

# Lane County Health & Human Services Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

In 2015, Lane County, Oregon was designated a 'high-burden region' due to the community impacts of opioids, high number of opioid overdoses, and risky prescribing. Lane County alone exceeds the rate of pharmaceutical and synthetic opioid overdose deaths than the state of Oregon by over 300,000 deaths between 2014 and 2016. Heroin overdose deaths for community members age 18-44 have tripled since 2005 in Lane County.

Lane County Government is working diligently to address the opioid crisis for community members. In response to the alarming rates of death by overdoses, the Lane County Health and Human Services Department (H&HS) is actively collaborating with local providers and organizations to help treat community members with Opiate Use Disorder (OUD), provide trainings to healthcare professionals and community members on naloxone and available treatment options, and partner with Oregon Pain Guidance to develop guidelines and a county specific web page to help disseminate resources. H&HS works in collaboration with multiple divisions to address the devastation experienced by the community and those who are affected by OUD including, the Community Health Centers of Lane County (CHC), Trillium Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health, and the Public Health Division, as well as a large community agency network. Through collaboration and review of local and state data, Lane County has identified barriers within the community for people with OUD seeking treatment and is working with the community to eliminate them.

In an effort to combat these barriers, H&HS and community partners have and will continue to:

- **Increase capacity to integrate primary care services and medication assisted treatment (MAT).**
- **Increase access to low or no-cost Buprenorphine waiver training. Currently there are over 30 prescribing healthcare professionals who can prescribe to the OHP population.**
- **Support and expand the Methadone Treatment Program to include MAT with Buprenorphine.**
- **Host public events to discuss the current community opioid environment and resources available to those with OUD or family members.**
- **Train providers and healthcare agencies on treatment options including co-occurring treatments, local data, community resources, cultural competency, integration, and other topics related to OUD and how to effectively and best treat this population.**

Lane County is doing work to prevent OUD and overdose deaths and has:

- **Developed and disseminated tapering flow charts and guidelines for healthcare providers**
- **Decreased the total number of patients receiving opiate medication by almost 50% for patients at the CHC's of Lane County.**
- **Formed the Lane County Pain Guidance and Safety Alliance which includes the County H&HS, health plans and local healthcare and behavioral health agencies committed to providing the community and provider network with resources on safe prescribing practices, MAT, naloxone training, and education.**
- **Increased the number of prescribers registered with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**
- **Initiated naloxone training and carry for local law enforcement to use in the field.**



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