

Marion County Opioid Abatement Plan – Fiscal Year 2024

Overview

Marion County recognizes the severe impact that the opioid crisis has caused our communities, families, and individuals across various walks of life. Recognizing the complexity and the devastating impact of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), our Opioid Abatement Plan is a comprehensive, strategic response designed to address this epidemic holistically. This plan, tailored to the unique needs and circumstances of Marion County, aims to implement a multifaceted approach, focusing on treatment, prevention, and continuous research and education.

Marion County's commitment is to provide effective, evidence-based strategies that encompass a broad spectrum of interventions, from expanding access to treatment and recovery services and enhancing the quality and oversight of care to pioneering preventative measures that curb the misuse of opioids. We understand that the path towards healing and recovery is not uniform; hence, our plan is inclusive, considering the diverse needs of our population, including pregnant women, criminal-justice-involved persons, and the youth. We are dedicated to creating a future for Marion County where the shadow of opioid addiction is replaced with hope, health, and a renewed sense of community resilience.

In collaboration with various cities and counties in Florida, Marion County has entered into the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement (referred to as the "Florida Plan") with the State of Florida.

Under the provisions of this plan, the State has inaugurated the City/County Fund, intended to channel funds directly to city and county jurisdictions. Notably, Marion County's funding envelope also encompasses allocations meant for municipalities within its territory. This includes Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, Ocala, and Reddick. These municipalities have elected to forward their City/County Fund allocations directly to Marion County. This strategic consolidation aims to optimize resource utilization by curtailing potential service redundancy, streamlining reporting processes, and simplifying administrative tasks. Marion County will coordinate with the Marion County Hospital District regarding the administration of the Opioid Settlement Plan.

Marion County's agencies involved in their opioid abatement plan are listed below:

- Marion County Hospital District
- Ocala Fire Rescue
- Marion County Fire Rescue
- Marion County Sheriff's Office
- SMA Healthcare
- Open Arms Village
- Zero Hour Life

Each one of these agencies presents the capacity and capabilities needed to address the identified needs of their communities to resolve and reduce the issue of Opioid Crisis in Marion County. The list of agencies, all have a staff equipped with expertise on community-wide funding, assisting with gaps in services, work relationships with community providers of substance use disorder, and personnel trained and dedicated to overdoses.

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Evidence-Based Best Practices for Consideration - noncomprehensive list Part One: Treatment Strategies:

- FDA-approved Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Broaden telehealth services for OUD, SUD/MH conditions, including MAT and psychiatric support.
- Improve oversight to ensure evidence-based practices in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs).
- Mobile Intervention Services
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Offer trauma treatment for OUD individuals and their families.
- Train healthcare personnel in trauma identification and management.
- Provide evidence-based withdrawal management for people with OUD and mental health conditions.
- Train healthcare providers in MAT.
- Develop a workforce for addiction professionals.
- Offer support for addiction medicine specialists.
- Implement training, scholarships, and support programs for behavioral health workers.
- Fund and train clinicians for DATA 2000 waiver to prescribe MAT.
- Disseminate web-based training curricula and develop new courses on addiction psychiatry and MAT.
- Comprehensive Wrap-Around Services
- Provide housing, transportation, education, job placement, and childcare for individuals with OUD.
- Offer supportive housing, peer support, and case management services.
- Access to Housing and Community Support
- Ensure housing options, including supportive and recovery housing.
- Provide social and legal services for deinstitutionalization.
- Expand peer-recovery centers and transportation services for treatment access.
- Offer employment training and educational services for individuals in recovery.
- Ensure healthcare provider screening for OUD and fund SBIRT programs.
- Provide training and support technology implementation for SBIRT.
- Train emergency personnel and support hospital programs for follow-up care.
- Support alternative crisis response centers and EMS in connecting individuals to treatment.
- Provide funding for peer support specialists in various healthcare settings.
- Support strategies like the Angel Programs, DART, and “Naloxone Plus.”
- Connect individuals to evidence-informed treatment and support recovery courts.
- Provide MAT and recovery support for incarcerated individuals.
- Train law enforcement and correctional personnel in best practices for OUD.
- Expand opioid diversion programs and support re-entry into the community.
- Support for Pregnant Women and NAS Babies
- Provide MAT and recovery services for pregnant women and NAS babies.
- Enhance family support and offer childcare services for parents with OUD.
- Provide home-based wrap-around services, including parent skills training.

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- Fund positions and services related to child welfare in the context of opioid use.

Evidence-Based Best Practices for Consideration - noncomprehensive list Part Two: Prevention Strategies:

- Education and Training on Prescribing Practices
- Fund medical provider education on best practices for opioid prescribing.
- Support for Non-Opioid Pain Treatment Alternatives
- Promote training for multi-modal, evidence-informed pain treatment.
- Enhancements to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)
- Improve PDMPs to support better prescribing and intervention strategies.
- Media Campaigns and Educational Initiatives
- Fund campaigns to prevent opioid misuse and provide public education.
- Support drug disposal programs and community anti-drug coalitions.
- Increase availability and training on naloxone for overdose treatment.
- Support harm reduction programs, including syringe services and testing for HIV and Hepatitis C

Evidence-Based Best Practices for Consideration - noncomprehensive list Part Three: Other Strategies

- Educate first responders on opioid-related emergencies and provide support services.
- Support planning and coordination efforts to abate the opioid epidemic.
- Provide resources for training programs to improve opioid crisis management.
- Support research on opioid abatement strategies, harm reduction, and prevention.