

DORCHESTER COUNTY OPIOID INTERVENTION TEAM RESPONSE PLAN

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Dorchester County Opioid Intervention Team (DCOIT) is to develop an integrated county strategy in combating the opioid crisis and reducing the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses. The DCOIT Response Plan outlines the roles, responsibilities, and objectives that will guide local response to the ongoing opioid and heroin epidemic.

2. SITUATION

On January 24, 2017, the Governor of Maryland issued Executive Order 01.01.2017.01, which mandates the establishment of local Opioid Intervention Teams (OITs) for the purpose of coordinating local stakeholders in combating the opioid crisis, and collecting and sharing data with the State's Opioid Operational Command Center (OCC).

3. SCOPE

The DCOIT has been established to address strategic and operational level concepts for addressing the opioid crisis in Dorchester County. This plan is intended to outline the coordination of various county agencies' and stakeholders' response to the crisis but does not supersede departmental regulations or standard operating procedures, nor does it supersede the authority of department heads and elected officials to direct operations within their areas of responsibility.

4. CONCEPT OF OPERATION

The DCOIT is the coordinating mechanism for Dorchester County departments, agencies, and stakeholders responding to the statewide opioid crisis. The DCOIT is a subcommittee of the Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (LDAAC).

As directed by the State's OCC, the DCOIT will serve in the following capacities:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Strategy and policy development
- Operational coordination
- Identification of funding and resource gaps

5. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The State Opioid Overdose Coordination Center developed statewide goals and objectives for Maryland's overall response to the crisis. The DCOIT selected locally-appropriate goals and objectives from this list in an effort to maintain consistency with the State language and structure.

5.1. Prevent new cases of opioid addiction and misuse.

- 5.1.1. Reduce supply of illicit opioids.

- 5.1.2. Increase public knowledge of opioid risk and benefits.
- 5.1.3. Increase youth knowledge of opioid risk and benefits through the education system.
- 5.2. **Improve early identification and intervention of opioid addiction.**
 - 5.2.1. Reduce stigma and improve knowledge of understanding about opioid addiction.
 - 5.2.2. Build capacity of health care system to identify behavioral health disorders and link patients to appropriate specialty care.
 - 5.2.3. Identify and connect individuals to treatment and recovery services at all contact points within the county.
- 5.3. **Enhance data collection, sharing, and analysis to improve understanding of and response to the opioid epidemic.**
 - 5.3.1. Improve understanding of population- and individual-level risk and protective factors to inform prevention initiatives.
 - 5.3.2. Establish a public health surveillance system to monitor indicators of opioid-related morbidity and mortality for informed rapid and actionable response.
 - 5.3.3. Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of response initiatives to ensure successful implementation of outcomes.

6. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

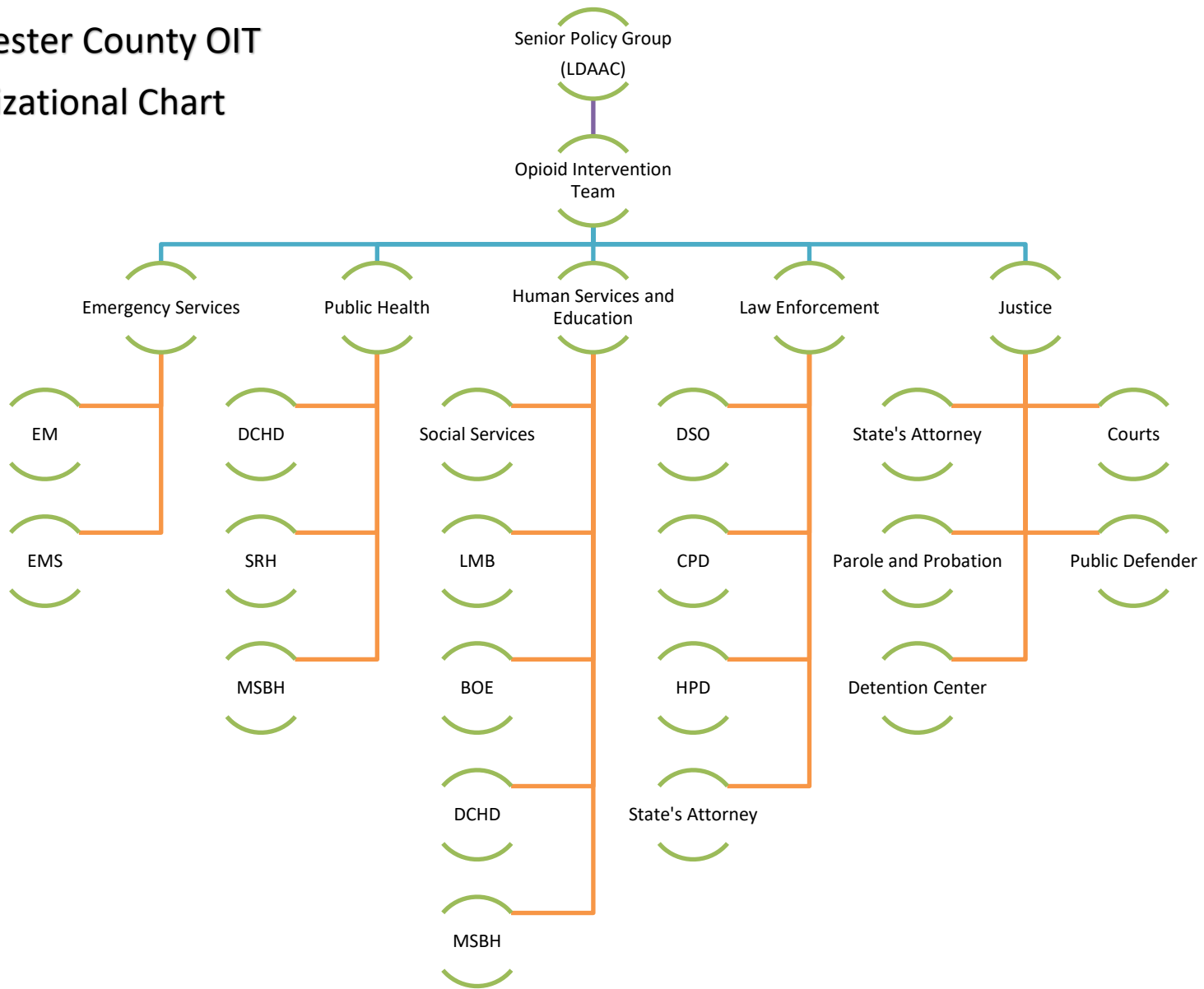
The DCOIT is a subcommittee of the Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (LDAAC), which serves as the Senior Policy Group, and is organizationally structured to incorporate appropriate stakeholders on the tactical level including local, state, non-profit, and non-governmental.

The DCOIT shares two Co-Team Leaders: the Governor's Appointed Local Emergency Manager and the Public Health Officer. The Emergency Manager possesses the authority to act as the County's multi-agency coordination lead, and the Public Health Officer serves as the highest authority during times of public health emergency.

DCOIT membership includes, but is not limited to, key decision makers from the following disciplines:

- Emergency Services
- Public Health
- Law Enforcement
- Social Services
- Behavioral Health
- Corrections
- Schools
- Court System

Dorchester County OIT Organizational Chart



7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1. **Senior Policy Group.** The Senior Policy Group is the strategic-level group responsible for the direction of the DCOIT. The Senior Policy Group is responsible for reviewing county-wide goals and objectives with regard to the opioid crisis response; identifying priorities for funding and personnel resources; and relaying challenges, concerns, gaps, or successes to elected officials.
- 7.2. **Emergency Services.** Emergency Services is a broad functional category that will support the overall response of the DCOIT from the perspective of the initial in-take for overdose emergency 9-1-1 calls, emergency medical response, and support for both fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses. Emergency services will support Public Health with first responder naloxone education and distribution programs. The primary goal of emergency services will be to respond to and support the response to fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses by emergency response providers, emergency response support entities and emergency communications.
- 7.3. **Public Health.** Public health will support the overall response of the DCOIT from the perspective of public health, medical treatment, and behavioral health. Public Health will be responsible for conducting public health education, conducting non-fatal overdose intervention, providing behavioral and mental health treatment and support, providing medical treatment, and oversight on distribution of legally prescribed opioids. The primary goals of the Public Health function will be to conduct intervention operations, support the response to non-fatal overdoses, coordinate with hospitals and medical facilities, provide behavioral and mental health treatment, coordinate with pharmacies, coordinate with addiction treatment facilities, and provide the spectrum of education on the opioid crisis.
- 7.4. **Law Enforcement.** Law Enforcement will support the overall response of the DCOIT from the perspective of interdiction, enforcement and investigation. Law enforcement will be responsible for conducting street-level narcotics intervention and interdiction operations. Local law enforcement agencies will coordinate with state and federal law enforcement agencies, multi-agency narcotics task forces, and will provide data to local partners and the High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA). The primary goal of law enforcement will be the disruption and dismantling of the narcotics networks supplying opioids. Law enforcement's secondary goal is outreach through community policing to provide education, awareness, and direct intervention.
- 7.5. **Human Services and Education.**
 - 7.5.1. Human Services will support the overall DCOIT response from the perspective of social services, family and youth services, and drug control policy. Human Services will be responsible for identifying at-risk populations within the community, providing information and guidance for external assistance resources, and supporting families and children of intervention contacts. The primary goals of Human Services will be to provide assistance and support to those that have had a non-fatal overdose and those identified as high-risk, and provide assistance to family and children affected by overdose events. The secondary goal of Human Services will be to coordinate/implement long-term, community-based prevention programs targeting high-risk segments of residents.

7.5.2. Education will support the overall DCOIT response by coordinating public and private school systems, colleges and universities and other academic institutions; developing and implementing educational and awareness programs for youth and young adults; and identifying persons at high-risk needing intervention. The primary goals of the education function will be to support public safety in addressing the opioid crisis, develop processes for integrating education institutions into the OIT response, developing/assisting in the development of educational and awareness training targeting students, and identifying high-risk/at-risk students to target for intervention measures.

7.6. **Justice System.** The Justice System will support the overall DCOIT response from the perspective of supporting law enforcement, prosecution of narcotics-related criminal charges, execution of/support to special judicial programs, and integration of correctional services. The Justice System will be responsible for coordinating with and supporting law enforcement for the enforcement and prosecution of narcotics related criminal activity, supporting law enforcement in the dismantling of narcotics distribution networks, execute and support special judicial programs such as the Teen Court and Drug Court, facilitate the elimination of obstacles for information sharing, coordinate with and integrate correctional services, at both a State and local level, into the process. The primary goals of the Justice System will be to enforce the laws of the State of Maryland and its local jurisdictions, address laws for the elimination of obstacles for information sharing, and coordinate the integration of correctional services.

8. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

8.1. **LDAAC/SPG.** LDAAC/SPG coordination will continue to follow the process established prior to the Governor's Declaration. The Chair of the LDAAC is responsible for scheduling meetings, developing and distributing meeting agendas and minutes, and distributing additional materials as requested by member agencies.

8.2. **DCOIT Subcommittee.** The Department of Emergency Services and the Department of Health will work together to schedule meetings, prepare materials, maintain a list of members, and distribute materials to support the subcommittee. The DCOIT will be responsible for the submission of state-required reports relating to OOCF funding as well as providing the Senior Policy Group with regular updates on project implementation and progress as they relate to the goals and objectives of this plan.

8.3. **Approval of Projects.** The DCOIT must approve any project applications to be funded by the OOCF in support of opioid response efforts.

9. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This plan was developed by the Department of Emergency Services and distributed to members of the DCOIT for review. The plan will be approved by the DCOIT and reviewed in January of each year.

10. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

10.1. **Executive Order 01.01.2017.01.** The order mandated the establishment of local Opioid Intervention Teams (OITs) for the purpose of coordinating local stakeholders in combating the

opioid crisis, and collecting and sharing data with the State's Opioid Operational Command Center (OCC).

10.2. **2017 Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General, Title 8 – Substance Use Disorders Law**

10.3. **2017 Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General, Title 10 – Mental Health Law**