

Heroin and Opioid Initiatives

May 15, 2015

As part of Governor Wolf's proposed FY 2015-2016 budget, the Department of Human Services (DHS) is seeking to provide additional services to combat heroin and opioid addiction.

"Heroin and other opioid addiction affects individuals from all walks of life across Pennsylvania," said DHS Acting Secretary Ted Dallas. "Governor Wolf's proposed funding will increase access to these lifesaving therapies and give Pennsylvanians access to the treatment they need."

FY 2015-2016 Proposed Budget Initiatives

- \$2.5M increase to fund two pilot programs including:
 - \$1.25M for "Distributing Naloxone to More First Responders"; and
 - \$1.25M for "Vivitrol and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot for County Corrections."

Impact: DHS Request for Proposals

DHS announced earlier this month that it is seeking proposals for two pilot programs to provide additional services to address heroin and opioid addiction in PA, including "Distributing Naloxone to More First Responders" and "Vivitrol and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot for County Corrections." Proposals for both pilot programs are due on June 8, 2015.

Contingent on final budget appropriations, DHS will implement the two pilot programs this summer through partnerships with the departments of Health, Corrections, and Drug and Alcohol Programs, and the Commission of Crime and Delinquency. Local partners will include: County Justice Advisory Boards, Single County Authorities, recovery specialists, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' Persons in Recovery Advisory Committee, and local drug and alcohol services providers.

Facts at a Glance

- Heroin and other opioid overdose is a leading cause of preventable death in the United States.
- According to the Pennsylvania State Coroners Association report, there were at least 2,489 drug-related deaths in 2014 and 800 heroin-related overdoses.

Distributing Naloxone to More First Responders

Naloxone is a medication which rapidly reverses the effects of heroin and other opioid drugs. After training, a first responder can easily administer Naloxone to reverse an opioid overdose. Pilot funds will be used to distribute Naloxone kits, and support the development of outreach and engagement strategies and protocols to refer individuals for the assessment and treatment of substance use disorders. This pilot's goal is to save lives and ensure individuals at risk for opioid overdose have access to treatment services within their communities.

Vivitrol and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot for County Corrections

This pilot will cover the cost of Vivitrol/MAT and related community-based treatment and supports for non-Medicaid eligible offenders diagnosed with opioid dependence who are under court jurisdiction. Treatment, as part of the criminal justice sanctions, can be effective and reduce recidivism by up to 80%.

For more information on the pilot programs, visit www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding.