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Public Libraries Respond to the Opioid Crisis with Their Communities





Lynn Silipigni Connaway

Director, Library Trends and User Research



Kendra Morgan

Senior Program Manager, WebJunction



Larra Clark

Deputy Director, Public Library Association



Michelle Jeske

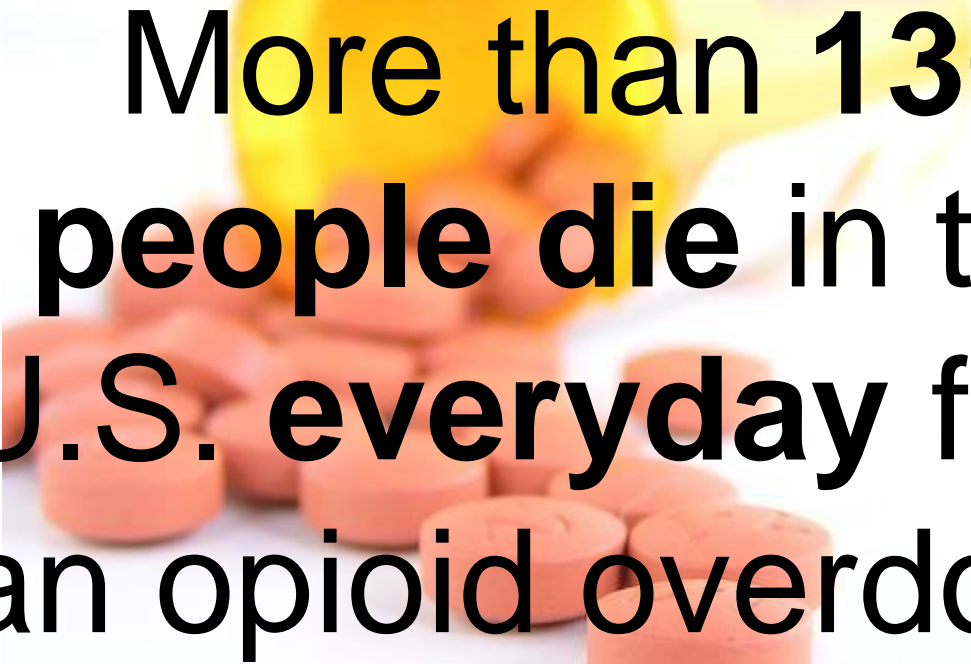
City Librarian, Denver Public Library



Marion Rorke

Substance Use Resource Coordinator, Denver
Department of Public Health & Environment

OPIOIDS & LIBRARIES



**More than 130
people die in the
U.S. everyday from
an opioid overdose.**

(Rudd, 2016)

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Public Libraries Respond to the Opioid Crisis with their Communities

IMLS National Leadership Grant LG-00-18-0298-18





PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

People are moved to work in the public library because of its unique and unparalleled ability to help anyone learn, do, and grow. PLA's mission is just as clear: cultivate a community of talented public library professionals where anyone can contribute, and everyone can grow. PLA provides the tools, leadership, and inspiration to help make change work for public libraries.

Project goals

Collect and
share
knowledge,
resources

Raise
awareness
among other
sectors

Address siloed
approaches

Project Activities

Case study research

Cross-sector discussions

Call-to-action white paper

Dissemination to the field



“Obviously, our biggest challenge is that people keep dying and we can’t work fast enough.”

- Community Partner Director

“Syringes” by Sam Nabi is licensed under CC BY 2.0

CASE STUDY RESEARCH

Goal of case studies

Explore a diverse set of communities in which the library is an active partner in response to the opioid epidemic.



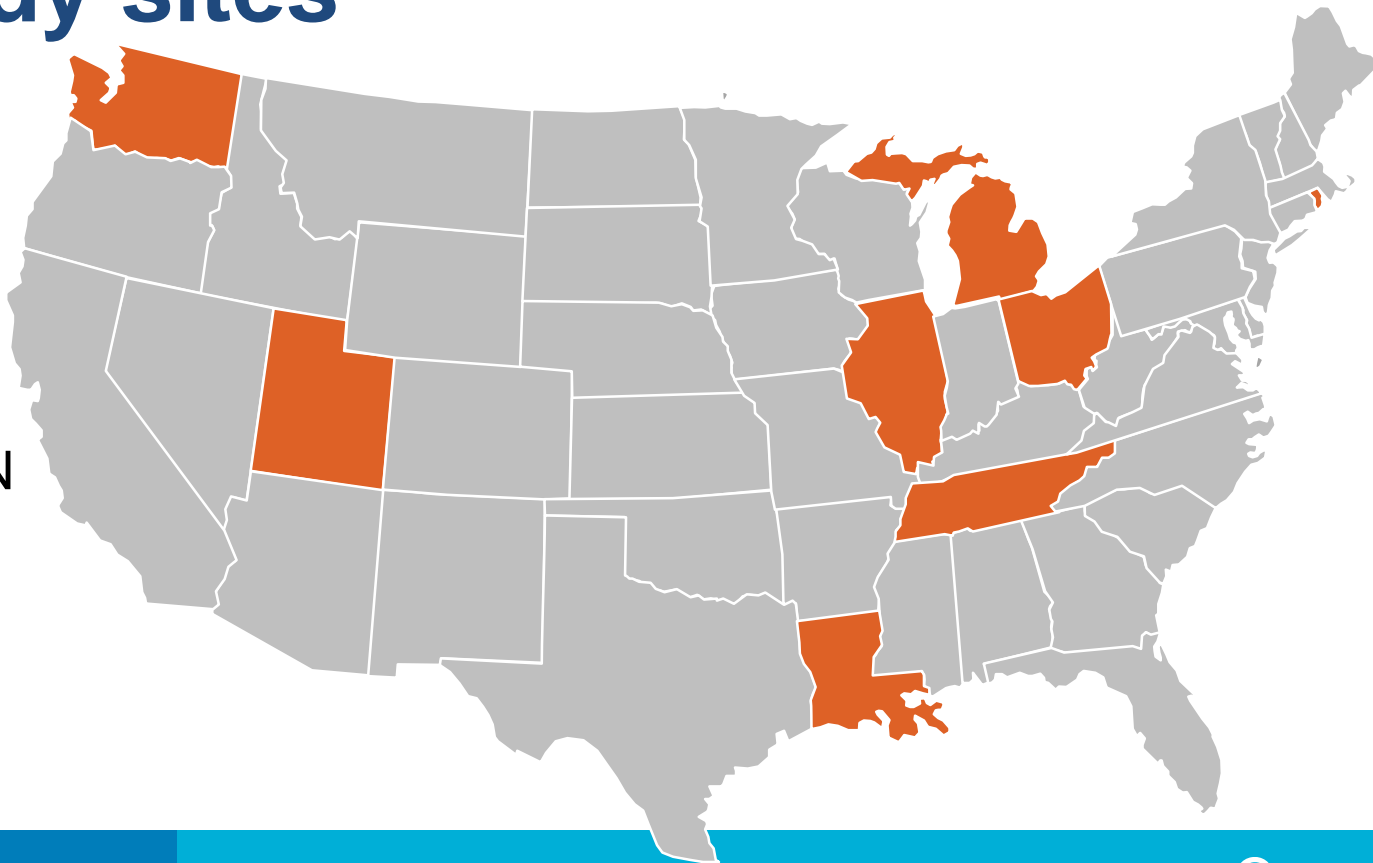
Criteria considered for site selection

- Diversity of community size, region, geographic distribution, and demographics
- Diversity of service population size
- Health data: uninsured rate, opioid prescribing rate, drug overdose death and mortality rate
- Must have worked with community partners on programs/services related to the opioid crisis
- Represent a range of community interventions



Case study sites

- Everett, WA
- Salt Lake, UT
- New Orleans, LA
- Peoria, IL
- Kalamazoo, MI
- Blount County, TN
- Twinsburg, OH
- Barrington, RI



Data collection

- Internal and external document review
- Up to 9 semi-structured recorded interviews
- Library Director/Deputy Director
- Library Administrator/Manager
- Library Frontline Staff
- Library Board Member
- Community Partner Director
- Community Partner Frontline Staff
- Up to 3 Community Members



(Leedy & Ormrod, 2016)

Interview Questions

How did your library decide to offer this program/service?

Library Staff

What makes the library a strong partner in an effort like this?

Community Partner

Why do you think it's important for the library to be involved in this work?

Library Board

What has been your overall experience interacting with the library for these programs and services?

Community Member

Pre-testing the protocols

- Denver Public Library, Community Resource Program
- Pre-test location for the interview protocol
- Feedback on case study template



Photo courtesy: Giles Clasen

Data analysis

- Interviews transcribed
- Code book from interview transcript; emerging themes
- NVivo for data analysis



PROGRAMMING & SERVICES EXAMPLES

Types of programs and services

Naloxone training,
staff and patrons

Community reads
and author talks

Changes to
physical layouts in
bathrooms

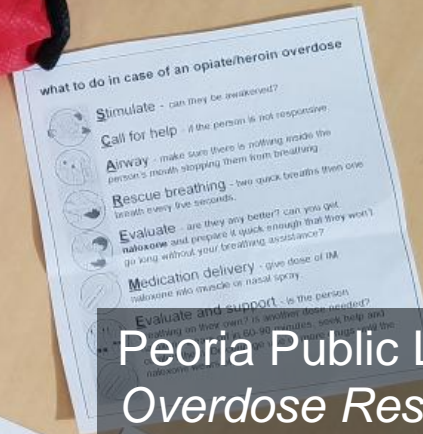
Peer navigators

Deterra disposal
bags

Recovery Court

Awareness and
information
campaigns

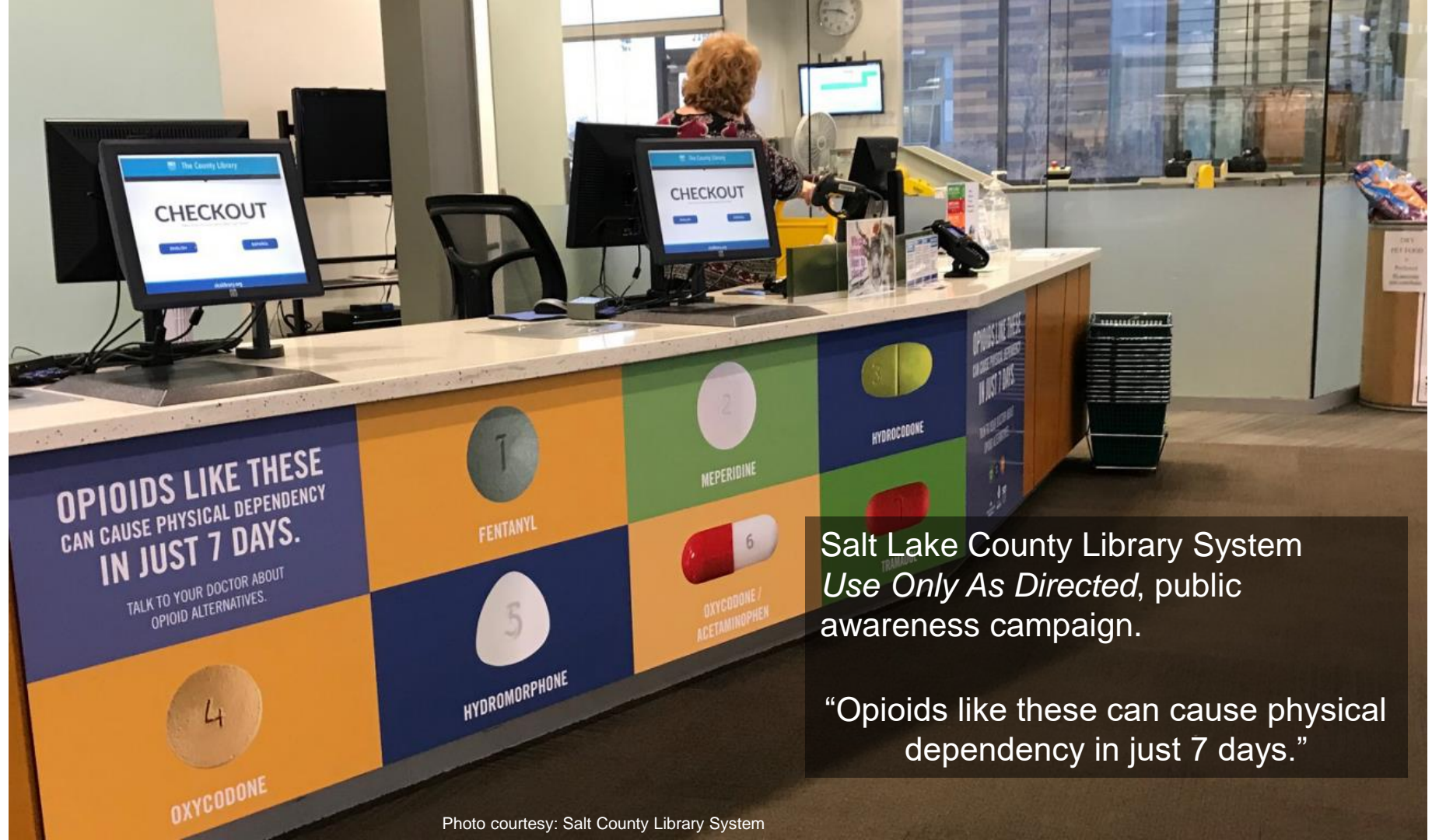
Mental health and
substance abuse
related health
programming



Peoria Public Library Overdose Rescue Kit

Includes Narcan, instructions for
use and information for more help.

Photo courtesy: Peoria Public Library



Salt Lake County Library System
Use Only As Directed, public
awareness campaign.

“Opioids like these can cause physical
dependency in just 7 days.”



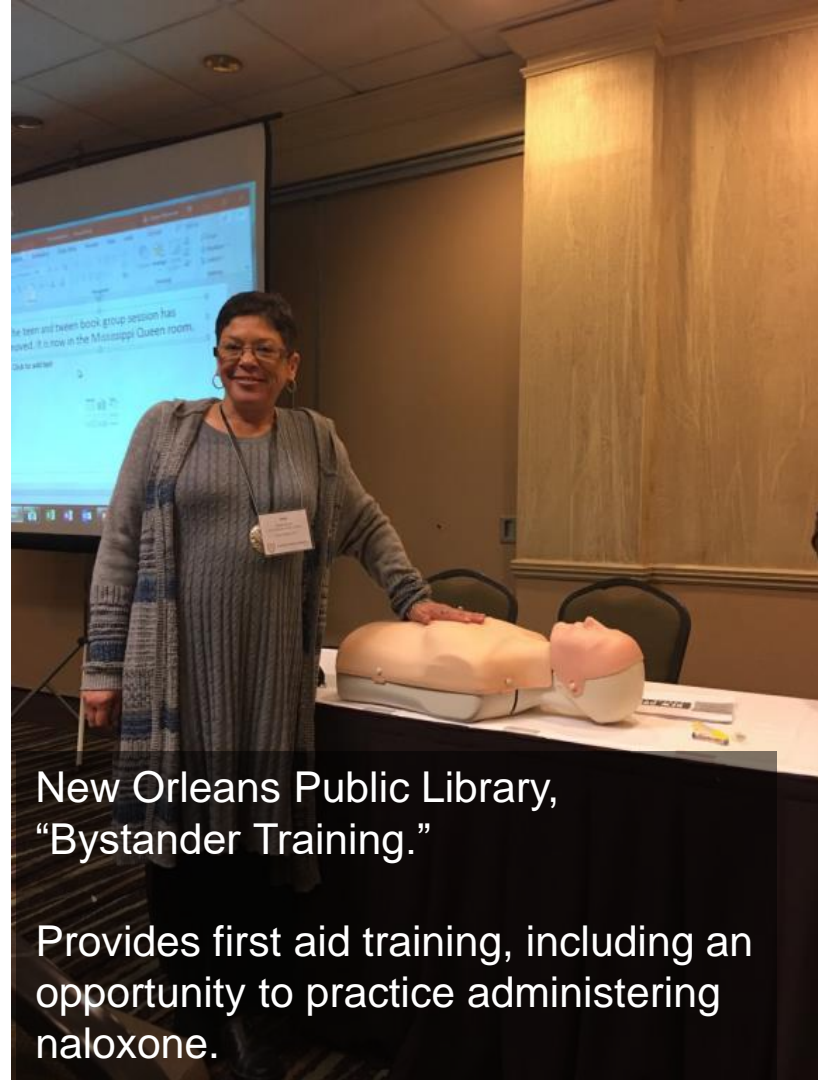
Salt Lake County Library System
Use Only As Directed, public
awareness campaign.

**7,000 opioid prescriptions are
filled every day in Utah.**

Photo courtesy: Salt Lake County Library System

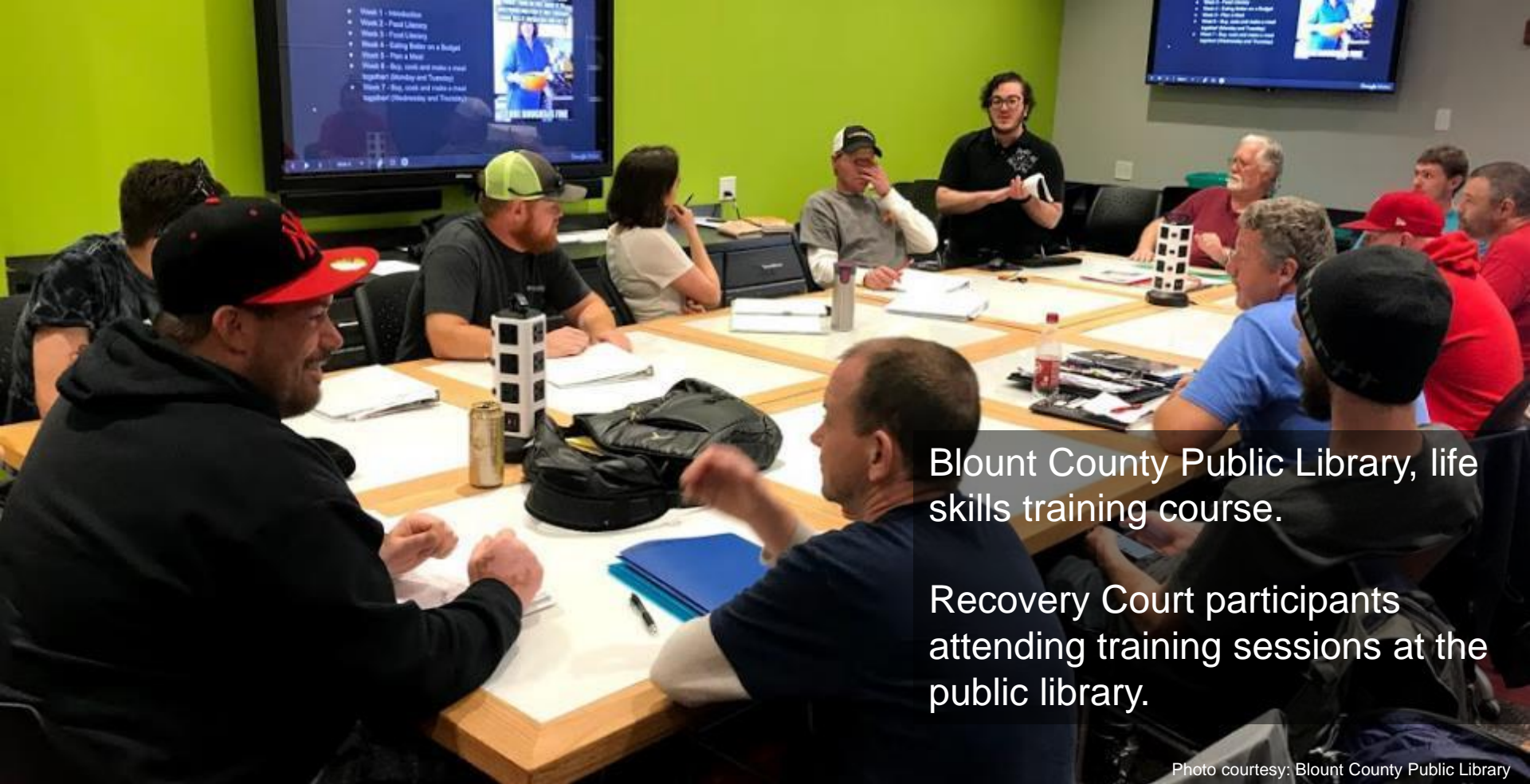


Photos courtesy: New Orleans Public Library



New Orleans Public Library,
“Bystander Training.”

Provides first aid training, including an opportunity to practice administering naloxone.



Blount County Public Library, life skills training course.

Recovery Court participants attending training sessions at the public library.

Photo courtesy: Blount County Public Library



Blount County Public Library, life skills training course.

Recovery Court participants attending training on nutrition at the library.

Photo courtesy: Blount County Public Library



Deterra drug deactivation system.

These bags provide a safe way to dispose of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Outputs reported

Increased
community
resources

Developed new
partnerships

Positive impact
on patrons' lives

Increased
community
awareness and
knowledge

D₁

A₁

T₁

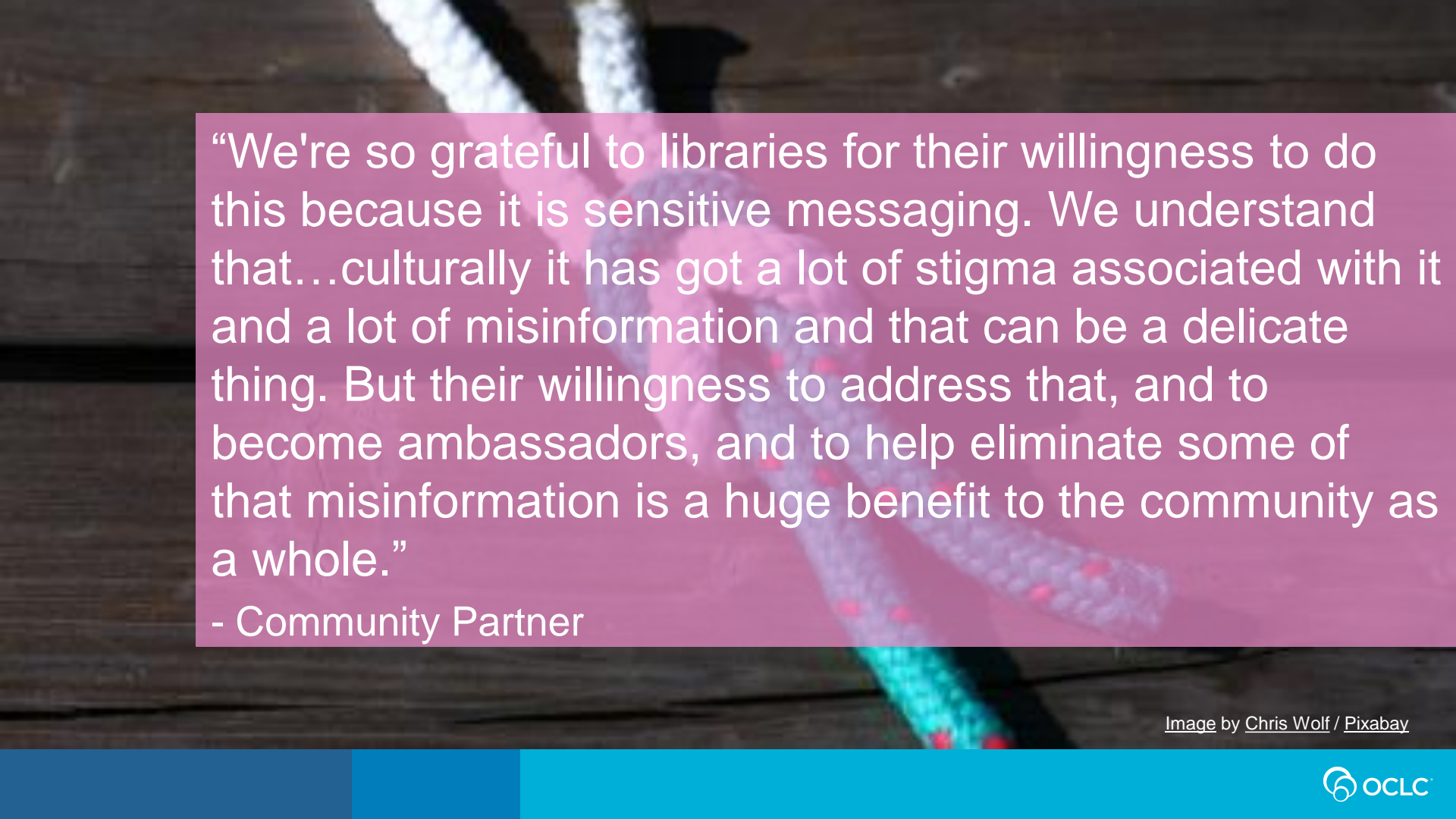
A₁

Reached other
libraries and
community
organizations

Addressed
stigma

Increased
positive
perception of
library

Research Data Management by [janneke staaks](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, wearing a patterned long-sleeved shirt, tying a knot in a thick rope. The rope has a white and blue braided section and a red and blue braided section. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface.

“We're so grateful to libraries for their willingness to do this because it is sensitive messaging. We understand that...culturally it has got a lot of stigma associated with it and a lot of misinformation and that can be a delicate thing. But their willingness to address that, and to become ambassadors, and to help eliminate some of that misinformation is a huge benefit to the community as a whole.”

- Community Partner

Image by [Chris Wolf](#) / [Pixabay](#)

Opportunities and challenges

Stigma

Opportunities and challenges

Stigma

Funding



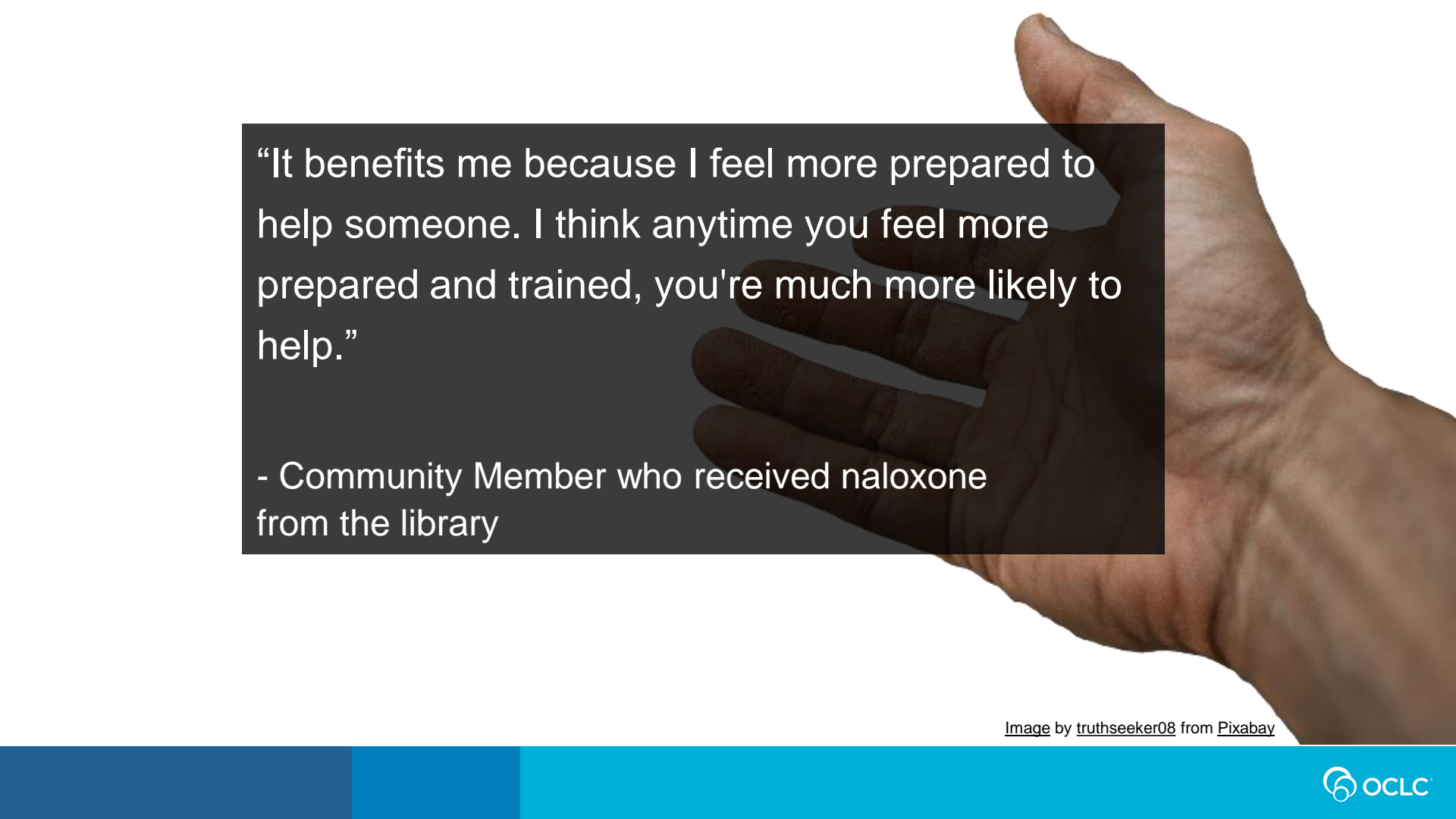
“Opiate addicts or people addicted to opiates are less likely to talk about that than people who have other addictions to other substances.”

– Community Partner Director

“There's other people that are very, very guarded. So just ask something like, ‘What's your name?’ And they see me write that down, I could lose trust right there.”

– Community Partner, Frontline Staff

Image by [Dayne Topkin](#) / [Unsplash](#)



“It benefits me because I feel more prepared to help someone. I think anytime you feel more prepared and trained, you're much more likely to help.”

- Community Member who received naloxone from the library

Image by [truthseeker08](#) from [Pixabay](#)

DENVER, COLORADO

5 Components of Collective Impact

1

Common Agenda

- **Common understanding** of the problem
- **Shared vision** for change

2

Shared Measurement

- **Collecting data** and **measuring results**
- Focus on **performance management**
- **Shared accountability**

3

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

- **Differentiated approaches**
- **Coordination** through joint plan of action

4

Continuous Communication

- **Consistent** and **open communication**
- Focus on **building trust**

5

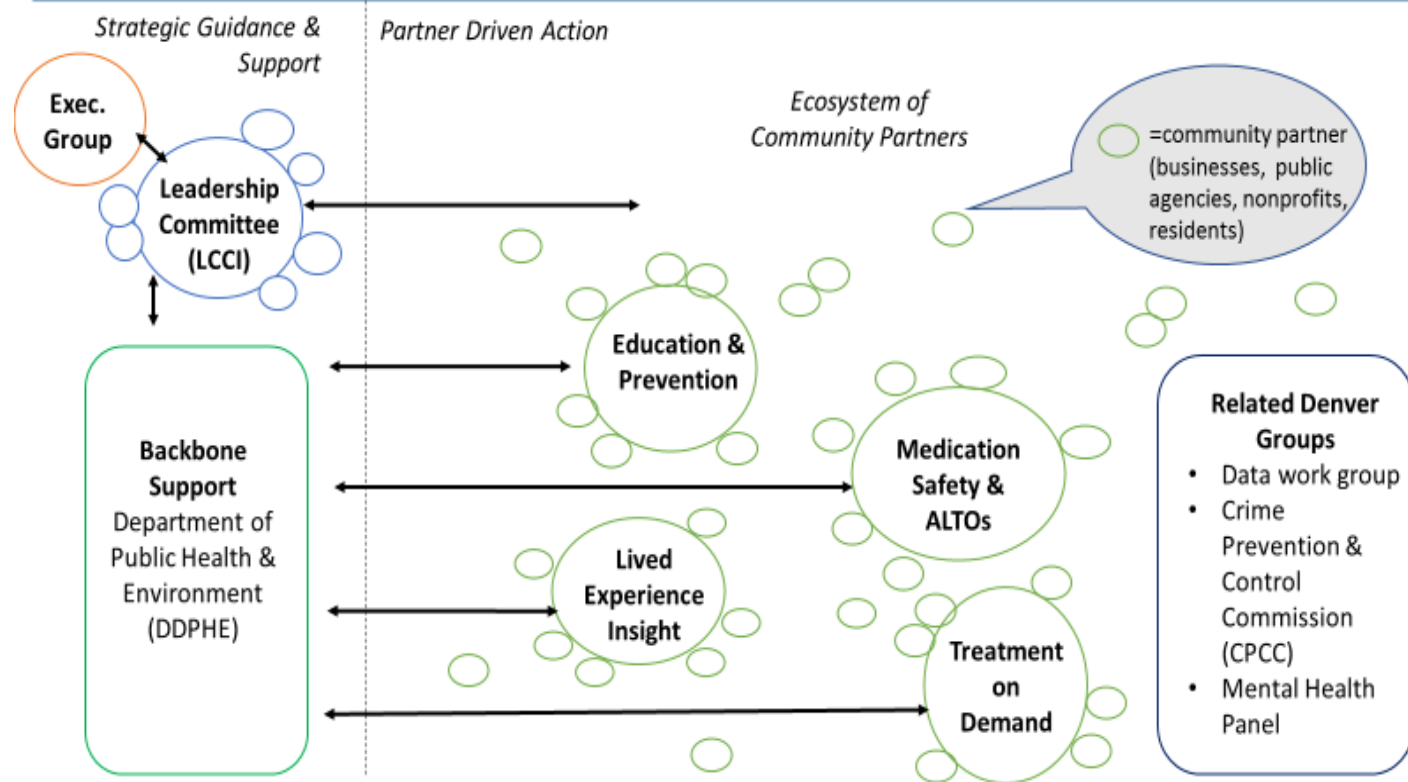
Backbone Support

- Separate organization(s) with **staff**
- Resources and skills to **convene** and **coordinate** participating organizations

Source: Channeling Change: Making Collective Impact Work, 2012; FSG Interviews at

Denver's Collective Impact Group to Address Opioids and Other Substances

Common Agenda and Shared Metrics: Prevent Substance (Mis)use, Improve Treatment Access & Retention, Reduce Harm



Library Involvement in Collective Impact and DDPHE Initiatives

- Co-chair of Leadership Committee
- Co-chair of Lived Experience Insight Action Team
- Most Action Teams and Committees meet monthly in libraries across Denver
- Hosted 2018 International Overdose Awareness Day event at Central Library
- Assistance in reaching people for focus groups regarding a Fentanyl Early Warning System



Photo: Mayor Michael B. Hancock addresses attendees during International Overdose Awareness Day, August 31, 2018. Photo campaign in background conducted by Harm Reduction Action Center.

Contact information

Marion Rorke, MPH

Marion.Rorke@denvergov.org

720-422-1617









Michelle Jeske
City Librarian
mjeske@denverlibrary.org

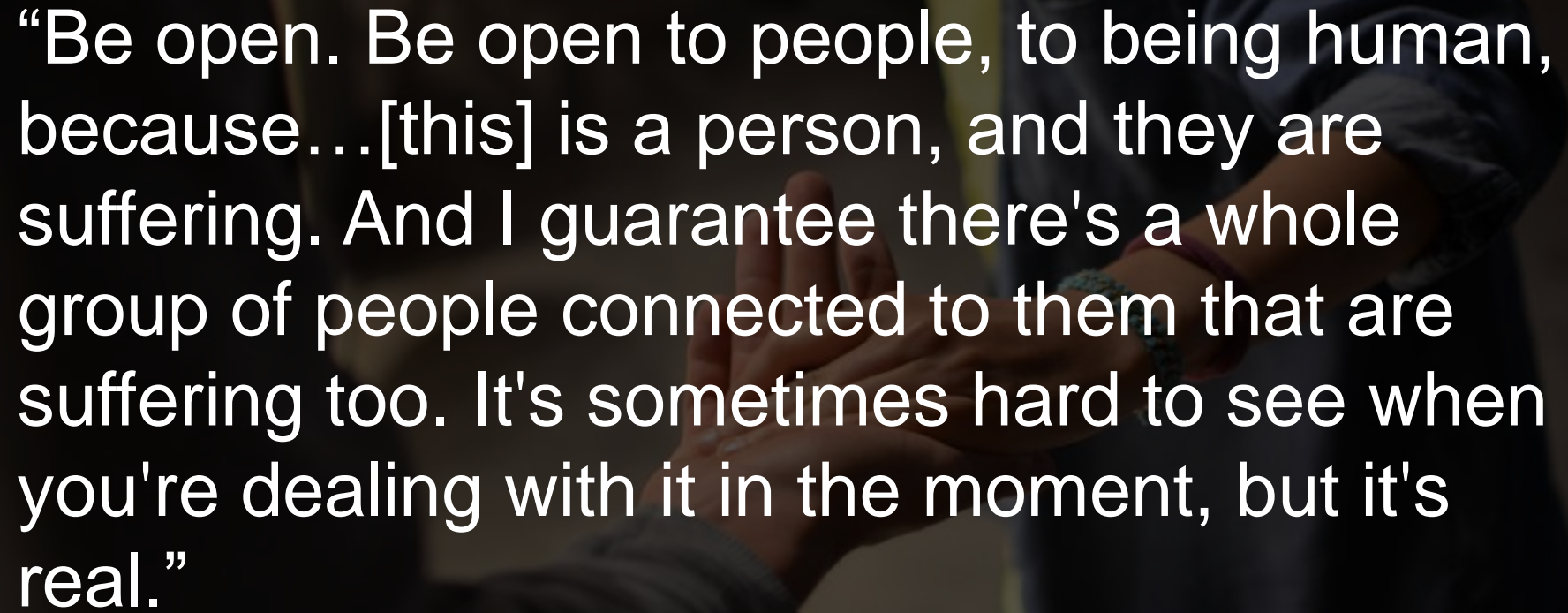
denverlibrary.org



DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

More information

- Project website: **oc.lc/opioid-crisis**
- Join our Facebook group
- Sign up for WebJunction's newsletter Crossroads to learn about future webinars and new content
- Information will also be shared through PLA channels

A person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down, with their hands clasped together in front of them. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey rectangle.

“Be open. Be open to people, to being human, because...[this] is a person, and they are suffering. And I guarantee there's a whole group of people connected to them that are suffering too. It's sometimes hard to see when you're dealing with it in the moment, but it's real.”

- Library Board Member

Image by [Rémi Walle](#) / Unsplash

Questions and Discussion


Project website: oc.lc/opioid-crisis

Because what is known must be shared.®

NEXT STEPS

Next steps

- Virtual cross-sector discussions
- Call-to-action white paper
- WebJunction webinars

A black and white photograph of two hands placing puzzle pieces. The hands are positioned on either side of a row of puzzle pieces, with one hand placing a piece into the gap between two others. The background is white, and the puzzle pieces are light gray. A dark gray rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

“So I hope ... that this study is just another piece of proof that this is something that we need to do.”

- Community Partner, Frontline Staff

Photo by PublicDomain Pictures on Pixabay

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