

# Montgomery County Opioid Intervention Team (OIT)

## Executive Summary of 2018-2019 Objectives & Expected Outcomes

### Background

The Montgomery County OIT was formed in March 2017 at the recommendation of Governor Hogan to help coordinate between local and state partners on the collective response to the opioid crisis. In Montgomery County, the OIT is comprised of both governmental and non-governmental partners and includes representatives from the County Executive's Office, the Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (OEMHS), the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Fire & Rescue Services (MCFRS), the Police Department (MCPD), the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (DOCR), the Sheriff's Office (SO), the State's Attorney's Office (SAO), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Maryland Treatment Centers, the hospitals, and other local advocates. The MC OIT aims to streamline the County response to the opioid crisis by ensuring unity of effort, efficient allocation of resources, and strategic thinking.

### Objectives

#### Prevention & Harm Reduction

- Ensuring broad distribution and availability of Naloxone and its associated training.
- Supporting efforts to reduce abuse of prescribed opioids through communications with doctors and pharmacies and collection or destruction of unused prescription opioids.
- Assessing various harm reduction models (i.e., needle exchange, safe houses, etc) for acceptability and efficacy in Montgomery County.

#### Access to Treatment

- Promoting easy access to and enrollment in treatment options regardless of insurance status or point of presentation (law enforcement, EMS, hospitals, corrections, etc).
- Identifying gaps in Countywide treatment services and promotion of expanded access to treatment for all insurance categories.

#### Public Awareness and Education

- Conduct of Speak Up, Save a Life community forums to educate and engage with members of the community.
- Work with MCPS to identify opportunities for educating young people on self-harming behaviors and development of programs for students with addiction challenges.
- Provide information for the peer recovery community to engage with their clients.

#### Data Integration and Coordination

- Development of dashboards to support opioid response decision-making
- Construction of triggers for real time notification and action.
- Analysis of opioid epidemic trends for longer term strategic planning.

## Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness/education about opioids/opioid addiction and understanding of how prescription opioid abuse can lead to heroin use.
- Improved awareness of safe storage methods by MC residents,
- Expanded the utilization of lock box/drop off locations by MC residents,
- Increased public and private access to Naloxone
- Enhanced awareness and education about opioids, opioid addiction and its link to heroin by middle and high school youth and parents
- Increased awareness and education about the dangers of prescription opioids and its link to heroin use by MC residents,
- Enhanced metrics for assessment of the epidemic and improved decision-making, and
- Increased access to and knowledge of treatment options, including Medically-Assisted Treatment (MAT), public and private payer beds, and supportive services (counseling, crisis services).