

## Revere Opioid Abatement Working Group

1/29/2025

6:00pm

### Attendees:

- CarrieAnn Salemme, SUDHI Program Manager
- Nicole Palermo, Social Worker
- Lauren Buck, Public Health
- Eddy Volcimus, Revere Resident
- Joe Internicola, Revere Police
- Joe Singer, Revere Police
- Debbie Hanscom, Revere Resident
- Nikki Rossi, Outreach Worker
- Kirby Taylor, Harm Reduction Professional
- Kelly Ward, Revere Resident

### Agenda:

- Review of Focus Group Data
- Review of Survey Results Data
- Exercise to start long-term planning spending

### Notes:

- Categories/Buckets of Long-term Planning:
  - o Community Education/Resources
    - Conferencing training with large apartment complexes
    - City of Revere directory of OUD resources
    - Parent forum within schools live speakers of bereaved family
    - Daily/weekly podcast/youtube channel run by an employee from SUDHI/OA funding
    - School program for kids something where the kids interact and are not just given information
    - Have kids that graduate come back and talk about what to look out for
    - Emotional support animal for people with OUD
    - Community education/support incorporate a 1x month clad at junior/high school with speakers from experience as well as health risks
    - Recovery café
    - Mailer to every household with phone numbers of SUD office/information/help signs/supported funded by businesses
  - o Grief Support
    - Funds for pets of people needing treatment
    - Financial assistance for grieving families
    - Plaque purchase
    - Support groups

- City-sponsored grief groups for family/friends
  - Fund for music or art therapy for families in grief
  - Start community garden for families dedicated to loved ones
  - Burial funds for families in need
- Harm Reduction
  - Mobile van, medical, DTA, SSP
  - Supervised use sites
  - Dental program to give people confidence
  - Work development program
  - Harm reduction vending machines
  - Drop-in wound care clinic
  - Have constant social media post on Harm Reduction (facebook, twitter) page with following/support
- Prevention
  - Increase the education possibly by one times a month, Revere Advocate, all info regarding opiate including stats
  - OD education Narcan training, fentanyl poisoning education at middle school
  - Education program in the schools starting in middle school up, circle based
  - After-school programs that pays kids so they don't have to go to work
- Housing
  - Housing program that gives people 6 months of rent- Housing First Model
  - Have a housing rep come do outreach, fill out paperwork
  - Special funding like RAFT for people how are moving into SROs, apartments
  - Life coach- housing plus job search plus life skills
  - Money to help obtain job, clothes, tools, etc
  - More supervised sober run homes in Revere
  - Scholarships for housing at sober homes
  - Stipend for move-in costs for furniture
  - Voucher program for OUD sober housing
  - Hire a company to contract with landlords to take rent to place people into apartments

**Next Steps:**

- February meeting- review the results of the long-term spending

# OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING FOCUS GROUP RESPONSES

**Overview:** From our original 100 community surveys that were taken, a group of 5 was gathered for each of the following sub groups.

- Work force (business owners, front lines EMS, FD, PD, city hall, etc.)
- Community (anyone who resides in Revere)
- Life Experience (self or family directly affected by OUD)
- Bereaved family (mother, father, children, siblings)

**Objective:** Gather opinions, gaps, needs, services, experiences, innovative ideas, for funding to be used for.

**Notes:** Less people showed up for the focus group than we hoped for. We ended up getting 2 people for each group instead of the intended 5.

Questions and summarized responses:

## ***1. What do you believe are the most pressing issues related to OUD in Revere?***

**Work Force/Community:** Medication Management, parent involvement/support, schools are not equipped to manage SUD with children, not enough programs for people without private insurance or beds are not available for people to get help.

**Bereaved:** post-recovery services are lacking- no money after treatment, back in survival mode and cycle keeps repeating

**Life Experience:** Having more connections when being released from jail or a program with SUD/OUD.

## ***2. How have you seen OUD affect your community?***

**Work Force/Community:** crime in apartment buildings (people coming in not living there, needles around parking lot of building, violence)

**Bereaved:** increase in homelessness and crime in the city

**Life Experience:** Cost a lot of people their lives. Once you get put on the street its hard to come back from.

### **3. How should the settlement funds be prioritized?**

**Work Force/Community:** education to younger and older groups of people on use and medication management. Older generations seem to brush it under the rug and younger generations seem to not take this very serious. Being consistent with a message would be helpful, holding different events for education and information.

**Bereaved:** Start prioritizing education and prevention then we wont need to fix the problem of treatment not being available or needs being met post treatment. Prevention is the root of the problem.

**Life Experience:** Programs for post prison/jail to help with work force training and development. More money in sober homes for structure.

### **4. What specific programs or services do you think would be most effective?**

**Work Force/Community:** A talk show or podcast, getting on a radio show to get information out there

**Bereaved:** find a connection to kids, like a music program or a contest or something to get them involved and educated at the same time

**Life Experience:** Work programs, people who use or have history of using and jail time struggle to find work based off of a record. For example a union program for people with SUD or jail history, having a contract with unions for them to take a certain number of people who fit this category would be helpful. If you leave jail and have no income and no housing you're going to use again.

### **5. How can community members be more engaged in addressing OUD?**

**Work Force/Community:** Churches should be involved in addressing this issue since they are forgiving and non judgmental. Platforms for community members to be involved, such as info sessions at the bigger apartment complexes to let them know about groups and resources, etc. giving them a space for their voices to be engaged and heard.

**Bereaved:** end the stigma and more people will be involved and engaged in conversation. I think a lot of people are embarrassed and ashamed that they have been affected by OUD and don't share their experience or opinions.

**Life Experience:** Not sure.

### **6. What role do you think local organizations or businesses should play?**

**Work Force/Community:** They should be informed on what OUD is and how it is affecting their business and be prepared to assist in an overdose.

**Bereaved:** Sponsoring events, supporting ending stigma and carrying NARCAN.

**Life Experience:** They shouldn't have to do anything.

***7. What role should local government play?***

**Work Force/Community:** Should be more accessible place to ask for help, knowing there is an office dedicated to SUD and what resources are available will help and having a face in public for people to see and connect with. Hosting events.

**Bereaved:** Be more vocal and take a public stance on their beliefs, continuing to educate other people in city hall about NARCAN and the reality of living with someone with OUD because it can happen to anyone.

**Life Experience:** None

Other Ideas:

- Pharmacies in Revere should give NARCAN with Opioid prescriptions
- Recovery center/ space in building
- More flyers and sharing resources
- Understanding when to seek help, when does it turn to addiction? How does someone know if they are addicted?