

The Initiative

The Miami-Dade County Opioid Addiction Task Force recognizes the serious public health problems associated with the opioid epidemic occurring in Miami-Dade County. Task Force Members created an action plan with 26 recommendations that are charged with invoking sustained population-wide health improvements. The participating agencies understand that combining community efforts can achieve a lasting social change and are committed to implementing the recommendations to the extent that resources and legal authority allow. The Opioid Task Force recommendations address meeting the goals of reducing opioid addiction, preventing overdose deaths, and improving the quality of life for residents in Miami-Dade County.

Help Us End the Opioid Epidemic



Healthcare Solutions

Maximize access to care and enhancing screening for opioid misuse and use disorder



Treatment and Recovery

Adjust treatment and recovery system capacity to ensure timely access for individuals seeking opioid agonist pharmacotherapy



Law Enforcement, Justice, and First Responders

Strengthen partnerships to reduce excessive supply of opioids and explore best practices for prevention and policing efforts



Education and Awareness

Raise awareness and knowledge of the adverse effects of opioid use, overdose, and opioid use disorder

Recommendations

Healthcare Solutions

- H1. Promote the collaboration between healthcare providers and Healthy Start, along with the American College of Obstetricians (ACOG), to implement screenings and reduce the risk of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).
- H2. Advocate for mandatory continuing educations for physicians, dentists, and clinical providers on opiate misuse and heroin abuse, prescribing, and substance abuse
- H3. Facilitate immediate linkage to care from first responders to medication-assisted treatment, detox and treatment services
- H4. Review and develop regulations to promote safe prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances
- H5. Encourage medical providers to utilize the prescription drug monitoring database (PDMP)
- H6. Expand mental health and drug screenings in healthcare settings to prevent and identify opioid use disorder
- H7. Assist the community with filing Marchman Act petitions by funding a care advisor to assist with the process.

Treatment and Recovery

- T1. Expand, enhance and strengthen the current Miami-Dade County existing treatment “continuum of care” by developing and implementing a comprehensive opioid addictions treatment “recovery-oriented System of Care (ROSC).”
- T2. Seek and obtain funding, and explore all available options, including but not limited to, developing and implementing a recurring funding source to support opioid addiction services, including paying for the appropriate medication(s) in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) (i.e. Methadone, Buprenorphine, Suboxone, Naloxone, Vivitrol, etc.)
- T3. Provide comprehensive psychosocial services when using a medication assisted treatment model.
- T4. Develop entry points where Medication MAT can be delivered, such as but not limited to jail facilities, primary care settings, and public emergency rooms.
- T5. Increase the availability of permanent, supportive housing to improve treatment and recovery.

Law Enforcement, Justice, and First Responders

- L1. Improve law enforcement, first responder, and outreach providers' knowledge and awareness on drug court services, treatment resources, Marchman Act, and naloxone administration.
- L2. Partner with South Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and implement a real-time overdose surveillance system on Naloxone dispensing.
- L3. Strengthen Federal and Statewide laws, by incorporating a broader definition of the controlled substance analogues, to address fentanyl, its derivatives, and other powerful unknown synthetic opioids.
- L4. Amend legislation for the needle exchange program to expand services and support collaboration.
- L5. Create a Miami-Dade County contract that allows community stakeholders to purchase Naloxone

Education and Awareness

- E1. Develop a public and educational campaign raising awareness and knowledge about opioid abuse, addiction, and overdose.
- E2. Promote the availability and distribution of Naloxone in Miami-Dade County.
- E3. Collaborate with the affected community to address the opioid epidemic impacting the well-being of those residents through town hall meetings and community policing.
- E4. Partner with the faith-based community to support substance abuse prevention and addiction treatment.
- E5. Provide a culturally competent and sensitivity substance abuse segment in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training offered to all Miami-Dade County law enforcement.
- E6. Partner with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to create a collaborative network to rapidly provide education and technical assistance to Miami-Dade County laboratories for the identification of novel and emerging illicit drugs.
- EY7. Coordinate with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) to provide comprehensive opioid and prescription drug education, recommending modifications as age appropriate. (Youth focus)
- EY8. Partner with the South Florida Behavioral Health Network and Drug Enforcement Administration to provide ongoing substance abuse education trainings and capacity building targeting school and community site personnel working with youth. (Youth focus)