The Opioid Epidemic: Fireproofing Our Communities

In service to our Mission, PeaceHealth is working in collaboration with community partners to halt this epidemic and bring healing to patients and families suffering from substance use disorder and chronic pain.

The Need

"The current opioid epidemic is the deadliest drug crisis in American history." — The New York Times, 10/16/2017

- Overdoses, fueled by opioids, are the leading cause of death for Americans under 50 years old.
- Declared a public health emergency in October 2017, this epidemic impacts every segment of our society — young and old, rich and poor, urban and rural.
- It has its roots in the over-prescription and misuse of opioid painkillers, and now the availability of inexpensive, illegal opioids (like heroin and fentanyl), is rapidly adding fuel to this fire.

Facts of Opioid Addiction

- **4.3 million** Americans use opioids for non-medical purposes.
  — National Survey on Drug Use and Health
- **78 people** die each day from prescription painkiller overdoses.
  — Centers for Disease Control
- **21.2 years** is the average age for first-time use of prescription painkillers in the past year.
  — National Survey on Drug Use and Health
- **77%** 21-35 year olds represent the majority of opioid use disorder patients entering treatment.
- **70%** of patients with dependency on opioids, opiates or heroin entering treatment are male.
- **1.6x** likelihood that a patient in treatment for opioid use disorder has chronic pain.

Deeper Dive

What is Suboxone?

- A pain medication used for treatment of opioid addiction and chronic pain.
- The first medication on the market that makes the effects of opioid withdrawal.
- People in treatment with Suboxone can continue to function in their daily lives.

Community

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<th>Community</th>
<th>Opioid Deaths</th>
<th>Opioid Prescriptions</th>
<th>Pain Management</th>
<th>Alcohol Management</th>
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Community Health – Fire Prevention

PeaceHealth is involved in multidisciplinary opioid work groups in each of our Networks.

These workgroups bring together all sectors of the community to address the opioid epidemic. They vary by region, yet all have a similar focus:

- Control access to opioids
- Prescribing guidelines
- Alternate treatment for chronic pain
- Adequate access to treatment and medication assisted therapy (MAT)
- Opioid misuse prevention and education

TAKING ACTION – What PeaceHealth Is Doing

Addressing the opioid epidemic and helping those in need is a statewide community health priority.

- **Northwest Network**
  - Hold & strike system for medically assisted therapy
  - Part of community coalitions to address pain control methods

- **Columbia Network**
  - PHI Suboxone Clinic in partnership with Family Health Center Programs
  - Partnership with Hospital for placement of patients ready for treatment of chronic substance use disorder

- **Oregon Network**
  - Partner with Lane Pain Disturbance and Safety Alliance for prescribing guidelines/protocols
  - Offering alternative therapy/interventions for pain management of PeaceHealth

- **Firefighting**
  - Current PeaceHealth efforts

- **Fireproofing**
  - PeaceHealth Medical Group three-phase plan to address opioid issues began in December 2017

INCLUDED IN THE PLAN

- Documentation of risk screening and pain management agreements
- Accountability
- Peer reviews
- Prevention and treatment
- Overdose prevention Narcan (naloxone) policy and procedure
- Embedded treatment program
- Suboxone prescribing