Overdose Fatality Review Timeline Displays:
Samples From the Field
Acknowledgment

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Introduction

Summarizing key case information and displaying significant life events and interactions with services on a timeline can assist with identifying gaps in services or missed opportunities for prevention or intervention. OFR teams meeting in person most often develop a timeline during the meeting using a whiteboard to capture and share information as discussed by the team members. With more OFR teams meeting virtually, several teams use software tools to display data that is captured prior to the meeting.

This document highlights various OFR teams’ use of timeline software and associated costs, pros and cons, and example images. It is by no means a complete representation of what all OFR teams are using to display timeline information, but it offers some of the most frequent tools used. For example, most teams use one of the timeline options offered by Office (https://templates.office.com/en-us/timelines), while others are exploring additional tools such as Tableau.

This document has two sections. One is the Software Comparison Table, which compares the features of Office Timeline, Excel Vertical Timeline, Visio, and PowerPoint. The second section provides example timelines from the software listed in the table.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
<th>Images</th>
<th>OFR Team and Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Timeline</strong>¹</td>
<td>• Online access for $59 per year</td>
<td>• Easy to use and self-learn quickly</td>
<td>• Not very visually appealing when selecting simple view</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• PowerPoint add-in or online tool for $99 per year</td>
<td>• Can change format, view, and layout</td>
<td>• The PowerPoint display limits the amount of data that can be displayed on a slide.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Relatively low cost</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easy to split data to make a second “page”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excel: Vertical Timeline</strong>²</td>
<td>• Free with Microsoft Office access</td>
<td>• Easy to use</td>
<td>• Need to be familiar with formatting axes in excel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Milwaukee County, WI Amy Parry <a href="mailto:apar@mcw.edu">apar@mcw.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Online template</td>
<td>• Online template</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visio</strong>³</td>
<td>• Costs depend on package purchased</td>
<td>• Multiple timeline formats</td>
<td>• Title needs to be created manually</td>
<td></td>
<td>Milwaukee County, WI Amy Parry <a href="mailto:apar@mcw.edu">apar@mcw.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Online access available at $5 per month</td>
<td>• User-friendly</td>
<td>• Takes practice (i.e., drag events underneath the timeline)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Color-code by event type (e.g., EMS or law enforcement)</td>
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<td>• Offers bracket to specify event over a time period (i.e., period of community supervision)</td>
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<td>• Events and below timeline to stagger events close together</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PowerPoint</strong>⁴</td>
<td>• Free with Microsoft Office access</td>
<td>• Easy to use</td>
<td>• Need to have some graphic design ability or practice displaying timelines</td>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA Zoe Soslow <a href="mailto:Zoe.Soslow@phila.gov">Zoe.Soslow@phila.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easy to change</td>
<td>• Manual formatting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Icons</td>
<td>• Manual data manipulation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Visually clear and appealing</td>
<td>• Time-intensive</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Fit a lot of data on one timeline</td>
<td>• Limited space for text descriptions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Manually adjust length of month</td>
<td>• Identify icon for specific events</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Imprecise spacing between event dates</td>
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Example Timeline Images

1. Office Timeline With PowerPoint Display

John Doe  Age: 39

Overdoses
- Overdose (Private residence)  Feb 9, 2016
- Overdose (Private residence)  May 5, 2017
- Overdose (Private residence)  Apr 16, 2018
- Overdose (Private residence)  Sep 15, 2018
- Overdose (Private residence)  Oct 22, 2019
- Overdose (Private residence)  Apr 5, 2020

Post-Overdose Response
- No contact due to bad information  Oct 11, 2019

Treatment
- SA Treatment  Jan 31 - Jul 8
- Treatment (Dual Treatment Track)  Feb 15 - Nov 13
- SA Treatment  Jun 10 - Dec 11
- SA Treatment  May 8 - Jun 30
- Pretrial Supervision  Dec 12 - Feb 19
- 271 days  Feb 15 - Nov 13
- 5 days  Sep 3 - Sep 8

Community Corrections
- Pretrial Supervision  Sep 3 - Sep 8
- Dual Treatment Track  Feb 15 - Nov 13

Jail
- Jail  Feb 19 - Feb 25
- Jail  Mar 28 - Mar 30
- Jail  Apr 16 - Jun 13
- Jail  May 31 - Jun 1

Court
- Possession of Schedule I/II drug  May 3 - Jul 20
- Show Cause  Aug 29 - Jan 24
- Possession of Schedule I/II drug  Jan 25 - Nov 23
- Show Cause  May 27 - Dec 11
- Possession of Schedule I/II drug  Oct 22 - Mar 20
2. Excel Vertical Timeline (X-Y Scatter Chart)
3. Visio Timeline

12 months prior to overdose

- 12/15/2019: EMS: Overdose, naloxone administered
- 4/30/2020: Began deferred prosecution agreement
- 10/28/2020: Fatal overdose, age 36

Other events:
- 3/15/2020: LE: Arrest for theft
- 8/1/2020: EMS: Non-overdose encounter
4. PowerPoint Timeline #1

"NAME"
5. PowerPoint Timeline #2

"NAME"
6. PowerPoint Timeline #3

"NAME"
7. PowerPoint Timeline #4

"NAME"
8. PowerPoint Timeline #5

May
- 5/6: EMS encounter for OD
- 5/15: Citalopram fill
- 5/24: Law Enforcement contact: welfare check

June
- 6/22: ED @ TMC: Nausea, PTSD

July
- 7/6: Mental Health Assessment
- 7/22: Diazepam 30d fill
- 7/18: Citalopram fill
- 7/28
  - OP visit: nausea
  - Hydrocodone

Aug
- 8/10: Home crisis intervention service
  - EMS encounter
- 8/14: Petition for COT
- 8/11 – 8/13: Psych IP stay
- 8/20: OP Doctor visit
- 8/23: Diazepam 30d fill

DOD 8/29