

6-MONTH UPDATE

Philadelphia's Overdose Response

October 2023



Notable Highlights

As detailed below, The City of Philadelphia has:

Developed and implemented a [Citywide Outreach and Engagement Plan](#) that seeks to increase access to substance use treatment and harm reduction-related materials in Philadelphia zip codes experiencing disproportionate rates of overdose. The door-to-door canvassing portion of this work, led by Philly Counts and Community Resource Corp, is scheduled to begin in October 2023 in 19140.

Launched the [Overdose Prevention and Community Healing Fund](#), designed to support community-based organizations in preventing overdose and supporting community healing. In June 2023, MDO and Scattergood Foundation announced \$1.9M in grants for 27 local non-profit organizations selected by community granting groups.

Sustained and expanded the [Kensington Hospital Wound Care](#) van to provide mobile care for xylazine-related wounds and other substance use-related medical concerns. There are currently two Kensington Hospital Wound Care vans operating in the Kensington area.



The following tables provide 6-month updates of the 2023 action items by strategy group and identifies responsible agencies.



PREVENTION



TREATMENT



PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



PREVENTION

Reduce overdoses and save lives.

2023 Action Plan	Lead Agency	6-Month Update
Develop and implement a data-driven Citywide Strategic Harm Reduction Plan	PDPH, ORU, DBHIDS	MDO formed a Citywide Outreach and Engagement Workgroup to lead implementation of overdose prevention in zip codes with increasing rates of fatal overdose in Black and brown Philadelphians This inter-agency group is developing canvassing and communications strategies to increase access to information related to substance use treatment and harm reduction.
Expand harm reduction services citywide , including syringe exchange, naloxone, and fentanyl test strips distribution.	PDPH, MDO-HHS	UPHR Community Engagement received a state grant to create a three-person street outreach team that will connect vulnerable people to services. The team will operate 5 days a week in ZIP codes 19132, 19133, 19140, 19141 and 19144. As of August 2023, PDPH has distributed 55,190 doses of naloxone and 122,670 fentanyl test strips and 19, 050 xylazine test strips year to date.
Sustain Alternative Response Unit (AR-2) and scope expansion of services and interventions that include an EMS component	PDPH, OCJ, DBHIDS	MDO continues to support AR-2 and plans to expand the AR-2 geographic footprint and ensure patient follow-ups are complete.
Develop culturally competent curriculum and engagement materials informed by the Citywide Strategic Harm Reduction plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juvenile justice involvement Child welfare involvement Black maternal and family engagement Faith-based communities LGBTQIA+ Limited English Proficiency 	ORU, PDPH	ORU continues to conduct trainings with community partner organizations in an effort to ensure boots on the ground teams understand how substance misuse can intersect with "systems involvement" and how to support individuals at such specific intersections.





TREATMENT

Increase access to behavioral health treatment and recovery services.

2023 Action Plan	Lead Agency	6-Month Update
<p>Launch citywide mobile methadone program including warm handoff to a clinic once individuals are stabilized</p>	DBHIDS	DBHIDS has released the mobile methadone RFP and will announce the provider for the mobile methadone program in Fall 2023.
<p>Expand access and increase medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) dosage in prisons</p>	DBHIDS	DBHIDS is working with PDPH and the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) to increase the dose of buprenorphine available in facilities from 8 mg to 16 mg DBHIDS is working with PDP and NET Center to develop processes for methadone induction for incarcerated individuals.
<p>Sustain and expand mobile wound care van from 100 Day Challenge, a set of housing and anti-poverty recommendations from the Philly Homes 4 Youth Coalition</p>	DBHIDS	The mobile wound care van continues to operate in the Kensington area. in Kensington. A second wound care van was purchased and is now also serving the public.
<p>Scope physical health reimbursement and coordination with a federally qualified health care center (FQHC) for mobile wound care</p>	ORU, PDPH, DBHIDS	DBHIDS is working with Kensington Hospital to explore reimbursement models as a payment mechanism for wound care and other physical health services.
<p>Scope contingency management model to pilot in 2024</p>	DBHIDS	DBHIDS continues to look for ways to support contingency management for stimulant use disorder use disorder including possible submission of an 1115 waiver.
<p>Scope processes to ensure treatment system agility to adjust to changes in drug supply and increase in overdoses from polysubstance and non-opiates</p>	DBHIDS	DBHIDS launched a new pilot program to support people with substance use disorder (SUD) who have significant wound care and physical health needs. Five participating hospitals offer medical care to participants and then refer them to select SUD treatment providers when their physical health is stable. This program combines SUD treatment with wound care and antibiotics to meet the different needs of people with SUD.





PUBLIC SAFETY

Reduce drug-market related activity and increase social service delivery.

2023 Action Plan	Lead Agency	6-Month Update
Implement Post Arrest Wellness Supports in East Division	ORU, PPD, OCJ, DBHIDS, PDPH	MDO is working to secure wound care support at PPD's East Division with the support of outside case managers.
Implement Drug Market Intervention strategy in East Division to disrupt the open-air drug markets in coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies	PPD, MDO	PPD and MDO continue to work with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to pilot a strategy in East Police Division.
Expand service area for Police Assisted Diversion (PAD)	OCJ	PAD will be operational citywide in ROC North and ROC South, with diversion efforts focused on the 16th District and 24th/25th District. OCJ plans to extend PAD hours to weekends to increase diversions.
Ensure safety and security for Free Library and Parks and Recreation programming in Kensington-area parks	PPR, PPD, ORU	PPR and PPD continue to patrol and enforce park regulations in McPherson Square and Harrowgate Park.
Increase data sharing and public information for the Accelerated Misdemeanor (AMP) court diversion program	ORU	MDO continues to work internally to improve data-sharing with PPD, DAO and FJD partners for AMP Court.
Support the Philadelphia School District Opioid Task Force on next steps and recommendations to address safety and quality of life concerns and increase city services in and around schools impacted by the opioid epidemic.	ORU, PPD, DBHIDS, PDPH, OCJ, OHS, MDO-HHS, MDO-CS, Town Watch, OCF	The School Intervention Team is in the field daily at 6:00 AM working closely with the School District of Philadelphia's staff to engage adults with substance use related behavioral health challenges in and around school grounds. This work will continue during the summer recess and into the 2023-24 school year. Several successful interventions took place in the prior school year.
Coordinate with SEPTA to address safety, security, and quality of life concerns on transit lines and adjacent to transit hubs	PPD, SEPTA, ORU	SEPTA participates in weekly Public Safety meetings with PPD and will increase service and outreach efforts at Huntington, Allegheny, Tioga, Somerset and Frankford Transportation Center stations.
Increase enforcement of quality-of-life concerns with a focus on civil fines for illegal dumping and coordination of the Nuisance Business Task Force	PPD, Streets, Law, L&I	As summer 2023, the City has brought 13 legal actions in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. To date, this has resulted in judgments totaling over \$72,000: \$32,000 to recoup clean-up costs expended by the City and \$40,000 in fines. Additional cases are pending.





COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Engage and support communities impacted by the overdose crisis.

2023 Action Plan	Lead Agency	6-Month Update
<p>Launch Overdose Prevention and Community Healing Fund</p>	<p>MDO</p>	<p>In June 2023, MDO and Scattergood Foundation announced \$1.9M in grants for 27 local non-profit organizations. These nonprofits lead community-based prevention, harm reduction and trauma-healing efforts in communities affected by drug overdoses. The grantees were selected by Community Granting Groups which consisted of local, place-based community members with subject matter expertise, lived experience relevant to substance use, or experience in the overdose prevention space.</p> <p>A second round of grant funding will open in Fall 2023, with a focus on North Philadelphia.</p>
<p>Sustain Kensington Community Resilience Fund with 1-2 grant cycles in 2023 and build the capacity of grantees via learning communities</p>	<p>MDO</p>	<p>In August 2023, the KCRF awarded its third round of grant funding. In this round, a total of \$360,000 was awarded to 36 organizations, which brings the total KCRF grants to \$760,000 over three years.</p>
<p>Advance Kensington Master Planning Collaborate with community-driven and equity-focused, trauma-informed planning effort - with \$7.5M in investments for home repairs, public schools, parks, and safe corridors</p>	<p>ORU</p>	<p>Impact Services and NKCDC are currently bringing the community together to participate in the planning process. Six park “pockets” held public meetings in summer 2023 to gather resident input on how to spend the money for the parks. Impact Services chose home repair contractors and plans to open applications for resident home repairs by late Fall 2023. NKCDC will support eviction and foreclosure prevention and offer internal housing counseling on corridors and around schools and parks.</p>
<p>Expand Housing First opportunities for people experiencing homelessness at all stages of recovery, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Smart Re-entry – master leasing for returning citizens • Progress Haven 2 – New Couples Safe Haven • Housing First Pathways – supportive housing • Rapid Rehousing: Street to Home • Shallow Rent: Home \$200 – tenant based rental assistance <p>• OUD/Serious Medical Need – post hospital discharge resources</p>	<p>OHS</p>	<p>OHS funded 161 additional housing slots, serving 261 unsheltered people through the \$3.3M investment from the Opioid Settlement. All projects are operating. Also, in March 2023, OHS started seeking small, community-based agencies to propose projects to provide housing and services for people harmed by the opioid crisis.</p>



COMMUNITY SUPPORT – (CONT).

<p>Simplify access to trauma resources and education for residents in targeted zip codes</p>	<p>DBHIDS, MDO-CS, ORU</p>	<p>DBHIDS will distribute trauma resource cards to 53 SDP schools. Community Wellness Engagement Unit (CWEU) will continue to share resources with residents in community events, on-foot outreach, presentations, and workshops. In 2023, CWEU's District 7 team met with 3,124 individuals in 85+ activities in Kensington. DBHIDS also uses the Boost Your Mood website to make behavioral health information easily accessible and promote wellness resources.</p>
<p>Develop and implement a citywide community engagement plan with a focus on targeted zip codes that high fatal overdose counts in 2021, informed by the 2023 Citywide Harm Reduction plan</p>	<p>MDO-CS, MDO-HHS, ORU, PDPH, CEO</p>	<p>MDO formed an outreach and engagement team and created a plan to prevent overdoses in Black and brown neighborhoods. This group will hire paid trusted community messengers and work with 311, Philly Counts and Community Resource Corps to increase access to information for all residents.</p>
<p>Improve flow from Recovery Housing to Shared Supportive Housing</p>	<p>DBHIDS, OHS</p>	<p>*This item is on hold due to funding.</p>
<p>Scope feasibility and develop operational model for a sobering center</p>	<p>ORU</p>	<p>MDO, OCJ and PPD continue to explore the feasibility of a sobering center. MDO, OCJ and PPD are also creating a police-led model that provides holistic wraparound services and medical support to people who may have alcohol use disorder. HHS is reviewing legal framework and need for further advocacy at the state level.</p>
<p>Sustain the weekly Kensington Wellness Resource Fair in 2023 and scope feasibility of expanding to other impacted communities</p>	<p>ORU</p>	<p>The Kensington Wellness Resource Fair continues to be offered weekly at the Rock Ministries as the ORU continues to explore the feasibility for citywide expansion.</p>
<p>Support Public Safety Strategy's Drug Market Intervention (DMI) strategy with community support and city services at locations where law enforcement interventions occur – <i>see Public Safety action item</i></p>	<p>ORU, MDO-HHS, MDO-CS</p>	<p>MDO has called City community services groups together to give feedback on ongoing work. This group also identified resources for supporting initial pilot demonstration action.</p>
<p>Increase outreach to residents for home repair grant programs, e.g., Basic Systems Home Repair (BSRP) and increase applications from targeted zip codes with an increase in fatal overdoses in 2021</p>	<p>MDO-CS, ORU, PHDC</p>	<p>As of July 10, 2023, Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) has received 180 applications for basic systems home repair in ZIP codes 19125 and 19134. 57 of the applications in these ZIP codes qualified. PHDC has spent \$1,092,947 across 19125 and 19134 for BSRP, with monthly average spend of \$194,302.</p> <p>In Council District 7, PHDC received 540 applications and 133 of these qualified. PHDC has spent \$2,630,672 in Council District 7, and monthly average spend is \$438,445 in BSRP.</p>



OPIOID RESPONSE UNIT
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