Responding to the Opioid Epidemic
Josh Katz, Drug Deaths in America are Rising Faster than Ever, New York Times, June 5, 2017
Overview

Problem Statement: Systems Challenge
Response:
• Organization
• Principles
• Restructuring
• CommunityStat
Systems Challenge

- Many organizations have a role – identification and relationships
- What data exists, and how is that data or other information shared?
- Who is a leader, and what authority exists?
- What are the steps we should be taking to address this problem comprehensively?
Limited Data Leads to a Partial Response

➤ Effort focused on a subset of symptoms
➤ Overdoses, Burglaries, Retail Theft

➤ What are the main sources of addiction & who are those most impacted?

➤ Resources not always matched to best return or highest need return

➤ Work duplicated and problem patterns persist
Diffuse Authority Creates Leadership Challenge

- Cross-sector problem
- Public Health and Law Enforcement components
- Who drives accountability?
- How to discuss publicly?
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Transmission

Organization

- Unique role for Mayors
  - Convening power
  - Media amplification
  - Resources and new players
  - Accountability
  - Address Stigma

- Identify who are your partners in this challenge and get them together
Opioid Principles

- Defining the problem
- Establishing a Cohesive Universe of Related Actions
- Explain approach to the Public
- Encourage debate and engagement on these efforts
Opioid Principles

- Prescription opioids can be as dangerous as heroin – and should be treated as such
  - #1 Principle is not the symptoms that had been the focus previously

- Opioid addiction is a public health crisis with a law enforcement component

- People struggling with opioid addiction need access to treatment without delay
Restructuring

- New emphasis within community policing

- Opioid Policy Coordinator
  - 30 years of social work enters the Police Department

- Data analysts with a new mission
- Epidemiologist consult
- New partnerships
- Specialized equipment
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CommunityStat: Responding to Systems Challenge

- Knowing partners, defining principles, restructuring – all these elements help

- CommunityStat is an effort to address some of the data challenges and the leadership challenges

- CitiStat, Compstat models applied to community issue
CommunityStat

- Data – Policy – People
  - Information clearing house
  - Creates natural coalitions
- Shaping & then advancing priorities
- Forum for accountability
  - Functional Work Outside Meeting: Substat / Triage Teams
Substat - Burlington Police and Other PDs in Action
Data and Progress

1. **Key Indicators**
   - Number of Accidental Opioid Overdose Fatalities in Chittenden County
     - 2017: 12
   - Number of Opioid Overdose Incidents Responded to by District 03 (Chittenden Cty) EMS
     - Jul 2017: 14
   - Number of Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits at UVM Medical Center
     - Jun 2017: 9
   - Average Number of Individuals on the Chittenden County Hub Wait List
     - Q2 2017: 90
       - Q1 2017: 132
       - Q4 2016: 158
       - Q3 2016: 243
       - Q2 2016: 289
       - Q1 2016: 215
       - Q4 2015: 273
       - Q3 2015: 277

Credit: CCOA and Sam Francis-Fath
Current Priorities

- Treatment and recovery without delay
- Develop prevention and public education plan
- Prison reform to support addiction treatment and recovery
- Develop a Legislative Agenda
This is a terrible crisis.

Mayors have a unique opportunity to address it within their cities.
Thank you

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