A Public Health Approach to Fentanyl and Substance Use

Office of Behavioral Health Strategies, DDPHE
Spectrum of Programs for Spectrum of Needs

Wellness Winnie

Substance Use Navigators (SUN)

Support Team Assisted Response (STAR)

Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program

Behavioral Health Solutions Center
Wellness Winnie

Shawna Darling
Wellness Winnie Overview

• Denver’s behavioral health mobile unit
• Addresses City’s goals outlined in behavioral health strategic plans
• Operates on a scheduled route of specific locations for an extended time period
• Multitude of resources and services provided
• Specialized team of 3 and growing!
Wellness Winnie Partners

- DDPHE Vital Records (birth certificates)
- DDPHE community health workers
- Denver Department Housing Stability (HOST) - Early Intervention Team (EIT) outreach workers
- Denver Human Services eligibility team
- Denver Public Library outreach workers, outreach tele-court
- RTD outreach workers
Wellness Winnie Expansion

SUPER WINNIE: Advanced support, assistance, and resources to those in need, where they are, with a focus on those mis-using substances.
Provides the same services as Original Winnie plus...

- Psychiatric assessment, psychopharmacology
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Immunizations
- Wound care
- Pregnancy tests and birth control
- Housing assessments
- Brief therapy
- Telehealth

SPRINTER WINNIE: Able to deploy easily to cover requests for Original Winnie
Duplicates original Winnie on a smaller scale, provides the same services plus...

- Direct transportation from Super & Original Winnies to treatment
Substance Use Navigation (SUN)

Jennifer Naeger, LCSW
SUN Program Overview

Co-responder model that is SUD-focused

- Substance use navigators (SUNs) partner with first responders to engage people with substance use needs
- Provides alternative care in the least restrictive environment

Goals:

- People receive linkage to BH and SUD services and needed treatment
- Prevent unnecessary incarcerations and/or hospitalizations
- Facilitate the return of law enforcement units to patrol activities
Growing team!

• Currently for substance use navigators (SUNs), we have one full-time clinician (LPC) and one Clinical Care Navigator
• Now adding an additional full-time clinical navigator and peer
• Our program administrator becoming full-time and no longer part-time!
• Building upon partnerships across DPD, EIT, SET, DH, CCH
Support Team Assisted Response (STAR)

Carleigh M. Sailon, LCSW, LAC
Support Team Assisted Response (STAR)

- Person-centric mobile crisis response
- Serves those experiencing problems related to mental health, depression, poverty, homelessness, and/or substance misuse issues
- Not a substitute for a public safety response

- 4 units available for dispatch: 1 paramedic & 1 behavioral health clinician
  - Monday-Sunday, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
  - Dispatched via 9-1-1
  - 5th unit planned to deploy fall of 2022
  - Dispatched to Denver Union Station area 26 times in 2022
Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program

Marion Rorke, MPH
OEND Program Overview

Overview:
• Providing overdose education and naloxone distribution
• Using multiple pathways to ultimately reduce overdose deaths in the City & County of Denver

Services provided:
• Technical assistance
• Training (virtual or in-person)
• Physical resources (naloxone, fentanyl test strips, informational materials)
OEND Distribution Activities

Activities from 2021 – now:

• Online portal for individual residents to request Narcan & fentanyl test strips to be mailed
• Expanding agencies who distribute Narcan
• Peer-based distribution (SSPs & other PWLE)
• Targeted distribution to disproportionately impacted groups
Behavioral Health Solutions Center

Dani Peters, LCSW
Behavioral Health Solutions Center

Overview:

• Provides critical MH & BH support services, 24/7:
  • crisis stabilization
  • substance use treatment
  • short-term in-patient treatment
• Supports jail diversion and serves a diverse population, including people experiencing homelessness
Behavioral Health Solutions Center

Partners:
- Operated and staffed by WellPower (DDPHE contract)
- Denver First Responders (DPD, STAR, SUN, Parole/Probation, HOST)

Outcomes (so far):
- 1,041 Unique Individuals Served from May 2021-August 1, 2022
Public Health Approach to Fentanyl and Substance Use

Questions?
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Empowering Denver’s communities to live better, longer