

**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
**Division of Behavioral Health / Bureau of Substance Abuse**  
**Opioid Update for Wednesday, June 27, 2018**

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers the Opioid Update to share information about opioid use and Iowa's efforts to address the national opioid epidemic. Please feel free to submit topics to Julie Jones at [julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov).

**In this issue:**

- **Department Efforts**
- **Opioid News**
- **Iowa News**
- **Upcoming Trainings**

**Department Efforts**

**Naloxone Access Day June 29: Update**

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Board of Pharmacy, and Iowa Pharmacy Association, are teaming up to sponsor a statewide Naloxone Access Day. Intended to expand availability of the naloxone nasal spray (Narcan) for anyone concerned about someone's use of opioids (*including their own*), limited quantities of **free naloxone kits will be available at nearly 370 participating pharmacies in Iowa.**

The naloxone kits being distributed are funded through two of IDPH's SAMHSA grants: Access to Recovery (ATR) and Opioid State Targeted Response (STR).

To find a participating pharmacy, please click on the following link: [Naloxone](#)

**Opioid News**

**SAMHSA Announces State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for the 2018 State Opioid Response Grant (SOR). The program aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment using the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD). Iowa is slated to receive \$4.35 million per year for two years. Eligibility is limited to Single State Agencies (IDPH) and territories.

For more information on the SOR grant, contact Monica Wilke-Brown at [monica.wilke-brown@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:monica.wilke-brown@idph.iowa.gov).

**Addiction Policy Forum's Hospital Toolkit**

The Addiction Policy Forum recently released their Hospital Toolkit, designed to empower patients, families, healthcare providers and policymakers to work collaboratively to identify patients in need of help related to addiction, initiate evidence-based treatments, and connect patients and families to comprehensive services.

To learn more about the Hospital Toolkit, please click on the following link: [Toolkit](#)

## **HRSA Announces Rural Communities Opioid Response (RCORP) Grant**

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) has released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the new Rural Communities Opioid Response - Planning (RCORP) initiative for Fiscal Year 2018. HRSA plans to award approximately 75 grants to rural communities as part of this funding opportunity.

Successful awardees will receive up to \$200,000 for one year to develop plans to implement opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery interventions designed to reduce opioid overdoses among rural populations.

To learn more about the funding opportunity, please click on the following link: [RCORP](#)

## **Iowa News**

### **When an Iowa Family Doctor Takes on the Opioid Epidemic**

On June 23, the New York Times published an article about Iowa family doctor Dr. Nicole Gastala and her efforts to address the opioid epidemic. She is one of a small cadre of primary care doctors who regularly prescribe buprenorphine, a medication that helps suppress the cravings and withdrawal symptoms that plague people addicted to opioids.

Working through her practice at Primary Health Care in Marshalltown, and in collaboration with the Substance Abuse Treatment Unit of Central Iowa (SATUCI), Dr. Gastala and nurse case manager Andrea Storjohann provide medication assisted treatment to patients with opioid use disorders and connect those patients to needed substance use disorder treatment.

To read the entire article, please click on the following link: [NY Times](#)

## **Upcoming Trainings**

### **Webinar: To Oxy or not to Oxy – How to Safely and Effectively Manage Pain in an Opioid Nation**

This webinar on pain management is designed to help prescribers safely and effectively manage patients with chronic pain, when appropriate, with opioid analgesics. The presentation will discuss and raise awareness about pain, its many causes, modes of diagnosis as well as evidence-based treatment. In addition, a discussion will be held on non-pharmacotherapy and pharmacotherapy, including non-opioid and opioid formulations.

The webinar will be held on June 28, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm CDT. To register, please click on the following link: [Webinar](#)