

---

# **First Responder/Law Enforcement Strategies: Supporting Overdose Survivors and Their Families**

---

**January 30, 2020**



BJA's Comprehensive

# Opioid Abuse Program

## The Five Pathways To Treatment, Housing, and Services Through First Responder Diversion

**Jac Charlier**

Executive Director

TASC's Center for Health and Justice

[www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org)

COAP Category 1 – Law Enforcement/First Responder Diversion TTA to the Field

[https://www.coapresources.org/Content/Documents/BriefingSheets/BJA\\_COAP\\_Law\\_Enforcement\\_First\\_Responder\\_Diversion.pdf](https://www.coapresources.org/Content/Documents/BriefingSheets/BJA_COAP_Law_Enforcement_First_Responder_Diversion.pdf)

Executive Director

Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC)

[www.ptaccollaborative.org](http://www.ptaccollaborative.org)

[jcharlier@tasc.org](mailto:jcharlier@tasc.org)

(312) 573-8302

---

# First Responder Diversion: Moving to Act Before a Crisis or Without Arrest

## Prevention Diversion:

- No charges exist
- No relevant criminal activity during this encounter
- Divert in lieu of taking no action
- Prevents **future criminal justice or ER/ED entry** by connecting to treatment, housing, and services today

## Intervention Diversion (LE Only):

- **Charges exist**
- Charges are held in abeyance or issuance of non-criminal citation with treatment
- Divert in lieu of arrest
- Prevents **current criminal justice entry** by connecting to treatment, housing, and services today

---

# THE FIVE PATHWAYS

- **Self-Referral:** An individual voluntarily initiates contact with a first responder agency (a law enforcement, fire services, or EMS professional) for a treatment referral; if the contact is initiated by a law enforcement agency, the individual makes the contact without fear of arrest.
- **Active Outreach:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder intentionally identifies or seeks an individual to refer or engage them with treatment and not for the purpose of a criminal investigation.
- **Naloxone Plus:** A law enforcement officer, first responder, or program partner conducts outreach specifically to individuals who have experienced a recent overdose to engage and provide linkage to treatment.
- **First Responder/Officer Prevention Referral:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder conducts engagement and provides treatment referrals during routine activities (e.g. patrol, response to a service call). NOTE: if law enforcement is the first responder, no charges are filed, or arrests made.
- **Officer Intervention Referral:** (Only applicable to law enforcement led diversion) A law enforcement agency engages and provides treatment referrals during routine activities (e.g. patrol), but the charges are held in abeyance or a citation is issued that may include a requirement for completion of an assessment for treatment or completion of a treatment plan.



**PRE-ARREST DIVERSION: PATHWAYS TO COMMUNITY  
POLICE, TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE**



**Systems Goal:**

Open up all five pathways

**Which Pathway to Start?**

Solve your problem/  
Address your challenge

**Start With Single Pathway:**

Once experienced,  
Open up more pathways

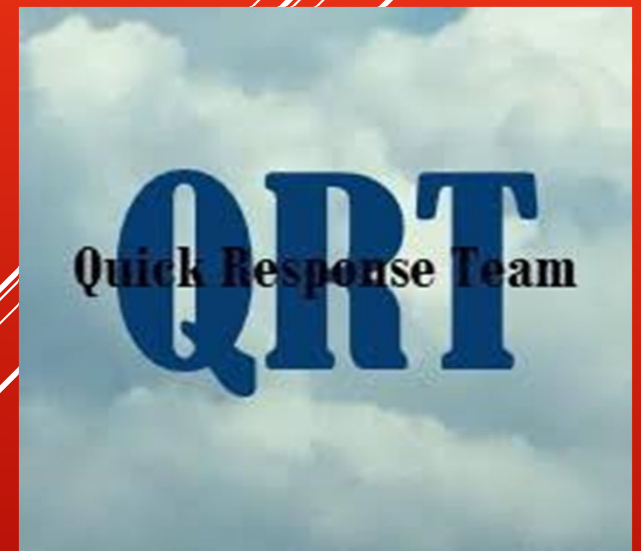
**Two Key Questions**

1. Divert to What?
2. Case Management How?

# HUNTINGTON QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT)

CHANGING COURSE WITH THE  
INNOVATIVE QRT MODEL

Huntington, WV



Presented By:

Connie Priddy MA, RN, MCCN

Huntington QRT Program Coordinator

CABELL COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

# *A COMMUNITY IN CRISIS*



\* CITY POPULATION: 50,000

\* COUNTY POPULATION: 100,000

\* CABELL COUNTY EMS RUNS 35,000 CALLS ANNUALLY (COUNTY-BASED EMS AGENCY THAT SERVES ALL OF CABELL COUNTY. THIS IS ALL-INCLUSIVE OF OVERDOSE CALLS IN THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON).



# CABELL COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES “SUSPECTED OVERDOSE” CALLS

2015

“Suspected Overdose” Calls - 480

Narcan Usage - 298

2016

“Suspected Overdose” Calls - 1217

Narcan Usage - 768

2017

“Suspected Overdose” Calls - 1831

Narcan Usage - 1153



## FACING A PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIC

Our community became quite aware that how we were handling the crisis was not working. It was still believed by many, that you could arrest your way out of this epidemic. As numbers spiraled out of control, with nearly 200 individuals overdosing in one month by August 2017 (which averaged over 6 people a day). It became very apparent a new way of thinking was needed. Community leaders began working together. Mayor Williams developed an Office of Drug Control Policy. Programs like the Harm Reduction followed. The criminal justice system developed diversion programs. Suddenly, community leaders from Marshall University, both local hospitals, multiple treatment facilities, city and county government, Police, Fire, and EMS officials were in the same room...looking for solutions.

**WEST VIRGINIA LED THE NATION PER CAPITA IN  
OVERDOSE DEATHS...AND HUNTINGTON, WV WAS AT THE  
HEART OF THAT DEVASTATING STATISTIC**

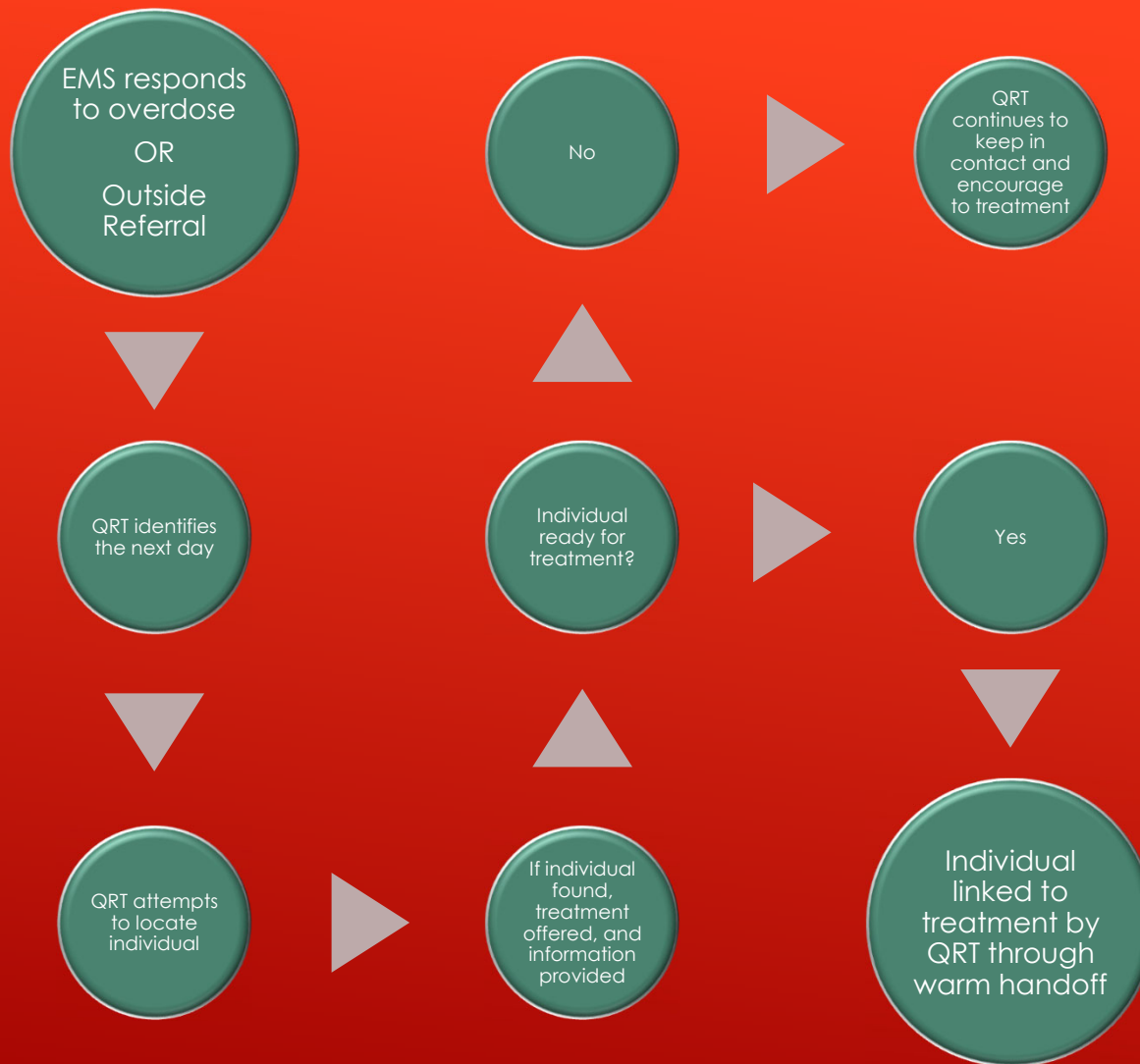
## COMPOSITION OF TEAM

- ▶ EMS PERSONNEL
- ▶ LAW ENFORCEMENT
- ▶ TREATMENT PROVIDER

QRT MODEL



# QRT FLOW CHART





## Initial Challenges:

- ❖ Confidentiality - Sharing of client information between all involved agencies
- ❖ Physical Location - Office space and access of vehicle for team
- ❖ Data Collection - Determined need for electronic medical record keeping
- ❖ Client Location - Correct current address (contact information)
- ❖ Encountering clients actively overdosing

## Overcoming Challenges:

- ❖ Confidentiality agreement (BAA) signed among all agencies. Each individual signs a HIPAA agreement for PHI
- ❖ Donated office space/vehicle by CCEMS
- ❖ Electronic charting system purchased to utilize for record keeping
- ❖ Active education/involvement with First-Responders to obtain “buy-in” for more information collected at the scene of the overdose
- ❖ Our team carries a “first-out” bag for an active emergency

# QRT CHALLENGES

- CABELL COUNTY EMS HAS REPORTED A 40% DECREASE IN OVERDOSE CALLS (THIS IS A YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON BETWEEN 2017 & 2018)
- TOTAL COST SAVINGS FOR EMS ALONE OVER \$370,000
- QRT PERSONALLY CONTACTED OVER 500 INDIVIDUALS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION
- OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED APPROXIMATELY 30% HAVE ENTERED FORMAL TREATMENT
- LEVEL OF COOPERATION AMONG ALL STAKE HOLDERS HAVE HAD AN IMPACT ON THIS SIGNIFICANT DECREASE

**QRT DATA**

# CAN A QRT PROGRAM HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON REDUCING OVERDOSE EVENTS?

## CABELL COUNTY EMS OVERDOSE CALLS:

- 2017 - 1831
- 2018 - 1089
- 2019 - 878

TOTAL REDUCTION FROM 2017 TO 2019 (through Dec)  
52% DECREASE

## QRT STATISTICS:

2017 (DEC) - 2019 (SEPT)

QRT ELIGIBLE - 1655

CONTACTS MADE - 720

ENTERED TREATMENT - 216

CALLING ALL  
VOLUNTEERS!



SATURDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>

9:30AM TILL 12:00PM

JOIN IN A DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE. WE WILL PASSING OUT INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES ON THE OPIOID QRT (Quick Response Team). THIS TEAM IS WORKING TIRELESSLY TO PROVIDE HELP TO THOSE WITH A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER. THIS WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY AND THOSE AFFECTED BY THIS DISEASE THAT...WE CARE!

**QRT ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY**



Team Doing  
Education for  
Local High  
School

Teaching Faith-Based  
Leaders



Facebook Page  
Created

Calling Card Created



**QRT** Quick Response Team  
Huntington, WV

Facing Addiction? We can help.

Contact us at:  
Email: [QRT@ccems.org](mailto:QRT@ccems.org) Phone: (304)526-8541  
[f https://www.facebook.com/QRTHuntington/](https://www.facebook.com/QRTHuntington/)

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

- ❖ Collaboration works to benefit the entire community. City/County Governments, Marshall University, Treatment Facilities, Community Services Agents, and countless others have cooperated for the “greater good” of all our people.
- ❖ Ignoring the issues do not make them disappear: Work proactively based on the data being gathered (even if initially you “don’t like” the trends being observed).
- ❖ Find allies with like mindset.
- ❖ Giving “HOPE” is the strongest tool we have in the toolbox...

## LESSONS LEARNED



CHANGING MINDS...ONE MIND AT A TIME





# The Plymouth County Drug Abuse Task Force

*A Partnership of the Plymouth County District Attorney  
and the Plymouth County Sheriff*

Substance Use Information & Education Helpline: 1-800-327-5050. Find a treatment center at <http://helpline.ma.org>



The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

[About](#) [Subcommittees](#) [Events](#) [Media](#) [Resources](#) [Contact Us](#)



- Meet the Chairman
- History, Goals and Objectives
- Meeting Minutes
- Task Force Initiatives
- Grants & Funding

**If you suspect  
something,  
do something.**

## Heslam: Victims of opioid epidemic seek solutions

Jessica Heslam Friday, February 09, 2018



- HERALD COLUMNISTS
- HILLARY CHABOT: Chabot: Senators win jackpot with power vacuum
  - JOE FITZGERALD: Fitzgerald: John Henry's common sense is way off base
  - HOWIE CARR: Carr: Politto's silence on trooper photos is just picture perfect
  - RAY FLYNN: Flynn: Prudential Center visit a reminder of humanity

TRENDING NOW

## WASTED YOUTH DEADLY SURGE



## "Our kids are dying."

That's what one mother told us after we did a story about her son's heroin use. Then she asked us: "Please keep this issue on the front burner — parents must be warned." We listened, and began looking into the toll the drugs OxyContin and heroin have taken on our young adults. The statistics are staggering — dozens have died from overdoses in the last three years, hundreds have been hospitalized, and many of the victims are under 25. Staff members Maureen Boyle, Craig Murray and Steve Damish spent the last year researching records, attending vigils and support groups, and talking to addicts, officials and families of the victims. See our special online presentation here.

## The growing toll of opiate addiction



Our children were dying. That's what our report "Wasted Youth" exposed in March 2007, when we revealed the toll OxyContin and heroin addiction had taken on this region. Dozens had died, many under the age of 25, and thousands had endured nonfatal overdoses. For that series, we examined death certificates from Jan. 2004-Aug. 2006 in the 28 communities we cover. The work revealed a time of untold tragedy

## Report: Bay State logs second-most fentanyl cases nationwide

Brian Dowling Thursday, October 26, 2017



Credit: Courtesy

- HERALD COLUMNISTS
- HILLARY CHABOT: Chabot: Senators win jackpot with power vacuum
  - JOE FITZGERALD: Fitzgerald: John Henry's common sense is way off base
  - HOWIE CARR: Carr: Politto's silence on trooper photos is just picture perfect
  - RAY FLYNN: Flynn: Prudential Center visit a reminder of humanity

TRENDING NOW

Destroyer in Yemen attack to visit Boston

Solange Knowles accepts Harvard Foundation's Artist of the Year: I'm 'humbled and beyond grateful'

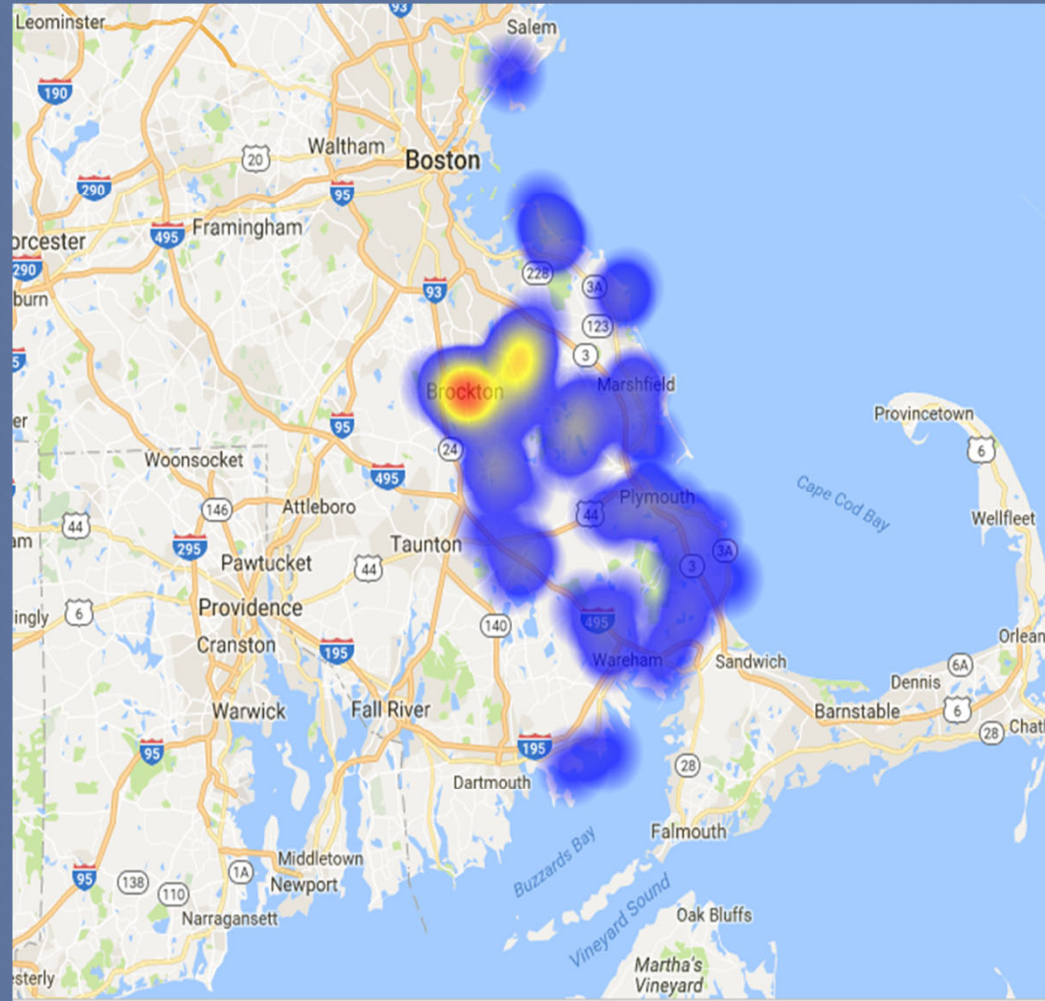
Elizabeth Warren seeks to neutralize 'Pocahontas' barbs

For Gloucester girl, a memory washes ashore





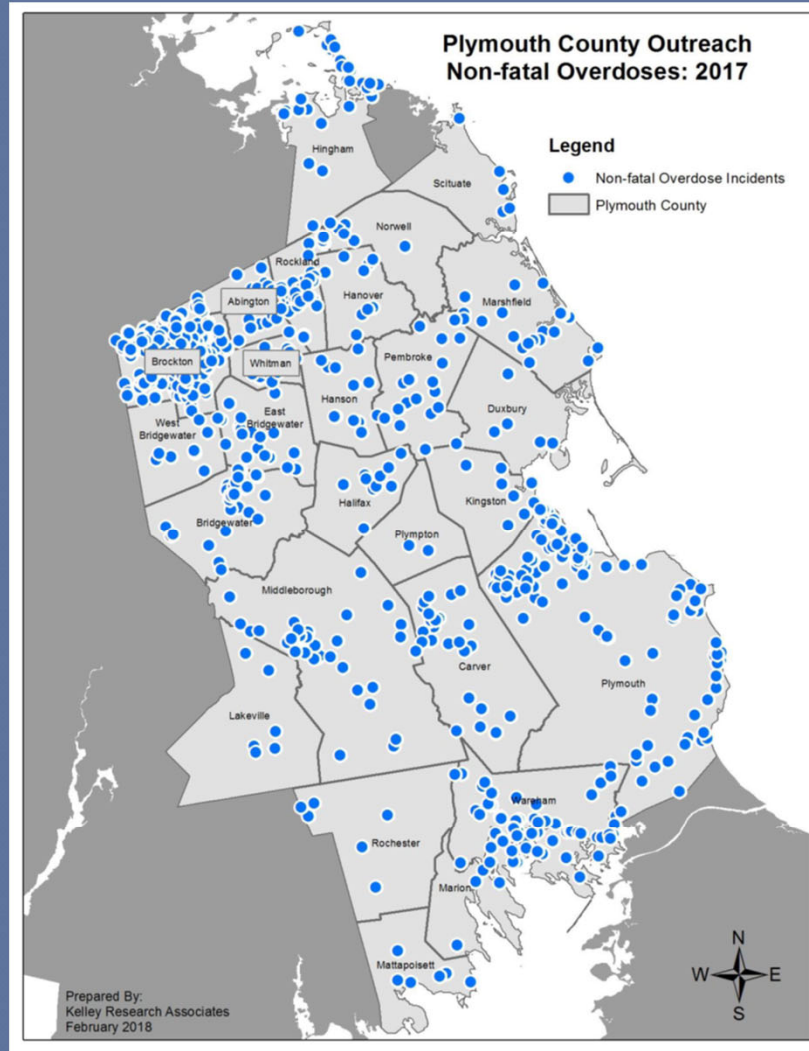
The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force



[help](#) | [Feedback](#)



The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force



# Plymouth County Drug Task Force

## Subcommittees include:

- Community Coalitions
- Data
- Education
- Faith Based
- Legislative Advisory
- Medical
- Public Safety (PCO)
- Drug Endangered Children

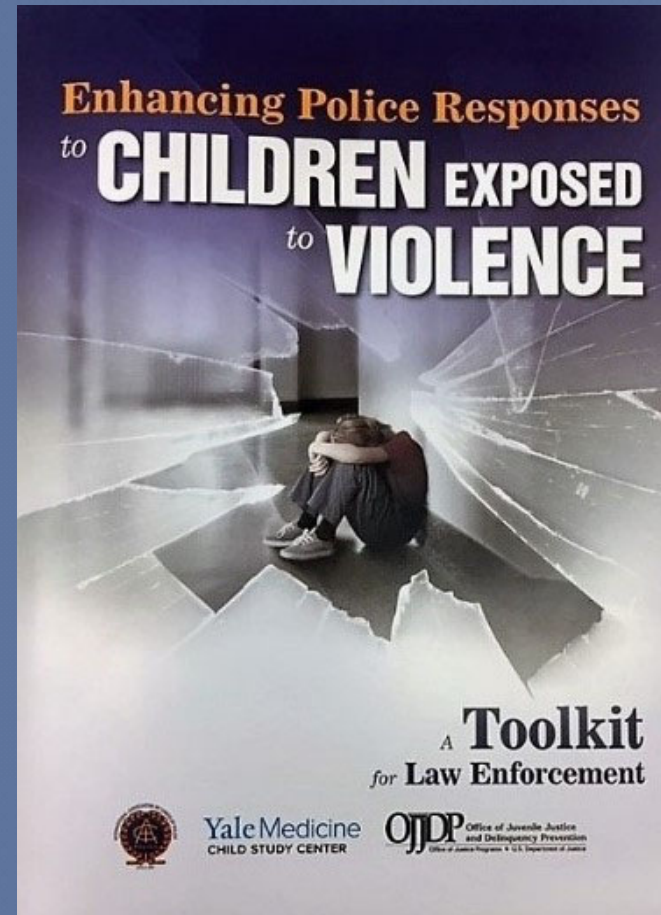


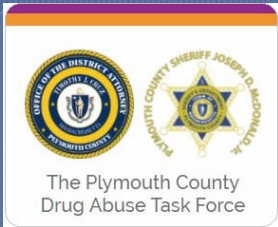




The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

## Helping Traumatized Children Learn





# Past Response

- **Child Witnesses Violence**

**Police Respond**

**Police Leave**

- **File 51A**
- **Police write report**

- **Child attends school the following day**

**Behaviors Interrupt Learning**





The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

# Current Response

- **Child Witnesses Violence**

**Police Response**

**Police Follow-up**

- 51A filed
- Report written to include names of children

- Police screen reports
- Contact schools
- SW Ridealong

**Child Connected to Services**





The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force



## Handle With Care Notice

From Law Enforcement to the School

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_  
(School) (Law Enforcement Agency)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Incident Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The child referenced below was on the scene of a police action in the last 24 hours and could exhibit academic, emotional and/or behavioral problems as a result of exposure to a traumatic event. Please handle him/her with care. For more information go to [www.handlewithcarewv.org](http://www.handlewithcarewv.org)

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_



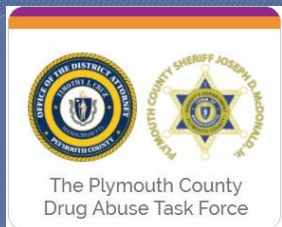
To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Teacher) (Principle/Counselor)

*Handle With Care*

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Date \_\_\_\_\_

FRAGILE



## Blueprint for School Action

- Case Study:  
***Louis Angelo Elementary School***  
**Brockton MA**

Local student's father was incarcerated over the weekend. Student showed no outward signs of trauma or stress. Student was found rummaging through other students' lunch boxes looking for money and food to bring back to his mother.

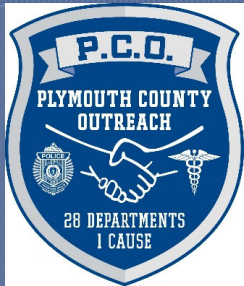




The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

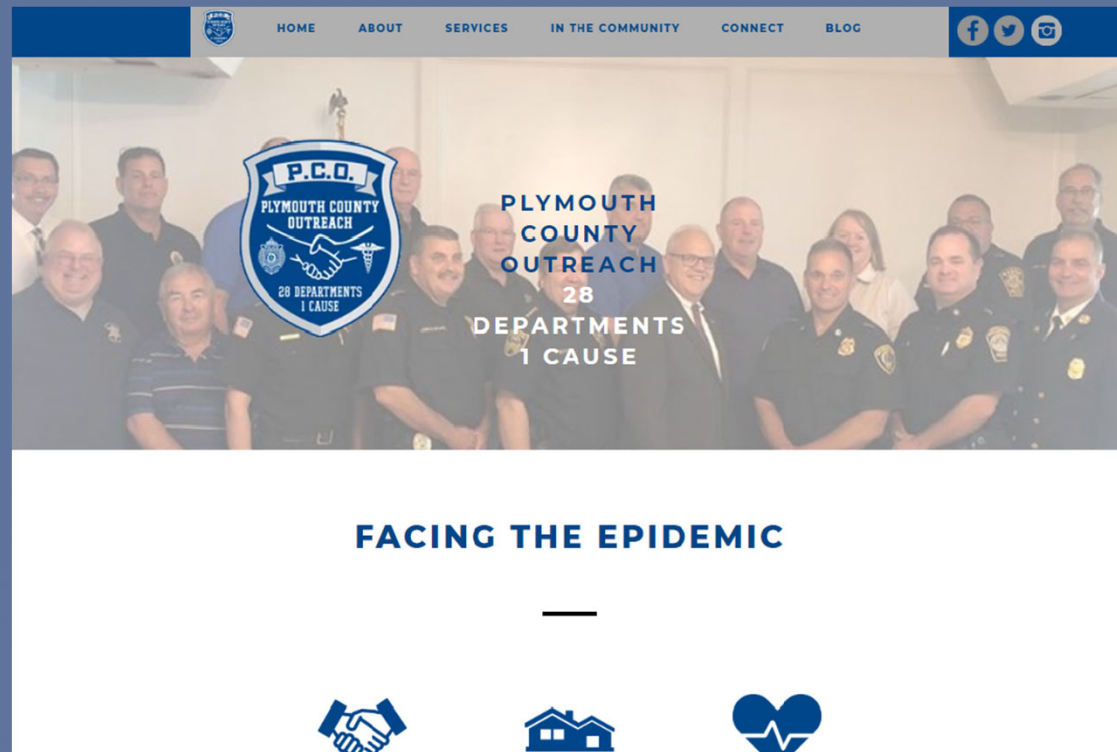
## Success

From 2011-2014, the three trauma-sensitive schools experienced an 80-percent decrease in suspendable issues and 43 percent fewer office referrals.



# Plymouth County Outreach

*A Law Enforcement-Led Approach to the Opioid Epidemic;  
“A community solution to a community problem.”*



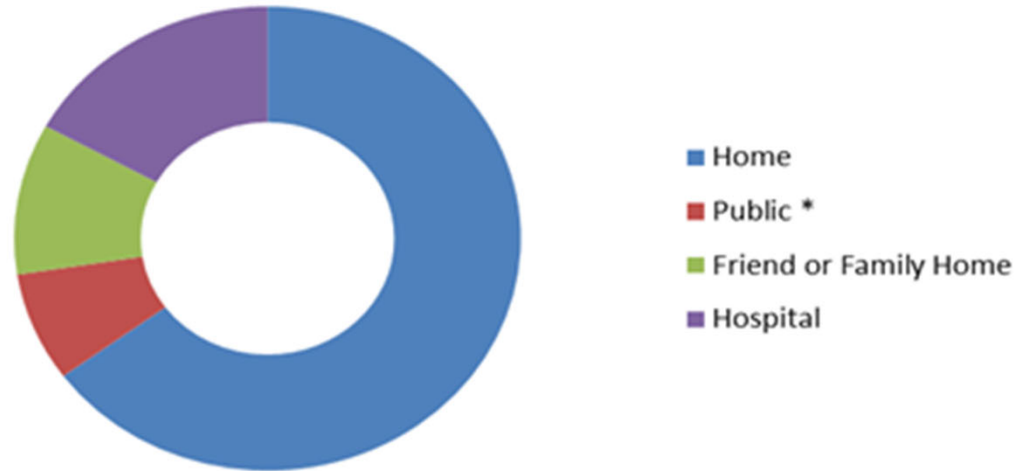
<http://plymouthcountyoutreach.org>



The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

# What Kids Witness at Home

## Place of Death 2015

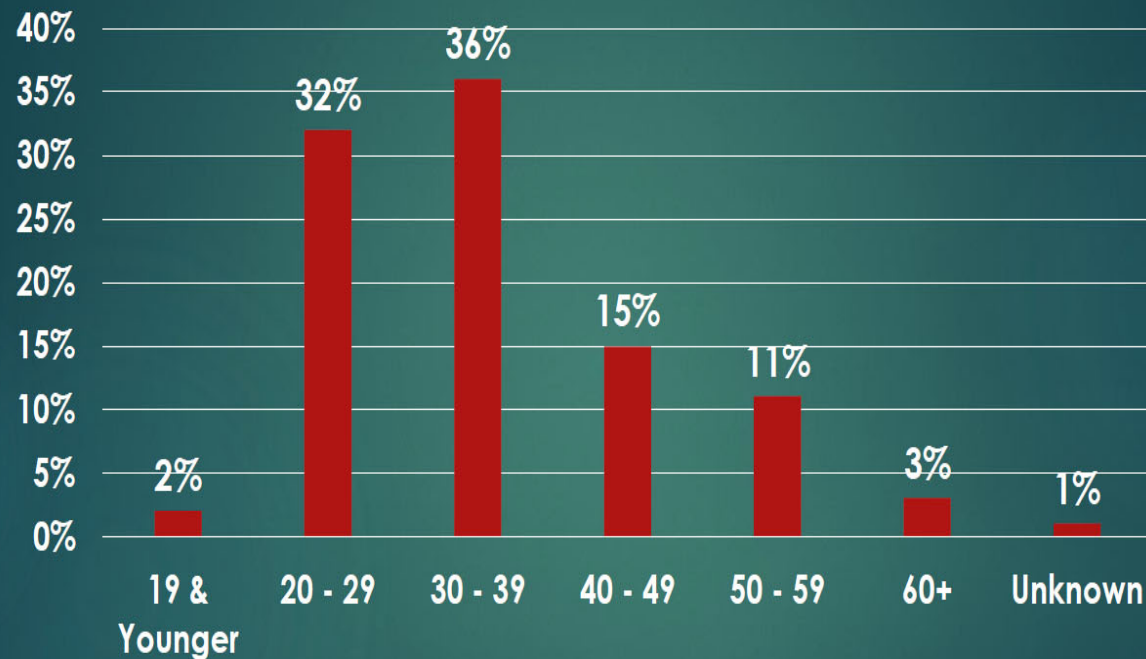


<b>Home</b>	<b>Public *</b>	<b>Friend or Family Home</b>	<b>Hospital</b>
111	13	18	29
64.90%	7.60%	10.53%	16.96%

MA State Police, Unattended Death Reports, 2015  
Signature Healthcare, Brockton Hospital Overdose Statistics, 2015



# Age Range



Kelley Research Associates 2/18

Sixty-eight percent (918) of the individuals who overdosed in 2017 were between the ages of 20 and 39. The majority of Fatal overdoses (33%, n=48) and Non-Fatal overdoses (37%, n=418) involved people between the age of 30 and 39. The youngest fatality was 19 years old and the oldest was 64 years old.



The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

# Care & Protection Filings

	<u>Mass.</u>	<u>Bristol</u>	<u>Plymouth</u>
<b>FY 2012</b>	2459	269	110
<b>FY 2013</b>	2655	314	131
<b>FY 2014</b>	3663	469	201
<b>FY 2015</b>	3383	426	175
<b>FY 2016</b>	3855	443	188
<b>FY 2017</b>	3463	388	165

Judge John Spinale, Bristol County Juvenile Court



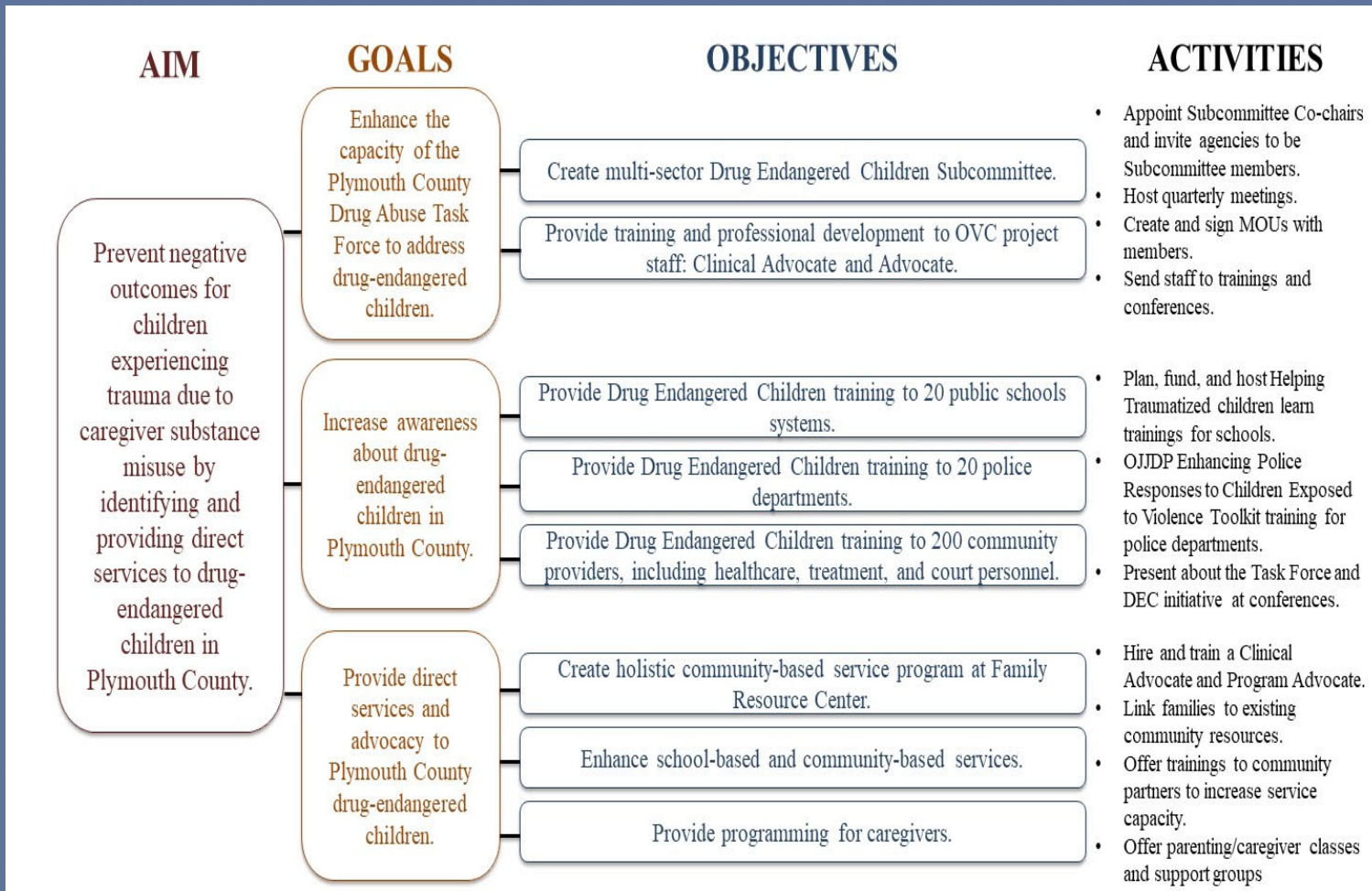
The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

**JOHNNY HAS A DRUG PROBLEM...**

**JOHNNY *DOESN'T* DO DRUGS.**



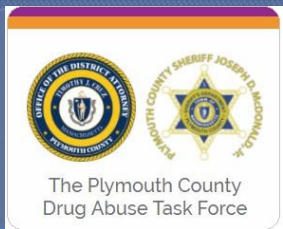






- **Diversions Programs (Child Requiring Assistance/Drug Endangered Children)**
  - Clinical Advocate
  - Referrals to services
- **Community Resources & Basic needs**
- **School Liaison**
- **Ongoing Classes & Groups**
  - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
  - Sober Mommies support group
  - Parenting classes





# Building Collaborative Partnerships



## Who We Are:



This information is made possible by the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office under Grant 2018-V3-GX-0093, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



# Sustaining Collaborative Partnerships

## 1. Establish Regular Meetings

- Convenient Location
- Consistent day/time

## 2. Establish Effective Feedback Loop

- What is being accomplished by the Initiative
- What relevant data or anecdotes can be shared

## 3. Act on Partner Feedback and Suggestions

- The 80/20 rule



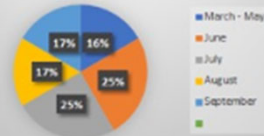


United Way of Greater  
Plymouth County

### Drug Endangered Children's Initiative September 2019 Update

Referrals are coming in: Two additional referrals in September brought us to twelve, total, as of September 30th.

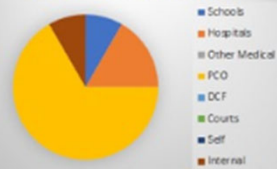
#### Drug Endangered Children's Initiative Number of Referrals 2019



[www.uwgpc.org/fro/drug-endangered-children-initiative](http://www.uwgpc.org/fro/drug-endangered-children-initiative)

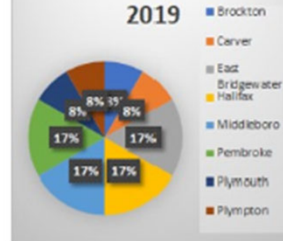
In September, both referrals came from Plymouth County Outreach. As of September 30th, we have received one referral from a school, two from hospitals, eight from Plymouth County Outreach and one internal.

#### Referral Sources 2019



Referrals are coming from throughout Plymouth County: September saw referrals from Middleboro and Pembroke. As of September 30th there have been referrals from Brockton(1), Carver (1), East Bridgewater (2), Halifax (2), Middleboro (2), Pembroke (2), Plymouth (1), and Plympton (1) .

#### Referring Towns 2019



### National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Training "Building a Coordinated Response"

November 6, 2019 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Stonehill College

<https://oaf.plymouthda.com/drug-endangered-children-building-a-coordinated-response/>



### Helping Traumatized Children Learn

We are currently accepting





ACES=Adverse Childhood Experiences

# ACES Connection

Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma & build resilience.

HOME COMMUNITIES MAP THE MOVEMENT SPEAKERS/TRAINERS VIDEO CALENDAR BLOG ASK COMMUNITY ABOUT + JOIN SIGN IN

HOME

## Blog Entries

### San Diego Trauma-Informed Guide Team Meeting November 1, 2019

PAM HANSEN · 1 HOUR AGO

Wonderful to see so many new and familiar faces at our November meeting! See attached for meeting minutes, flyers and handouts.

[READ STORY](#) [0 COMMENTS](#)



**Post**

**WELCOME TO  
ACES CONNECTION**

....the most active, influential **ACES** community in the world. Connect with people using trauma-informed/resilience-building practices. Stay current with news, research, events. [Click HERE to learn how to get started!](#)

**ACES = Adverse Childhood Experiences**

**MAPPING  
THE MOVEMENT**

Mapping the Movement | Home | About | Contact Us | Privacy Policy

<http://acesconnection.com>



The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force



## HANDLE WITH CARE MASSACHUSETTS

PROTECT • HEAL • THRIVE

- Home
- Handle With Care
- Child Abuse
- Child Human Trafficking
- Drug Endangered Children
- Plymouth County DECI Initiative
- Contact Us

### The "Handle With Care" Model:

If a law enforcement officer encounters a child during a call, that child's information is forwarded to the school before the school bell rings the next day. The school implements individual, class and whole school trauma-sensitive curricula so that traumatized children are "Handled With Care". If a child needs more intervention, on-site trauma-focused mental healthcare is available at the school.



#### Upcoming Events

- Plymouth County DECI Training Opportunities
- November 6, 2019-Plymouth County DECI Conference:



#### Handle With Care Model



#### Partners



<http://hwc.plymouthda.com>



The Plymouth County  
Drug Abuse Task Force

## Contact Information

**Edward G. Jacobs, MSW**

*Plymouth County District Attorney's Office*

*edward.jacobs@state.ma.us*

*(508) 509 5321*

**Melinda Kneeland**

*United Way of Greater Plymouth County, The Family Center*

*melinda.kneeland@ccbrockton.org*

*(508) 944-5063*

*This presentation was produced by the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office under grant 2018-V3-GX-0093, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*