

The City of Philadelphia's Commitment to Overdose Prevention Sites

The City of Philadelphia will support Safehouse in establishing the nation's first Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS) because the Kenney Administration believes OPS will save lives and connect people suffering from addiction to needed services and health care.

While the City is not operating the OPS, we are committed to addressing the public safety needs of the surrounding community as well as the service needs of the clients using the site.

The City will ensure...

There is no increase in illegal drug sales, violent crime, property crime, disorderly related offenses, or loitering in the vicinity of an OPS facility

No one intimidates OPS clients or interferes with individuals' ability to receive services and health care

All people using an OPS facility respect residents' and businesses' safety and property

- The Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) will maintain a constant presence in the immediate and surrounding area by utilizing a variety of patrol methods, and consistent with the hours of operation for the site.
- Police Assisted Diversion personnel will continue to accompany PPD's service detail on designated shifts to offer services to those in need
- PPD will work closely with SEPTA Transit Police Department to provide a strong uniform presence along public transit
- Narcotics enforcement will prevent targeted sales to individuals entering and exiting the facilities
- PPD's Civil Affairs Unit will ensure peace in the area should demonstration activities occur
- Town Watch Integrated Services will assist in organizing neighborhood cleanups, mediating disputes, conducting drug prevention, education and helping students travel safely to and from schools
- The City will work with community groups to organize public meetings and support area schools and recreation centers

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Commitment to Overdose Prevention Sites

*"The potential impact of an OPS may be reduced if it opens in a location where complementary services are already available. The City will provide on-site treatment and support services at Overdose Prevention Sites."
- Brian Abernathy, Managing Director*

Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT):

We will connect individuals to assessment, medication-assisted treatment, and recovery support services. Assessment for and possible initiation of MAT will be available 24/7/365 via Access Point, operated by NET Centers.

The City's existing network of behavioral health treatment providers will be available to administer and prescribe methadone, buprenorphine, and vivitrol in various settings across the city. These professionals – who may include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and/or psychiatrists – will provide assessment for MAT, start treatment if warranted, and initiate a "warm handoff" to one of several partnering outpatient programs for ongoing MAT.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment services

- Outpatient treatment
- Intensive outpatient treatment
- Partial hospitalization
- Residential rehabilitation
- Withdrawal management

- Mental health treatment

Other Supportive Services

- Case management
- Halfway housing
- Recovery housing
- Safe havens

Wound Care:

Wounds and infections are a common and potentially serious complication of injection drug use. Medical care for skin and soft tissue wounds will be provided on-site or in close proximity to a facility. If advanced wound care is needed, the provider will refer the patient to a local health system for further evaluation and treatment.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A third party report estimated that a Philadelphia site could save 24-76 lives per year
- Approximately 120 OPS exist in 10 other countries
- The first North American site opened in Vancouver, Canada in 2003
- There has not been a single overdose death in any OPS
- Third-party evaluations have shown OPS to reduce public disorder and have no impact on neighborhood crime

Behavioral Health Network:

For Medicaid recipients or uninsured individuals, linkages will be made within the existing network of behavioral health providers for service(s) as appropriate based on an individual's needs.

Peer Support:

The City will fund Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) and Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) — individuals with lived experience with mental health conditions and substance use disorders, respectively — to engage and support individuals with SUD and help them identify immediate and long-term needs, including treatment. These staff will link to the existing network of behavioral health providers and may assist clients by accompanying them to an assessment or intake.

Case Management:

The City will fund case management in order to help individuals with SUD connect to a range of social services (housing, behavioral health treatment, identification cards, employment, health insurance, education, and more) as well as re-connecting with families.