



Maryland SOS Regional Town Hall Series Impact Statement: Capital Region

February 3rd, 2022

PREVENTION • TREATMENT • RECOVERY



Before it's too late.

THE OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER

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The Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) hosted the 10th and final installment of our Maryland Stop Overdose Strategy (Maryland SOS) Regional Town Hall Series virtually on February 3, 2022. This town hall was focused on residents of the counties of Southern Maryland.

OCCC Executive Director Robin Rickard began the event by providing an update on recent overdose trends in Maryland. She also talked about the Opioid Restitution Fund and addressed the potential uses for funds that the state will receive from legal settlements with prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors. Executive Director Rickard then provided an update on the work of the Racial Disparities in Overdose Task Force on behalf of Dr. Aliya Jones, deputy secretary for Behavioral Health at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and co-chair of the task force.

Our second and final presentation during this town hall was from Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer for Frederick County. Dr. Brookmyer addressed recent overdose trends at the local level and described various programs in Frederick County that address the opioid crisis, such as peer recovery services, walk-in crisis and stabilization services, and mobile crisis services.

Following our presentations, we invited town hall participants to talk about their experiences with the opioid and overdose crisis and to share their ideas for how state and local officials can do more to support individuals living with substance use disorder (SUD). The issues addressed by town hall participants included:

- Increasing financial support for recovery services
- Increasing counseling and other support resources for families of individuals with SUD
- Increasing public awareness about the dangers of fentanyl, especially for adolescents
- The importance of implementing trauma-informed practices
- Alerting families with individuals with SUD following non-fatal overdose events
- Increasing support for individuals with SUD upon their release from incarceration
- Counteracting the flow of illicit drugs, such as fentanyl into Maryland
- Increasing support for community-based organizations

The OCCC would like to thank everyone who participated in this session for their shared dedication to supporting those who are living with the disease of addiction. The feedback that we received will be used to help inform the 2022 update to Maryland's Inter-Agency Opioid Coordination Plan, the state's strategic opioid crisis response framework.