OVERDOSE PREVENTION STRATEGIES

WHERE ARE WE?

Lisa McElhaney
President
National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, Inc.
Lisa McElhaney

National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, Inc. (NADDI)
   National President – 2014 to Present
   Member – 1993 to Present
   Instructor – 1996 to Present

Broward Sheriff’s Office – 1990 to 2015
   Sworn Law Enforcement Officer

Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse – Board of Governor’s - 1996 to 2015
   Co-Chair – (2010-2015)
   Chair – Rx Task Force
   Chair – Overdose Prevention Task Force
Disclaimers

I have no relevant financial interests to disclose.

The information contained within this presentation is based upon my knowledge, training, and personal experience as a former sworn law enforcement officer, national trainer, and networking agent.

With the continuous evolution of the subject matter, the information presented may be incomplete, or outdated in some areas.
Overdose Prevention

Addressing the (Global) Issue
The Gauge of the Drug Epidemic…
Overdose Deaths Across the Globe
Drug Overdose Deaths in the US

CDC Reports:

- From 1999 - 2016, more than 630,000 people have died from a drug OD.
- Around 66% of the more than 63,600 drug overdose deaths in 2016 involved an opioid.
- In 2016, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids (including prescription opioids and illegal opioids like heroin and illicitly manufactured fentanyl) was 5 times higher than in 1999.

- On average, 115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.
Prevention Strategies - Focus

• Encourage providers, persons at high risk, family members to learn how to prevent and manage opioid overdose
• Ensure access to treatment for individuals who are misusing or addicted to opioids
• Ensure ready access to naloxone
• Encourage the public to call 911
• Encourage prescribers to use Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)
The Overdose Epidemic Continues to Flourish after Decades of Resources have been Applied on reducing the problem... Why?

Look to the Roots!
Roots of the Overdose Epidemic

A Consequence of a Multitude of Issues

Access
Capitalism
Drug Options
Environment
Recreational Acceptance
Technology
Availability
Civil Rights
Economy
Privacy/PHI
Social Media
Uniformity
How to Stop an Epidemic

- Develop a Plan/Strategy
- Recognize Symptoms
- Identify the Triggers
- Respond Quickly
  - Shut Down Means of Circulation
  - Clean the Environment
  - Vaccinate/Lifestyle Change
- Monitor the Influences/Gauges
Strategies
Are like Building Blocks
Leadership

Uniformity

Resources

Teamwork

Goal

Effective Strategy
Platforms for Change

- Education & Risk Mitigation
- Uniform Strategic Plan
- Social Behavior & Acceptance
- Drug Availability (Legal & Illegal)
- Drug Addiction (Disease)
To Achieve the Greatest Influence

Start Early:
To Achieve the Greatest Influence

UNIFORM
• All levels
• Hard Court Press
• Balance of Risk v Consequences

RANDOM
• Sporadic Effect
• Weak Message
 Creates Ambivalence and Desensitization

Not My Problem:
Creates Ambivalence and Desensitization

UNIFORM
• Drug Messages
• Impact
• Abstinence v Minimalization

RANDOM
• Apathy
• Mixed Messages
• Sets Norm
Drug Addiction (Disease)

Not Merely a Behavioral Problem: Affects Strategic Frameworks

UNIFORM
- Education
- Intervention
- Prevention

RANDOM
- Apathy
- Recidivism
- Ignorance
- Fear
When Economics Overrides Healthcare

Law of Supply and Demand:
When Economics Overrides Healthcare

Drug Availability (Legal v Illegal)

UNIFORM
- Oversight
- Boarder Control
- Risk Mitigation
- Importation ?

RANDOM
- Volatility
- Instability
- Lack of Integrity

Drug Availability (Legal v Illegal)
Ineffective Leadership Doesn’t Tackle a Problem: Just Shifts the Blame to Others
Risks Traveled

01 
Supply Reduction
Eradication, Interdiction & Incarceration

02 
Demand Reduction
Prevention, Treatment, & Research

03 
Rehab & Treatment
Diverse Approaches; Lack of Funding

04 
Legalization & Decriminalization
Strong Approach(s)
Overdose(s) – Tip of the Iceberg

The Overdose Epidemic is a Very Visible Issue.

The underlying Issues are Monumental.

Historic Approaches have NOT reduced the base.
Where are we at now?

1. **OVERDOSE(s)**
   - Are NOT Decreasing under Current Efforts

2. **PREVENTION**
   - Actions are Sporadic and Not Universally Supported

3. **STRATEGY**
   - Federal Recommendations Lack the Leadership Direction; Left to States

4. **TREATMENT OPTIONS**
   - Effective Treatments are Underutilized and Influence the Recidivism Rates
Points of Obstruction

Economy & Budget
Jobs, Healthcare, & Treatment Options

SOCIAL NORM
Change Safe & Healthy Views

PRIVACY RIGHTS
HIPAA Disclosures.

UNIFORMITY
Numerous Issues

AVAILABLE RESOURCES
Healthcare, Community Srvcs, Regulatory Oversight,

EDUCATION
Early & Constant Combine Risk Mitigation

For a Successful Strategy
Where Do We Go From Here?

Face the Challenges with a Better Plan

“What cannot be talked about cannot be put to rest. And if it is not, the wounds will fester from generation to generation.”

“Once the enabling stops, the recovery is given the opportunity to start.”
Food for Thought

LEADERSHIP
A Nationwide Organization that Coordinates State Plans, Programs, and Initiatives.

PRISON REFORM
Reduce the Criminalization of Poverty, Addiction, & Social Crimes.

SBIRT
Mandates on Screening at ALL Levels

BALANCED MESSAGING
Responsible Marketing vs Prevention/Risk Mitigation

UNIFORM REPORTING
Central Database for tracking of Deaths, Arrests, Overdoses, etc.
In Summary...

The Overdose Epidemic is Far from Over

- Develop Leadership – Around, Beneath, and Around
- Solid Foundational Strategy
- Broaden Observation – Break Down Silo(s) Approaches
- Increase Transparent Communication
OverdosePreventionStrategies.org

WE PROMOTE PREVENTION EFFORTS ACROSS THE USA

Relaunch in January 2019
Questions or Comments

Lisa McElhaney
NADDI President
lmcelhaney@naddi.org