

**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
**Division of Behavioral Health**  
**Opioid Update for Wednesday, March 21, 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).

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**Department Efforts**

**AmeriCorps RFP Released**

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Behavioral Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse proposes to support 30 AmeriCorps members (15 full time and 15 half time). Members will provide education to Iowa communities on substance abuse, particularly opioid and prescription drug abuse; build capacity of organizations who need to broaden understanding of opioid and prescription drug abuse; and form coalitions and partners to address the growing crisis.

At the end of the first program year, AmeriCorps members will increase community education, knowledge, and awareness on prescription drug and opioid abuse and enhance program capacity and sustainability of substance abuse prevention programs, mentoring programs, and recovery community organizations. In addition, AmeriCorps members will recruit 300 volunteers who will be engaged in 1100 hours of service.

To view the RFP, please click on the following link: [Iowa Grants](#)

**Legislative Interest**

**House File 2377**

As previously mentioned, the Iowa House of Representatives passed House File 2377. The bill includes a variety of opioid-related efforts, including:

- Prescriber registration and use of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) prior to issuing an opioid prescription
- Transmission of prescription information for controlled substances by a pharmacy to the PMP within one business day of the dispensing
- Adoption of a Good Samaritan law to provide certain protections for good-faith actions to seek medical assistance for an individual experiencing an overdose
- Provider education on the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

The bill passed the Senate Human Resources Committee and has moved on to the Senate Floor. *Stay tuned!*

## **Opioid News**

### **President Trump Announces Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse**

On March 19, 2018, President Trump announced his new opioid initiative to stop opioid abuse and reduce drug supply and demand. The President's Initiative is divided into three areas:

#### **REDUCE DEMAND AND OVER-PRESCRIPTION: President Trump's Opioid Initiative will educate Americans about the dangers of opioid and other drug use and seek to curb over-prescription.**

- Launch a nationwide evidence-based campaign to raise public awareness about the dangers of prescription and illicit opioid use, as well as other drug use.
- Support research and development efforts for innovative technologies and additional therapies designed to prevent addiction and decrease the use of opioids in pain management.
  - This will include supporting research and development for a vaccine to prevent opioid addiction and non-addictive pain management options.
- Reduce the over-prescription of opioids which has the potential to lead Americans down a path to addiction or facilitate diversion to illicit use.
- Implement a Safer Prescribing Plan to achieve the following objectives:
  - Cut nationwide opioid prescription fills by one-third within three years.
  - Ensure that 75 percent of opioid prescriptions reimbursed by Federal healthcare programs are issued using best practices within three years, and 95 percent within five years.
  - Ensure that at least half of all Federally-employed healthcare providers adopt best practices for opioid prescribing within two years, with all of them doing so within five years.
  - Leverage Federal funding opportunities related to opioids to ensure that States transition to a nationally interoperable Prescription Drug Monitoring Program network.

#### **CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF ILLICIT DRUGS: President Trump's Opioid Initiative will crack down on international and domestic illicit drug supply chains devastating American communities:**

- Keep dangerous drugs out of the United States
  - Secure land borders, ports of entry, and water ways against illegal smuggling.
  - Require advance electronic data for 90 percent of all international mail shipments (with goods) and consignment shipments within three years, in order for the Department of Homeland Security to flag high-risk shipments.
  - Identify and inspect high-risk shipments leveraging advanced screening technologies and by using drug-detecting canines.
  - Test and identify suspicious substances in high-risk international packages to quickly detect and remove known and emerging illicit drugs before they can cause harm.
  - Engage with China and expand cooperation with Mexico to reduce supplies of heroin, other illicit opioids, and precursor chemicals.
- Advance the Department of Justice (DOJ) Prescription Interdiction and Litigation (PIL) Task Force to fight the prescription opioid crisis. The PIL Task Force will:
  - Expand the DOJ Opioid Fraud and Abuse Detection Unit's efforts to prosecute corrupt or criminally negligent doctors, pharmacies, and distributors.
  - Aggressively deploy appropriate criminal and civil actions to hold opioid manufacturers accountable for any unlawful practices.

- Shut down illicit opioid sales conducted online and seize any related assets.
  - Scale up internet enforcement efforts under DOJ's new Joint Criminal Opioid Darknet Enforcement (J-CODE) team.
- Strengthen criminal penalties for dealing and trafficking in fentanyl and other opioids:
  - DOJ will seek the death penalty against drug traffickers, where appropriate under current law.
  - The President also calls on Congress to pass legislation that reduces the threshold amount of drugs needed to invoke mandatory minimum sentences for drug traffickers who knowingly distribute certain illicit opioids that are lethal in trace amounts.

**HELP THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION: President Trump's Opioid Initiative will help those struggling with addiction through evidence-based treatment and recovery support services:**

- Work to ensure first responders are supplied with naloxone, a lifesaving medication used to reverse overdoses.
- Leverage Federal funding opportunities to State and local jurisdictions to incentivize and improve nationwide overdose tracking systems that will help resources to be rapidly deployed to hard-hit areas.
- Expand access to evidence-based addiction treatment in every State, particularly Medication-Assisted Treatment for opioid addiction.
- Seek legislative changes to the law prohibiting Medicaid from reimbursing residential treatment at certain facilities with more than 16 beds.
  - In the meantime, continue approving State Medicaid demonstration projects that waive these barriers to inpatient treatment.
- Provide on-demand, evidence-based addiction treatment to service members, veterans and their families eligible for healthcare through the Departments of Defense or Veterans Affairs.
- Leverage opportunities in the criminal justice system to identify and treat offenders struggling with addiction.
  - Screen every Federal inmate for opioid addiction at intake.
  - For those who screen positive and are approved for placement in residential reentry centers, facilitate naltrexone treatment and access to treatment prior to and while at residential reentry centers and facilitate connection to community treatment services as needed.
  - Scale up support for State, Tribal, and local drug courts in order to provide offenders struggling with addiction access to evidence-based treatment as an alternative to or in conjunction with incarceration, or as a condition of supervised release.