



# SEPA Regional Overdose Prevention Coalition

## *“Breaking Down Silos”*

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*Executive Director*

*Chester & Delaware County Medical Societies*

*Chester County Overdose Task Force*

*Delaware County Heroin Task Force – Medical Subcommittee*

# Substance Abuse Disorders Are a Disease

## DEFINING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

- ▶ Substance use disorder is a pattern of use or misuse leading to significant impairment or distress.
- ▶ Some signs of opioid use disorder are:
  - ▶ Using a prescription drug to “get high”
  - ▶ Unable to control or cut down use
  - ▶ Taking in larger amounts or for longer than intended
  - ▶ Developing tolerance or having withdrawal
  - ▶ Unable to do what you are supposed to do for work, family, or school due to opioid use



FISH AND MAN  
THE U.S.'s CRAZIEST CONNECTION  
ABOUT ADDICTION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

- ▶ SEX
- ▶ DRUGS
- ▶ DRINKING
- ▶ SMOKING

Scientists are discovering the chemical secret to

# HOW WE GET ADDICTED

... and how we might get cured



# The Epidemic

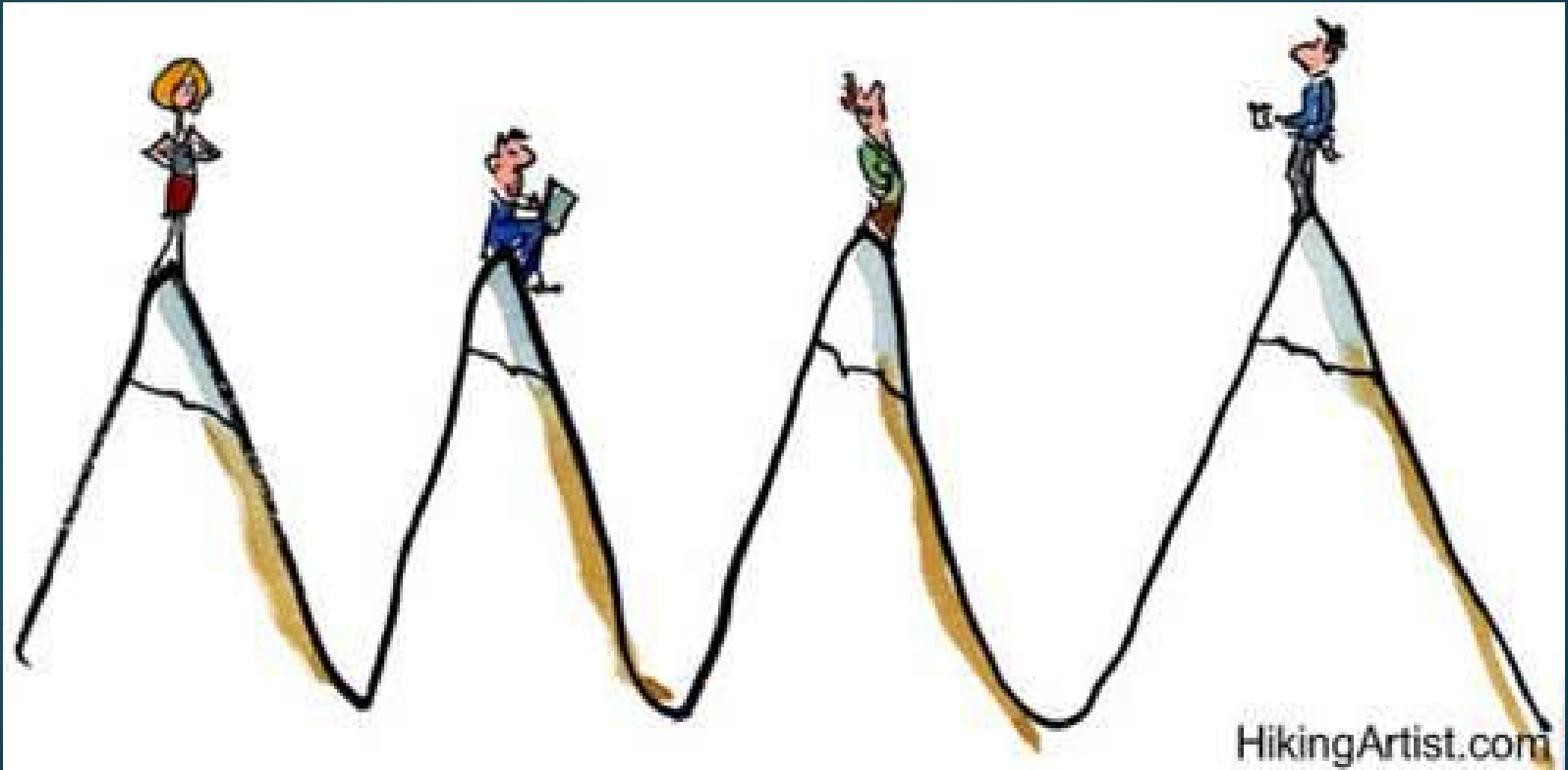
- ▶ From 2000 to 2016, over half a million people in the United States died from drug overdose. Since that time, it's only gotten worse.
- ▶ Nearly half of all opioid overdose deaths involved a prescription [opioid](#).
- ▶ In 2018 - 13 people per day will die from overdose in Pennsylvania which has the 6th highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country.

# Typical Response

- ▶ When a crisis becomes large or noticeable enough, people and organizations are compelled to respond
- ▶ Frequently, this results in dozens of Task Forces, Committees, Charities, and Organizations each addressing the problem from their viewpoint, including:

Hospitals, Universities, Businesses, Governmental Departments, Families, Professional Societies, etc.

Is this the best way?



# History - ROPC

- ▶ December 2016
- ▶ A group of individuals from Philadelphia working on an opioid program reached out to neighboring Delaware and Chester Counties to discuss holding a joint conference
- ▶ Presentations on safer opioid prescribing for chronic pain treatment were held in Philadelphia, Chester & Delaware County locations in early 2017
  - ▶ SCOPE of Pain (Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing Education) is a continuing education program run by Boston University

# Early 2017

- ▶ Collaboration was thought to be beneficial in order to expand the audience for the safer prescribing symposium
- ▶ The planners seized on the opportunity to host a forum for collaboration across counties on additional issues related to the opioid epidemic



# March 2017 at the Philadelphia County Medical Society



**WHEN: FRIDAY MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>,  
2017 10AM TO 2PM**

**WHERE: THE PHILADELPHIA  
COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
2100 SPRING GARDEN STREET**

## **AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON A REGIONAL APPROACH TO OPIOIDS AND OVERDOSE**

*Lunch and Parking Provided*

*Please RSVP to: [silvana@ppponline.org](mailto:silvana@ppponline.org)*

Please join us for an interactive discussion with National Experts, Regional Public and Behavioral Health Planners and Data Managers, as well as Policymakers from Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties as we begin the discussion to develop collaborative approaches to:

- Reducing the Regional Prescription Supply
- Incorporating Access to Treatment in the Context of Care
- Regional Data Sharing
- A Regional Treatment Inventory
- Increasing Naloxone Access

# March 2017



- ▶ Participants attended from a wide cross-section of those dealing with overdose, including health department, drug & alcohol department, and medical society members; policy planners; data analysts; law enforcement and first responder representatives; treatment facility directors; behavioral health specialists; and more.
- ▶ Feedback from the attendees indicated interest in continuing the dialogue

# June 2017 in West Chester

## Regional Overdose Prevention Collaboration



Please join us to continue the conversation among local, state, and regional groups to enhance collaboration in southeast Pennsylvania. Representatives from Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia County are invited to discuss:

- Data Sharing
- Access to Treatment
- Naloxone Access
- Regional Treatment Inventory
- And more

**June 30, 2017**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Government Services Center**

**601 Westtown Road**

**West Chester PA 19380**

*Lunch and Parking Provided*

RSVP at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OverdosePrev6-30-17>

For further information, contact Dr. Renée Cassidy: [rcassidy@chesco.org](mailto:rcassidy@chesco.org)

# October 2017

## At the Glen Mills Schools in Delaware County

### Regional Overdose Prevention Coalition



Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia County  
(PA); Camden County (NJ); New Castle County (DE)

Regional Conference 10/27/17 hosted by Delaware County

Please join us to continue the conversation and collaboration of local, state, and regional groups in the Philadelphia region.

Breakout sessions include:

- Data Sharing
- Perinatal Health
- Working with Payers
- Communications

**Friday, October 27, 2017**

**10 am-1:30 pm**

**Glen Mills Schools**

**185 Glen Mills Road**

**Glen Mills, PA 19342**

*Lunch and Parking Provided*

RSVP by October 20<sup>th</sup> using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OverdosePrevention2017>

For further information, please contact

David McKeighan at [delcomedsoc@comcast.net](mailto:delcomedsoc@comcast.net)

### Addiction and Overdose Continue to Ravage Our Communities

...

The opioid crisis continues to dominate our region. A recent publication in the Journal of American Medical Association stated that for the first time since 1993, the average life expectancy was diminished by two months. This decrease is attributed to overdoses from opioids. It is also believed that this number could be underreported by as much as 25%. Our coalition is working to alleviate the burden caused by the opioid epidemic through increasing collaboration and communication across county lines.

# October 2017



- ▶ Feedback continued to indicate the value of an ongoing collaboration, so arrangements were made to formalize the organization
- ▶ In addition to hosting the third conference, in Delaware County, we held an organizational meeting
  - ▶ The Regional Overdose Prevention Coalition was born & a formal structure including an executive committee, subcommittees, and chairpersons was determined

# February 2018

# Newtown, Bucks County

## Regional Overdose Prevention Coalition



Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia County  
(PA); Camden County (NJ); New Castle County (DE)

Regional Conference 2/23/18 hosted by Bucks County

**On January 10,  
2018, Governor  
Wolf Declared  
the Heroin and  
Opioid Epidemic  
a Statewide  
Disaster  
Emergency.  
What does that  
mean for you?**



Jason Snyder, Special  
Assistant to the  
Secretary of the  
Pennsylvania  
Department of  
Human Services, will  
discuss what the  
disaster declaration  
means for counties  
and county-level  
organizations. A  
question and answer  
session will follow  
the presentation.

Please join us to continue the conversation and collaboration of local, state, and regional groups in the Philadelphia region. We will present updates on prior topics including data sharing and perinatal health. Breakout sessions include:

- First Responder Safety
- Recovery Issues
- Working with Payers
- Communication with Legislators

**Friday, February 23, 2018**

**10 am - 2 pm**

**Bucks County Community College  
Newtown Campus  
275 Swamp Road**

**Newtown, PA 18940**

*Lunch and Parking Provided;*

*Details will be sent to registrants*

RSVP by February 16<sup>th</sup> using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RTZ2DSY>

For information, please contact David McKeighan  
at [delcomedsoc@comcast.net](mailto:delcomedsoc@comcast.net) or (610) 892-7750

# Today

- ▶ The ROPC is currently planning a June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting in Montgomery County.
- ▶ We have a distribution list of approximately 250 people in 7 counties across 3 states (adding Camden County, NJ & New Castle County, DE).
- ▶ A group of 60 to 100 people participate in conferences held roughly four times per year.
- ▶ A subset of 30 to 40 people from 7 counties actively participate on subcommittee action items between meetings.

# ROPC Endeavors

## Treatment Inventory

- ▶ With people who live in one county, work in another, and overdose anywhere, knowing the treatment options for all the counties in the area is important
- ▶ ROPC subcommittee members collated a list of treatment facilities to share
- ▶ We are currently working on a more robust list which includes specific capabilities of behavioral health facilities
- ▶ Ultimately, we would love a real-time inventory



# Warm Handoff



- ▶ Discussion among different counties revealed several methods for warm handoff
- ▶ The models were summarized and participants discussed pros and cons of various styles
- ▶ Many ROPC participants attended the regional summit on Warm Handoff organized by the state of PA

# Data Sharing

- ▶ In conjunction with efforts by the PA Opioid Overdose Reduction Technical Assistance Center, based out of the University of Pittsburgh, and
- ▶ HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) of Washington-Baltimore and Liberty-Mid Atlantic (formerly Philadelphia-Camden),
- ▶ Our ROPC is attempting to increase the reliability, consistency, and availability of data across the region

# Safer Prescribing

- ▶ ROPC members have been involved in outreach efforts to prescribers to encourage safer use of prescription pain medications
- ▶ Fostering connections across counties has enabled sharing of resources, cross-promotion of conferences, and sharing of contacts
- ▶ Promoting the Use of the PDMP

# Payer Collaboration

- ▶ Several meetings have been organized with insurance company executives and medical directors (medical and behavioral health; public and private) to discuss ways in which we can collaborate with payers to address the challenges of the opioid epidemic
- ▶ Discussions have covered wide-ranging topics including communication, diminishing barriers to treatment, assessing the quality of care for substance use disorder, and integrating medical & behavioral health

# Legislative

- ▶ Discussions thus far have focused on how best to educate legislators and their aides, rather than advocating for specific policies
- ▶ The ROPC is beginning to create white papers on various topics, including the impact of opioids on maternal and child health (particularly Medication Assisted Treatment (MATs) Options & pregnancy - neonatal abstinence syndrome)
- ▶ Development of an Active Tracking List of Bills in State Legislature that are related to Opioids

# Communications



- ▶ Sharing information is one of the foremost benefits of the collaboration
- ▶ The ROPC created a flyer to easily explain how to access treatment in any county
- ▶ Many executive committee members have been asked to be panelists or presenters
- ▶ Facilitating inter-disciplinary discussion to address issues i.e., physicians & pharmacists ....

# Special Thanks:

Renée M. Cassidy, MD, FAAP, FACP

Public Health Physician, Chester County Health Department  
Chair, Regional Overdose Prevention Coalition, SE PA

Aviva Fohrer, MD

Board Certified in Addiction Medicine & Family Medicine  
Thalia Medical Center, Ardmore, PA