

Region VIII Opioid Consultation Team: Accomplishments (2014-2016)

- Establishment of a Federal Regional Opioid Addiction Consultation Team (Federal agency members include: HHS-ORD, SAMHSA, HRSA, OASH, CMS, IHS, ACL-AoA, FDA, ACF; EPA; DEA; DoJ-OIG; USDA; HUD and VA)
 - Medication Assisted Treatment
 - Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - PDMP
 - Naloxone
 - Community Prevention
- Educating health care providers and the public about PDA/OA & overdose death
 - CO Rural Health Conference: Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention 2015 & 2016
 - Developed Region VIII HRSA/SAMHSA 5-part learning series, “Strategies to Address Opioid and Prescription Drug Abuse” (7/2015)
 - Hosted Region VIII MAT Conference, co-sponsored by NFAR-ATTC and CRATTC (8/2016)
 - Promotion of SAMHSA’s PCSS across HRSA and CMS funded programs, and with VA and IHS providers.
 - Coordination with AAP and Utah for DATA 2000 Waiver Training (11/2016)
 - Participated in USDA Field Hearing (10/2016)
 - Promotion of the CDC *Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain* & the OASH *National Pain Strategy*
 - Disseminated SAMHSA’s Opioid Overdose Toolkit, MAT Practitioner Guides, and MAT app across the Region
 - Promoting the use of screening, early detection, and treatment across primary care settings.
 - Collaboration with CAPT to support rural communities implementing youth opioid prevention programs
- Opioid Consultation Team Site Visit – Carbon County, UT (8/2016)
- Coordinated CDC Epi-Aid in IHS-Great Plains to examine prevalence of Tribal Neo-natal Abstinence Syndrome
- Development of Region VIII state-by-state report of state PDMPs
- Supporting state licensing boards, medical liability insurance, workers’ compensation programs, and state-run health plans to proactively educate and take action against inappropriate prescribing practices.
- Promoted integration of SAMHSA, HRSA, IHS, and VA treatment locators. <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>
- Cross Federal Agency Collaboration
 - HHS, EPA, GSA, & DEA identified regional challenges and strategies for proper disposal of unused medications
 - Promotion of the National Drug Take Back Day (Hosted Region VIII Federal events in April & October 2016)
- Developing core PDA/Opioid Addiction/Opioid Overdose training for HRSA-NHSC participants
- Expanding current efforts to improve access to and use of Naloxone
 - Partner with state and local hospitals, primary care providers/agencies, pharmacies, and first responder agencies (LE, EMS, Fire, & Forest Service) to disseminate naloxone/Naloxone Injector Response Kits (NIRKs).
 - Collaboration with VA regarding free NIRK program and adoption by IHS for Tribal Law Enforcement
- Consultation with IHS (Great Plains Area, Billings Area, and HQ) regarding:
 - Responsible prescribing of pain medications and use of non-medication treatment for pain,
 - Prescribing painkillers only when other treatments have not been effective for pain,
 - Prescribing only the quantity of painkillers needed based on the expected length of pain,
 - Using patient-provider agreements and urine drug tests for patients using prescription painkillers,
 - Importance of universal screening, and treatment of substance abuse and mental health problems,
 - Talking with patients about safely using, storing and disposing of prescription painkillers, and
 - Use PDMPs to identify patients who are improperly using prescription painkillers.

