

Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative

Quick Guide

BROCKTON AREA OPIOID ABUSE



PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE



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History of the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative:

In 2008, the City of Brockton in partnership with High Point Treatment Center was awarded the MassCALL2 grant with the primary objective of saving the lives of those in the community of Brockton suffering from opiate addiction and to create awareness about opioid overdose prevention.

Today, the coalition has expanded to become a part of the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative, encompassing the towns of Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Hanson, Rockland, and Whitman as a regional approach. The BAOAPC was the first funded cluster on the south shore to address the issue of opioid abuse and overdose.

Strategies and interventions for our state grants must be consistent with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model, consistent with any available evidence-based practices or local best practices.

The Collaborative focuses on education, trainings, and outreach for individuals in active use, bystanders, and the community at large.

What does the BAOAPC do?

The objective of the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative is to provide primary, secondary and tertiary prevention resources including education, awareness and support to the communities that we serve. The grant provides technical assistance to volunteers across twelve sectors in addition to promoting advocacy and working effortlessly to reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders.

What towns/cities receive funding/preventative initiatives from the BAOAPC?

Currently we work with 4 different grants that allow us to provide preventative strategies in the following towns/cities:

- Brockton (Brockton Mayor's Opioid Overdose Prevention Coalition)
- Bridgewater (Bridging LIVES)
- East Bridgewater (EB HOPE)
- Hanson (Whitman-Hanson WILL)
- Rockland (Rockland CARES)
- Whitman (Whitman-Hanson WILL)

GRANTS THAT FUND THE COLLABORATIVE:

Massachusetts Overdose Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

The MOAPC Grant Program is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MADPH) Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) to address the issue of opioid use and fatal/non-fatal opioid overdoses in Massachusetts. The purpose of the grant is to implement local policy, practice, systems and environmental change to prevent the use of opioids, prevent/reduce fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses, and increase both the number and capacity of municipalities across the Commonwealth addressing these issues. Additionally, this grant seeks to provide financial support for groups of municipalities to enter into formal, long term agreements to share resources and coordinate activities in order to increase the scope of this work and capacity of municipalities to address these issues among their combined populations.

Partnership for Success 2015

The purpose of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Partnerships for Success 2015 (PFS 2015) grant program is to prevent prescription drug misuse and abuse among high school aged youth across the Commonwealth.

This grant program will target prescription drug misuse and abuse among high school aged youth (14 to 18) in 16 Massachusetts communities of high need. Together, these communities are home to nearly two million residents, approximately 30% of the total Massachusetts population of 6.7 million. They also include the state's ten largest cities. The City of Brockton has been funded through the PFS 2015 grant. We will use the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to implement evidence-based prevention strategies within the city.

Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC)

The BAOAPC was awarded the SAPC grant July 1 2015, funded by BSAS, as part of a comprehensive approach to reduce the use and misuse of substances throughout the state. The SAPC grant specifically addresses underage drinking from a regional approach. The collaborative towns, with the addition of Bridgewater, home to Bridgewater State University, will work to implement strategies that will have a sustained effect on prevention and reducing underage drinking and the devastating consequences that can ensue. Through primary prevention strategies, SAPC aims to promote and enforce the Social Host Liability Law, implement a social marketing campaign, and streamline the school alcohol and substance use policies within the local school districts.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant

The BAOAPC was awarded the DFC grant in October 2014 in partnership with the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office under a federal grant sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The primary goals of this grant are to: Establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, public and private non-profit agencies; as well as federal, state, local, and tribal governments to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent and reduce prescription opioid and heroin use among youth (18 years and younger). In addition, we aim to reduce prescription opioid and heroin use among youth and, over time, reduce prescription opioid and heroin use among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance use.

Strategies and interventions for our state grants must be consistent with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model, consistent with any available evidence-based practices or local best practices. The Collaborative focuses on education, trainings, and outreach for individuals in active use, bystanders, and the community at large.

Resources/Programs/Trainings the BAOAPC is involved with or offers:

Community Coalitions: The BAOAPC oversees a total of 5 coalitions (Bridging Lives, Brockton Mayor's Opioid Overdose Prevention Coalition, EB HOPE, Rockland Cares, and Whitman Hanson WILL). All of these coalitions consist of key stakeholders in each city/town including: city/town municipalities, school districts, local businesses, law enforcement, faith-based community, elderly population, businesses/organizations, and youth.

Opioid Prevention Trainings: The BAOAPC offers an engaging presentation to help inform a variety of audiences about opioids and the brain, signs and symptoms of opioid use, risk factors for an overdose, information pertaining to myths about OD, overdose management skills, naloxone, and resources available in the local area.

Naloxone Trainings: The BAOAPC provides trainings to educate the public on naloxone, a medication that reverse s an opioid overdose.

PhotoVoice Projects: In August of 2013, the Coalition piloted a project called PhotoVoice, a qualitative methodology of research that communicates important health messages to policy-makers. This activity puts cameras in the hands of creative youth and offers an opportunity to record and reflect upon their community's strengths and concerns. The coalition's ultimate objective of this project was to increase awareness of prescription drug misuse in our community. The information gathered throughout this group is used to display the creative voice of the community's youth and to spread education in an innovative way.



Our projects are based on the topic of prescription drug misuse and abuse in our community, our state and our nation as a whole. Participants gain education around this subject and are given a chance to construct their own perspective through a creative lens. Throughout each week of the project, participants are asked a series of questions that they are expected to answer through their photography. Upon their return each week, students reflect upon their photography and their thoughts related to the questions in a focus group setting. Quotes are then derived from these reflection groups to go along with the photography. This not only gives young people an opportunity for non-traditional drug education, but also a chance to share their voice in issues where they are not often heard.

Our PhotoVoice Projects have been used for a variety of different purposes including, the creation of local billboards, magazine advertisements, as a well displays at conferences and events as a tool to educate the community from a youth's perspective.

EB Hope Drop-In Center: The EB HOPE Substance Abuse Outreach and Intervention Program provides a gateway to professional resources for persons with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and family members of persons with SUDs. The Drop-In Center offers substance use assistance and

resources, a bi-monthly outreach center at the Community Covenant Church, information on the availability of mental health services, training on the use of nasal Naloxone, referral and access to inpatient and outpatient services, family education and support, as well as faith-based intervention and support.

Champion Plan: The Champion Plan is a police-assisted outreach program in Brockton that is meant to help place individuals with substance use disorder who want help into addiction treatment facilities. Modeled after a similar program in Gloucester, addicts asking for help will receive it. Brockton's police headquarters serves as the drop-in center. A designated specialist assists any individual who enters the police station with a substance use disorder and or their family. From there, Brockton-based addiction resource group, Stairway to Recovery, provides volunteers who are in recovery themselves, to support the people entering into the program. They are then taken to the Stairway to Recovery office, which serves as a safe haven while they are waiting to get into a treatment facility. Once a bed at one of the six area treatment centers participating in the program is available, Brewster Ambulance takes the person to the facility to begin their treatment.

SportSmart: The BAOAPC, in collaboration with the Plymouth County DA's Office and Dr. Dan Muse of Signature Healthcare, offers a substance use presentation for high school aged youth. Schools have had success incorporating this presentation into their mandatory seasonal pre-season sports meetings. The presentation is recommended to coincide with concussion training for high school students and covers topics such as managing pain from acute injuries and surgery, recognizing the signs of withdrawal, substances of abuse, as well as symptoms of a concussion, etc. It is recommended that students, parents, coaching staff and trainers be present.

Social Marketing Campaigns: The BAOAPC utilizes current student survey data, PhotoVoice photography, recent trends as well as a youth perspective to create a unique social marketing campaign to promote prevention and change within the community. The campaign has come in the form of public service announcements, local billboards, advertisements, informational brochures, flyers, quarterly newsletters, etc.



Open House/Parent Conferences: The BAOAPC frequently attends open houses and parent teacher conferences as a way to build awareness, share knowledge and offer support to parents and families in regards to substance use. The collaborative displays PhotoVoice as well as Hidden in Plain Sight at these events for parents and families to explore.

Candlelight Vigils: Every year, each of the towns within the BAOAPC hosts an overdose vigil by candlelight to commemorate those who've lost their lives to an overdose. Partnering organizations attend to share resources and offer support for those affected by substance use. Speakers share their stories of losing their loved ones, the pain and suffering that comes along with being a support system in the life of someone battling the disease of addiction, as well as the experience of achieving long term recovery to share the story of hope. A slideshow is shown at all of the vigils to share photographs of those who've passed away from an overdose.

Community Events/Resource Tables: The BAOAPC offers their support and expertise at a variety of different community events each year by displaying a resource table that is filled with valuable information for students, parents and families in regards to substance use prevention.