxone and receive reports of 1,478 overdose reversals from September 21, 2023, throughout this reporting period.
- DHS Housing for Health (HFH) Street-Based Engagement (MDT) programs, described in the previous report back, distributed 6,000 units of naloxone and distributed over \$100,000 in harm reduction supplies between July 1, 2023, and November 30, 2023.
- DHS-HFH Mobile Clinic, described within the previous board report, provided nearly 2,000 individuals with direct care and vital linkage to resources and recently began distributing xylazine test strips to document if community xylazine is present to intervene with information and education.
- DHS-HFH is establishing a Harm Reduction Health Hub in Skid Row (likely at a location at 5th and Crocker Street) which will offer case management, respite beds, behavioral health services, light touch health care interventions, a drop in space and set-aside space for an Overdose Prevention Program if County approved.
 - DPH-SAPC and DHS are collaborating to ensure that the Harm Reduction Health Hub will also offer medications for opioid use disorder (OUD) onsite.
- DHS continues its transition of the 30-bed David L. Murphy Sobering Center, described in the previous report back, which may include case management, a drop-in space, and a dedicated space for an Overdose Prevention Program if County approved. The project was awarded \$2.7 million from AB109 in the Supplemental Budget Process, and \$5.0 million from AB109 in a previous funding cycle to make physical changes to the Sobering Center footprint and accommodate new services. The project is tentatively slated to begin operations in early 2024.
 - DPH-SAPC is collaborating with DHS-HRD to establish an on-site opioid treatment program (OTP) which offers people with OUD methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.
- DHS' grant-funded LA County MAT (Medications for Addiction Treatment) Consultation Line, as described in the previous report back, was a finalist for the 2023 DHS IDEA Award. DHS and DPH continue to collaborate to expand the reach

of the LA County MAT Consultation Line to LA County residents using investments from Measure H, opioid settlement, and CDC funding.

- DMH placed naloxone overdose stations in all 16 directly operated clinics and trained staff on the use of fentanyl test strips and appropriate supplies, made available naloxone kits for clinic clients, equipped field-based providers with naloxone kits and fentanyl test strips, and offered training to prevent and respond to overdoses.
- DMH Homeless Outreach and Engagement (HOME) Team, the Men's Community Reentry Program (MCRP), and Full-Service Partnership (FSP) staff responded to a number of overdoses in the field among PEH clients; and non-DMH clients can receive naloxone and fentanyl test strips at the newly created drop-in center, headed by the Skid Row Concierge Outreach Team which provides overdose prevention education and supplies, housing navigation, and mental health services.

Additionally, Departments continued to implement and develop the following programs and efforts as outlined in previous reports, and ensure continued operation and growth:

- DPH and DHS are operationalizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) \$3.2 million per year for five (5) years (Fiscal Year [FY] 23-24 through FY 27-28) award for overdose prevention and response activities.
- DPH is expanding access to SUD services for youth residing in Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs); and collaborating with DPH, Probation, DMH, DCFS, and Office of Child Protection to provide recommendations and promote access to SUD services for youth with complex needs.
- DHS is creating access to low barrier MAT, harm reduction services like teaching and providing naloxone before discharge, education and safer consumption supplies like fentanyl test strips and syringes via mobile street teams and through partnership with emergency departments, hospital, clinics, and Community Health Services (CHS).
- DPH, DHS and DMH continued their collaboration on task forces to: 1) streamline navigation to MAT for those being discharged from jail; 2) coordinate overdose prevention in Skid Row; 3) address and coordinate methamphetamine prevention and treatment approaches; and 5) determine if xylazine is present in the drug supply (currently seen in about 4% of samples tested) and discuss use of xylazine test strips and educate patients and staff.

Project #3: Work with the housing system to expand the housing continuum and availability of recovery-oriented permanent, interim, and emergency housing options throughout the County, in addition to currently available Housing First models, with particular focus on unhoused individuals with justice involvement who use drugs.

Since the update on September 21, 2023, DPH, DHS and DMH continued to expand recovery-oriented housing options for PEH as follows:

- DPH conducted two separate surveys to identify agencies who can quickly expand access to add 550 Recovery Bridge Housing (RBH) under the State's Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) program and local Opioid Settlement funding, as described within the previous report back. A total of 545 potential RBH beds were offered by contracted agencies, and as of October 30, 2023, DPH met with 16 agencies and confirmed 208 beds are available for immediate occupancy and is currently in the contracting process. DPH will have approximately 1,650 RBH beds countywide after this expansion and has continued to meet with local and State leadership to emphasize the importance of ensuring a housing continuum inclusive of recovery-oriented options.
- DHS provided housing resources at all ambulatory, emergency, and inpatient service levels, and HFH teams work diligently to provide immediate housing referrals and resources, including Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) that assist patients with complex care needs that require intensive medical, mental health and/or social service needs.
- DMH, in collaboration with UCLA and Eisenhower Medical Center, added SUD treatment as a service option for programs housing justice-involved youth.

Additionally, Departments continued to implement and develop the following programs and efforts as outlined in previous reports, and ensure continued operation and growth:

- DHS field services for the People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) program that provides vital linkage for unhoused patients that would not otherwise seek care.
- DHS HFH work on the Skid Row Action Plan and developing a second Safe Landing program in Skid Row.
- DMH offers housing services as a key component of justice-involved care at the Men's and Women's Re-Entry Programs (MCRP, WCRP); assists PWUD enter housing, which is a key activity of their efforts, including: the HOME Team, FSP, the Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN), Enhanced Emergency Shelters for Transitional Age Youth (TAY, EESP), Interim Housing, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), and Prevent Homelessness Promote Health (PH)² programs. The

Skid Row Concierge Team also helps residents of Skid Row navigate current housing system labyrinth.

- DMH provides specialty mental health services in permanent supportive housing (PSH) through its Housing Supportive Services Program (HSSP), in collaboration with DHS' ICMS teams and DPH's Client Engagement and Navigation System (CENS) teams with the common goal of providing supports to help residents maintain and retain their housing.

Project #4: Provide recommendations to expand and promote access to navigation services for people with SUDs, including the unhoused and justice-involved, to access services, including permanent supportive housing.

Since the update on September 21, 2023, DPH, DHS and DMH continue to expand access to navigation services for people with SUD and co-occurring mental health and/or physical health service needs as follows:

- DPH is currently working on a new contract solicitation for release in early 2024 to operationalize new State BHBH funding for the provision of Housing Navigation services for all residents in RBH or Recovery Housing (RH), as outlined in previous report backs. Housing Navigation teams will work with clients while they are enrolled in RBH or RH to ensure they have a safe and stable housing plan ready for when they are discharged from these programs.
- DPH is working with CENS providers to expand use of Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) for select services (e.g., screening, referral, outreach) to better leverage available funding options and expand access to navigation services at critical locations and for high-priority populations. Two CENS providers have successfully piloted this process and DPH is working with all CENS providers to implement DMC billing/reimbursement by January 2024. Leveraging DMC will result in the ability to reinvest non-DMC funding in expanding other services for justice-involved, PEH, and other hard to engage populations.
- DHS, DMH and DPH are collaborating on the Interim Housing Outreach Program (IHOP) that will serve all eight SPAs and provide onsite services to individuals with physical and behavioral health needs including SUD linkage, support interim housing stability, facilitate transitions to permanent housing, and onsite harm reduction interventions (e.g., distribution of naloxone and fentanyl test strips) and SUD informational/educational sessions (individuals and group). Full implementation of the IHOP multi-disciplinary team (MDT) is projected for the third quarter of FY 23-24.

- DHS began piloting services in SPA 4 in mid-November 2023. The SPA 4 DPH provider has agreed to support the IHOP pilot project, part-time, with existing CENS staff.
- DPH received Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Innovations Grant funding to further expand access to SUD treatment for unhoused individuals in interim housing sites.
- DMH received funding through the new BHBH program and will use the funding to enhance its current non-congregate interim housing and expand to new sites across the County for PEH with serious mental illness, many of whom have co-occurring SUDs.
- DPH added seven new PSH co-locations and one Mainstream Services Integration (MSI) site for a total of 181 PSH and 65 MSI sites where CENS providers deliver SUD services. DPH continues to collaborate with DHS-Correctional Health Services and DMH partners to leverage opportunities through CalAIM to promote behavioral health warm hand-offs through navigation services for justice-involved individuals with SUDs.
- DMH Men's Community Reentry should be expanded and decentralized throughout each SPA to promote reintegration, and provide supportive services such as employment, education, and housing for justice-involved populations. Dual DMH specialty mental health and Department of Health Care Services substance use treatment certification of these services would advance this goal.

Additionally, Departments continued to implement and develop the following programs and efforts as outlined in previous reports, and ensure continued operation and growth:

- DHS continues to collaborate with DPH and DMH with in-kind and grant funding to sustain and expand services that are vital in obtaining services for post-justice involved patients that are at a much higher risk of overdose death. DHS has one post-justice involved clinic at Harbor UCLA Department of Family Medicine called REACH that has served as a model for other clinics on how to provide expedited medical, social services, mental health services after incarceration. With CalAIM funding, DHS has a Community Health Worker (CHW) with lived experience who effectively helps post justice involved patients establish medical, mental health and psychosocial care.

- The DMH programs MCRP and WCRP have been involved in the planning and implementation of the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative for LA County. Together with DPH and DHS-Correctional Health Services, these DMH programs have developed workgroups to operationalize the initial screening, create the 90 days prior-to-release assessments, and establish the Adult Behavioral Health Warm Hand-Off and Youth Behavioral Health Warm Hand-Off protocol.

Project #5: Provide recommendations to expand harm reduction efforts including, but not limited to, developing a plan to establish safer consumption sites in the County, expanded distribution of fentanyl strips, naloxone, drug checking and low-threshold Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT), including in carceral facilities for adults and youth, and exploring the feasibility of funding for prevention case management.

Since the update on September 21, 2023 DPH, DHS and DMH continue to expand harm reduction as follows:

- DPH is expanding its network of EOP Hubs to advance these services. DPH supports DHS' Youth Opioid Response program to increase staff capacity in the DHS hospital system to provide MAT to youth with complex needs. DPH has partnered with DHS to create and delivered MAT trainings for all the providers at the VIP (Violence Intervention Program) clinics (Pediatricians and SW) at DHS sites that see mostly DCFS youth with complex needs and DHS and DPH are conducting ongoing trainings and planning meetings.
- DPH is convening regular Community Meetings on Harm Reduction with the public, local government, and health officials, as well as law enforcement to provide a forum to address questions, concerns, and to hear about the positive impacts of harm reduction in order to inform its expansion of its EOP Hub network.
- DPH, DHS and a CBO (SSG/HOPICS), as described in the previous report back, visited safer consumption sites in Copenhagen, Denmark; Barcelona, Spain; and Lisbon, Portugal. The major findings of this visit included an understanding that safer consumption spaces (SCS) should be seen as part of the continuum of substance use services offered to LA county residents in addition to low-threshold harm reduction and treatment services. Presentations summarizing the learnings from these visits were delivered in July and October 2023.
- DHS-HRD's OEND program continues to work with DHS and DHS partners, including LAHSA, DPH, and DMH, to provide overdose prevention and response training and expand naloxone and fentanyl test strip distribution. OEND has provided increased technical assistance to housing sites countywide to reduce overdose deaths.

- LAHSA interim housing sites are participating in training, increasing naloxone distribution and started installing wall boxes with naloxone in common areas to ensure 24-hour access for housing participants.
- DHS HFH and Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) interim and permanent housing sites are installing wall boxes with naloxone offering 24-hour access, with an initial focus on Skid Row. To date, over 170 wall boxes have been installed at over 25 housing sites.
- DMH is offering trainings to its Interim Housing and Enriched Residential Care licensed residential care facilities on preventing overdoses through the use of naloxone. DMH uses Housing First and Harm Reduction models in its PSH and offers training on these models to DMH case managers.
- DHS-HRD is developing a series of spaces designed to be able to offer safer consumption spaces including Drop-In Centers and Harm Reduction Health Hubs as described above. DHS-HRD has selected 3 community contractors to establish harm reduction drop-in centers, and the contracts are expected to be executed by the end of December.

Additionally, Departments continued to implement and develop the following programs and efforts as outlined in previous reports, and ensure continued operation and growth:

- DPH and DHS remain engaged with a coalition of stakeholders to determine what legal pathways exist for establishing a safer consumption site pilot in Los Angeles County, including the Los Angeles County Harm Reduction Steering Committee, academic partners, law enforcement, and prosecutors. If a safer consumption site pilot is established, it will require allocation of flexible local funding as well as support from County leadership across health, judicial, law enforcement, and other sectors in order to remain viable.
- DHS remains committed to sustaining and expanding harm reduction and low threshold MAT at all DHS operated facilities and DHS has ambulatory MAT clinics at most of its locations with MAT visits embedded in primary care in these settings. Four DHS clinics (High Desert Regional Health Centers, Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center, Hubert H Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center, and the DHS Mobile Clinic Program) are recipients of the Centers for Care Innovation Addiction Treatment Starts Here capacity building grant award to increase capacity of treating SUD in primary care settings with MAT, integrated behavioral health services, and collaborations with community-based providers. As described in the previous report back, DHS-HRD continues to collaborate with DHS hospitals and the Ambulatory Care Network (ACN) to expand and coordinate safer use supplies distribution across their facilities.

- DHS' emergency departments, inpatient settings, and ambulatory settings currently provide SUD/MAT care via in-kind and/or grant supported programs. Sustaining and/or expanding services will require secure funding. The Board of Supervisors can further support the efforts of DHS hospitals and clinics by allocating flexible funds for the purchase of harm reduction supplies and directing medical providers throughout the system to be trained on harm reduction and safer use strategies.
- DHS' Integrated Correctional Health Services – Addiction Medicine Services (ICHS-AMS) provides a wide range of in-custody SUD treatment services for all adult patients who are housed in the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's (LASD) jail system. As of October 2023, 5,804 individuals received sublingual buprenorphine and 2,886 received injectable buprenorphine. The waitlist has decreased and it is expected that all patients will receive treatment in a timely manner when entering the jail or expressing need.
- DMH provided training to psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and clinical pharmacists on the use of low-threshold MAT within its treatment services. DMH Clinics established co-occurring disorder treatment groups that do not require that clients have their SUD already in remission as a condition of participation. In this way, the harm of using substances is reduced as clients move at their own pace toward recovery. This program, Integr8Recovery, uses cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and contingency management (CM). Providing naloxone and fentanyl test strips is now a regular routine at DMH Clinics. Expansion of these services should include test strip for xylazine as well. Case management that addresses overdose prevention is currently in place, although ongoing training is needed.

Project #6: Expand bidirectional screening and referral processes across systems caring for persons with shared risk factors for SUD, HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and viral hepatitis, such that individuals who are receiving any of these services are screened and referred for other service needs associated with risk factors, including the need for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis/Post-Exposure I.

Since the update on September 21, 2023 DPH, DHS and DMH continue to expand bidirectional referrals for clients with SUD who are at-risk of or diagnosed with STIs:

- Five additional syringe services programs across the County have had staff participate in HIV pre-and post-test counseling trainings and are currently in the process of obtaining Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) waivers to support HIV testing of participants during harm reduction outreach.

- DHS clinics, emergency departments and hospitalizations offer directional screening, treatment and referral as needed supported by expected Practices emphasize the importance of screening priority patients, as described in the previous report back. DHS Mobile Services are now providing expansion of these vital services.
- DMH has updated its HIV testing policies to use an “opt-out” rather than “opt-in” approach, to assure broad testing among its clients.

Project #7: Implement evidence-based, age-appropriate substance use curricula for students K-12 and for those in Probation camps and halls and their parents/guardians.

DPH, DHS and DMH implemented a variety of prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for young people directly and in collaboration with contracted CBOs as follows:

- DPH conducted over 450 fentanyl related outreach events and delivered 178 educational presentations to 9,231 parents, students, and school faculty since 2022.
- In partnership with LACOE, DPH has reached out to all secondary schools across the County to explore the expansion of substance use education across their respective curricula and also to support training of their Health Educators to support elevated recognition of substance use considerations in the school setting.
- 39 of the total 50 DPH Student Wellbeing Centers will be staffed by Winter 2024. Highlights during the period include:
 - Sixty-four classroom education sessions are scheduled for over 1900 students on substance use and overdose prevention.
 - All SWBCs in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) have naloxone kits for distribution and training for students who request them. 35 naloxone kits were distributed between July and October 2023. Fentanyl test strips have been available beginning in November.
 - The Peer Health Advocate Program of the SWBCs will present training of all peer leaders (394 students) by EndOverdose in November.
 - The SWBC Program Manager is participating in the LAUSD Opioid Task Force, a collaboration of school and community partners identifying additional strategies for prevention of overdose among students.

- DPH collaborated with Probation to launch substance use services at juvenile halls:
 - DPH CENS receive referrals for youth with an identified substance use concern as of September 2023, and provide additional SUD screening and coordinates referrals to community SUD treatment providers. CENS staff are trained for and deliver early intervention curriculum to youth housed within the juvenile hall as of November 2023. The screening process will be enhanced by the adoption of improved tools.
 - DMH psychiatrists closely follow youth taking medications for SUD as well as other mental health disorders for ongoing counseling, evaluation, and treatment planning.

- DPH collaborated with Probation to launch SUD treatment services for the Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) youth and young adults diverted from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice:
 - At Barry J. Nidorf, onboard staff to serve male youth in the SUD Unit, that launched on December 8, 2023, and which fosters a therapeutic environment for those in recovery. Future efforts will include (1) improving mental health staff knowledge and skills to better incorporate goals of substance abuse treatment into treatment planning, (2) prioritizing and titrating services for those youth known to be at the highest risk, and (3) improving care coordination between partner agencies to enhance client engagement. DPH also incorporated early intervention groups for all SYTF youth to increase access to on-site SUD services.
 - At Campus Kilpatrick, implementation continues as outlined in the previous report back.

- DHS collaborates with multiple agencies including DPH and DMH on the California Youth Opioid Response 3 "Quick Start for Youth" (YOR) assisting LA General and DHS addiction physicians to enhance access to services, incorporate the youth voice into work, and institutionalize interagency linkage and service to addiction care that includes MAT services. DHS physicians and SUD counselors work in partnership with DCFS, DMH, and DPH to provide a culturally, developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed medical model for treating youth with SUD; and links high risk priority youth to DHS addiction specialists. Priority population include youth engaged in DCFS, in out-of-home care, in public clinics, hospitals and emergency departments, or released from law enforcement. YOR aims to rapidly start treatment while bridging identified youth to longitudinal addiction care in medical homes.

Project #8: Expand the accessibility of contingency management interventions including consideration of prescription digital therapeutics for addiction treatment.

Since the update on September 21, 2023 DPH, DHS and DMH continue to implement contingency management strategies as follows:

- DPH is expanding the network of treatment providers who offer Contingency Management (CM) through the Medi-Cal benefit under the DMC program, which began on May 4, 2023. This program uses a digital delivery platform for the recovery incentive. The State has currently authorized CM services to be delivered at 37 sites, operated by 15 provider agencies. Another 30 provider sites are in the process of completing training and lab registration. DHCS approvals will be completed on a rolling basis. DPH has considered prescription digital therapeutics for addiction treatment but is not pursuing implementation at this time.
- DHS Mobile Services will be collaborating with the PEH Mortality Workgroup to launch a grant funded CM program in November 2023. DHS has already piloted CM at ambulatory and emergency department-based programs with grant funding. The goal remains to find secure funding and models for larger CM programs across DHS.
- DHS-HRD launched the Hilton Foundation-funded Housing Retention CM pilot in August of 2023, with eight enrollees in the first month at one Permanent Supportive Housing site on Skid Row and expanded to another site in Lancaster in late October with a total of 14 participants to date. Participants are already achieving their personally identified goals designed to help stabilize their housing. Additionally, leadership at housing sites has reported an overall reduction in problematic behavior that had previously impacted staff's ability to engage clients.
- DMH uses CM as a tool in its Integr8Recovery Co-occurring Disorder Treatment Programs, and in the Skid Row Concierge services. DMH plans to expand CM further in its clinics and programs.

Project #9: Expand efforts to explore and offer MAT options for methamphetamine and other SUDs.

Since the update on September 21, 2023 DPH, DHS and DMH continue to implement MAT options for methamphetamine and other SUDs as follows:

- DPH continues to prioritize the launch of CM as an evidenced-based strategy for those with stimulant use disorder (StUD) as outlined under Project 8.
- DHS continues to provide culturally, developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed medical care for treating SUDs and since the last report back there

has been an increase in the number of patients with alcohol (AUD), stimulant, and/or opioid use disorders (OUD). To help meet the treatment needs, the SUD Working Group is actively seeking in-kind, grant and DHS funding.

- DHS HFH Mobile Clinics continue to provide MAT in the field (e.g., encampment, RV interim housing) and explore how to best educate the homeless outreach community at large on MAT availability.

Project #10: Work with County Departments who serve people who use drugs to expand trauma-informed and culturally responsive trainings around harm reduction, overdose prevention and other related topics.

Since the update on September 21, 2023 DPH, DHS and DMH continue to expand trauma-informed and culturally responsive harm reduction and overdose prevention trainings as follows:

- DPH continues to host Cultural Competency Trainings and its network of prevention providers regularly conduct trainings to county staff and the community that describe the substance use resources, as outlined in the previous report.
- DPH and DMH continue to offer Seeking Safety trainings to both the SUD and mental health treatment network.
- DHS-HRD continues to expand trauma-informed and culturally responsive trainings for street-based homeless outreach teams and other community providers, housing site staff and participants, and DHS Hospitals and Clinics.
- DHS-HRD's Harm Reduction Workforce Development program, contracted with the Worker Education and Resource Center (WERC), commenced in-depth cohort-based learning for supervisors and direct service staff currently providing harm reduction services. Trainings include 'Trauma-Informed Care, Vicarious Trauma, and Boundaries' and 'Modeling Trauma-Informed Sensitivity and Recovery-Oriented Supervision.
- DPH-SAPC's Harm Reduction Leadership Program for harm reduction executives is a partner in this initiative.
- DHS-OEND is providing training on best practices for engaging PWUD using a trauma-informed lens and in August and began training DHS Hospital and Clinic staff. Further, DHS and OEND teams have trained the Social Workers, Community Health Workers, SUD Counselors, and Medical Case Workers working in the DHS Hospital and Clinic system of care in August 2023.

- DHS-OEND began providing training and technical assistance to housing sites that recently experienced overdose deaths, including trauma- and grief-sensitive overdose response trainings with both housing staff and participants and technical assistance on harm reduction interventions that can prevent overdoses including installation of wall boxes described above. Since the last report back, OEND contractor Community Health Project Los Angeles will have trained approximately 1,100 individuals on overdose prevention and response and trauma-informed engagement with PWUD.
- DMH continues to provide training on overdose prevention to all of its field-based teams and has equipped them with Naloxone. Ongoing trainings are planned to educate staff at various levels about harm reduction. The MCRP uses a culturally sensitive and population specific model when working with individuals with an incarceration history, and advocates for clients who experience discrimination from treatment programs or housing facilities. DMH MCRP works collaboratively with DPH-contracted residential substance use programs to serve these populations.

Project #11: Develop a framework and timeline, including key metrics and milestone goals, to define success related to addressing the overdose epidemic in the County.

Building upon the work outlined in this Board Motion and subsequent responses, DPH developed the following framework to define success in addressing the overdose epidemic in the County and determining progress towards those goals. This involves:

- New reports and data dashboards updated since September 21, 2023 include updated 2022 overdose numbers for DPH-SAPC's Fentanyl Data Report and updated Methamphetamine Dashboard: Tracking Patterns in Methamphetamine Use and Opioid Dashboard: Tracking Patterns in Opioid Use as part of DPH's Alcohol and Other Drug Surveillance Dashboard. Documents are available here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/providers/data-reports-and-briefs.htm>
- Increased distribution of naloxone and other harm reduction supplies proportionally to the public health burden of overdose. As discussed in Project #2 above, DPH, DHS, and DMH distributed over 43,403 units of naloxone in LA County, including 20,976 units to people leaving LA County jails of which 85% were distributed directly to PEH, PWUD and PESW, and increased the distribution of over 20,000 units of harm reduction supplies to PWUD biannually, representing an increase from baseline that exceeds the increase in overdose prevalence from 2021-2022.
- Increase in the count of overdoses reversed with naloxone as reported by CBOs and first responders that exceeds the increase in overdose prevalence each year in LA County from the prior FY. Since September 21, 2023, CBOs and first responders reported over 2,802 community overdose reversals and 505 first responder reversals,

both of which are undercounted from the actual count of reversals because not every community member and first responder who reverses an overdose reports it via established reporting mechanisms.

- Increased provision of MAT and other SUD services to PWUD in LA County, demonstrating an increase in MAT and SUD service delivery from the prior FY via a service delivery data dashboard. Within residential levels of care, as one example, the provision of MAT services to patients with AUD/ODU increased five-fold between FY 2021-2022 and FY 2022-2023.
- Collaboration with probation where when naloxone is administered within Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, an automatic notification to CENS is generated to ensure that screening and referral to SUD services are made available.

Project #12: Assess the funding in each Department's budget that is used to serve people who use drugs to determine how best to leverage funding to maximize the County's resources for this population, including the allocation of opioid settlement dollars, and identify funding gaps and work with the Chief Executive Officer on strategies to address those gaps.

Since the last update provided, the Board approved an Opioid Settlement Spending Plan (Plan) for the Distributors and Janssen national opioid settlements. The Opioid Settlement Spending Plan authorized allocation of \$15.6 million to four departments, including the DPH, DHS-ODR, the County Fire Department, and the County Medical Examiner's Office. Funding was allocated as part of the FY 2023-24 Supplemental Budget and funding is anticipated to be allocated to these departments for Board-approved uses for at least the next three years. Departments received funding for programming previously identified as areas of need related to overdose prevention, harm reduction, naloxone distribution, MAT, positive youth development, as well as various other opioid mitigation efforts.

The Chief Executive Office (CEO) is also tracking the potential for receipt of funds resulting from future opioid settlements and will develop proposed spending plans for Board approval, when appropriate, ensuring the continued collaboration between CEO and impacted departments, to address the County's most pressing needs related to the opioid crisis.

Project #13: Direct the Chief Executive Officer, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch (CEO-LAIR), and the Los Angeles County Advocates in Sacramento and Washington D.C., to coordinate with the Directors of Public Health and Health Services, and the Acting Director of Mental Health, to advocate with Governor Gavin Newsom, the State Legislature, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Health and Human Services, and Congress, for additional Federal and State resources to combat substance use and the overdose epidemic, this includes increasing Federal- and State-level recruitment, retention, training and educational resources and requirements for SUD counselors, the primary workforce delivering specialty SUD prevention, harm reduction and treatment services across the County.

In June 2023, CEO-LAIR's Sacramento Advocates collaborated with DPH to successfully advocate for revisions to the [draft Substance Use Disorder Licensing and Certification trailer bill](#) which would have undermined the advances made by last year's County-sponsored [AB 2473](#) (Nazarian) by completely repealing the Health and Safety Code 11833. As enacted, AB 2473 requires the California DHCS to implement changes by December 31, 2025, to the qualifications and registration or certification of personnel working within alcoholism or drug abuse recovery and treatment programs licensed, certified, or funded under state law. CEO-LAIR's Sacramento Advocates worked through the Assembly Budget Health & Human Services Subcommittee and the Administration to reinstate the language in the final Health Trailer Bill ([AB 118, Chapter 42, Statutes of 2023](#)) that repeals the voluntary certification procedure for alcohol and other drug treatment recovery services, and instead requires those programs to be certified. The bill also prohibits a program from offering alcohol and other drug treatment recovery services without certification and establishes procedures for certification, inspections of certified programs, and for revocation of certification from noncompliant programs.

In July 2023, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce marked up and reported out [H.R. 4531](#), the Support for Patients and Communities Act, which would reauthorize the SUPPORT Act, the bipartisan opioid package enacted in 2018. Some of the key provisions under consideration which would increase federal resources for the County's SUD prevention and treatment efforts include: a permanent reauthorization of the Medicaid state plan option to lift the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) for SUD treatment that would allow states with Medicaid 1115 waivers for SUD treatment in IMDs, such as the DMC-ODS waiver, to transition to a permanent state plan option; prohibiting states from terminating Medicaid enrollment due to incarceration in order to simplify the reactivation of benefits upon reentry, and lifting the Medicaid inmate exclusion for pregnant women in pretrial custody; and, reauthorization of other public health programs focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery for patients with substance use disorder, and a permanent extension of Medicaid's required coverage of medication-assisted treatments. CEO-LAIR is collaborating with DPH to support the inclusion of these provisions into H.R. 4531.

In July 2023, the State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom finalized the State Budget Act of 2023 (State Budget) that included funding for several County-supported activities related to substance use and overdose prevention. Specifically, the State Budget includes \$14 million one-time Opioid Settlements Fund (OSF) over four years for fentanyl program grants to increase local efforts in education, testing, recovery, and support services to implement the State's fentanyl overdose reduction grant program (AB 2365, Chapter 783, Statutes of 2022), and to support innovative approaches to make fentanyl test strips and naloxone more widely available. Moreover, the State Budget provides \$74.8 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, \$35.8 million in FY 2024-25, \$24.8 million in FY 2025-26, and \$24.1 million in FY 2026-27 from the OSF to expand the Naloxone Distribution Project, to increase distribution to first responders, law enforcement, community-based organizations, and county agencies. For the Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Initiative, the State Budget includes \$61 million one-time OSF over four years to provide grants to local health jurisdictions and community-based organizations to support syringe exchange and disposal program activities, including treatment navigators. Finally, the State Budget provides \$3.5 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for Reversing Opioid Overdoses, for all middle schools, high schools, and adult school sites to maintain at least two doses of naloxone hydrochloride or another medication to reverse an opioid overdose on campus for emergency aid.

On October 10, 2023, Governor Newsom signed into law [SB 43](#) (Eggman, Chapter 637, Statutes of 2023), which expands the definition of "gravely disabled," for purposes of involuntarily detaining an individual with a severe SUD, or a co-occurring mental health disorder and a severe SUD, or chronic alcoholism that is unable to additionally provide for personal safety or necessary medical care. CEO-LAIR worked with the impacted County departments during the State legislative session to assess the bill language and share County's concerns with Senator Eggman's office.

CEO-LAIR continues to work with the impacted County departments to advocate for federal and State level funding and legislation to combat substance use and the overdose epidemic, including but not limited to additional resources for behavioral health workforce development, harm reduction and treatment services across the County.

NEXT STEPS

The County Departments and partner agencies will continue to collaborate on implementation of the projects described herein and report back to the Board of Supervisors biannually with the next report back in July 2024.

BF:gt

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Health Services
Mental Health
Children and Family Services
Chief Medical Examiner
Probation