

Community Overdose Action

Town Hall Series

STATEWIDE SUMMIT



Hosted by **Maryland's Office of Overdose Response**



Community Overdose Action Town Hall Series Virtual Statewide Summit

Special Secretary of Overdose Response Emily Keller

Tuesday, February 20, 2024



Town Hall Feedback – Prevention

- More investment in evidence-based youth prevention efforts.
- More support for children who have parents or loved ones with substance use disorders.
- More support for community-based prevention campaigns.
- More awareness efforts about Maryland’s Good Samaritan Law and the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988.
- Greater engagement is needed with Maryland’s faith-based communities.
- Greater education is needed for the general public for recognizing overdoses, responding to overdoses, and administering naloxone.

Town Hall Feedback – Harm Reduction

- Decriminalize drug paraphernalia.
- Support for overdose prevention sites.
- The price of over-the-counter naloxone is too high.
- Greater wound care capacity, especially among treatment providers.
- Address the presence of xylazine in the supply of illicit opioids.
- Great support for peer recovery services.
- Allow peers to be reimbursed to transportation using personal vehicles.

Town Hall Feedback – Treatment

- Transportation is a barrier for accessing treatment, especially in rural areas.
- More capacity for individuals with co-occurring mental and behavioral health needs.
- Maryland lacks capacity for youth substance use treatment services.
- Lack of broadband access in rural areas limits the effectiveness of telemedicine.
- Stigma surrounding substance use prevents people from seeking help.
- Mental health and crisis services need faster response times.
- More treatment options are needed for individuals with children.
- Maryland should expand access to 24-hour crisis services in rural areas.

Town Hall Feedback – Recovery

- Maryland needs greater access to recovery programs (especially in rural areas), more recovery programs should accept insurance.
- Regulations and stigma make it difficult to establish recovery residences.
- Maryland should increase funding for recovery services to reimburse for longer stays.
- More transitional supports, care coordination, and wraparound services.
- Individuals in recovery need more support to address fundamental needs, including housing, employment, education, and food assistance.
- Greater support is needed to support behavioral health workforce staffing.

Town Hall Feedback – Public Safety

- Greater treatment capacity is needed within detention facilities.
- More care coordination is needed for individuals leaving incarceration.
- Greater coordination is needed across the criminal justice system, from law enforcement to the judiciary.
- People who use drugs are less likely to utilize safe stations located at police departments.
- Arguments for and against stricter punishments for drug dealers.
- Promote alternatives to incarceration

Stay In Contact



Maryland's Office of
Overdose Response

PREVENTION • HARM REDUCTION • TREATMENT • RECOVERY • PUBLIC SAFETY



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