Call to Action: Public Libraries and the Opioid Crisis
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“Libraries and librarians contribute two particular strengths to advance a culture of health: accessibility and trustworthiness.”

Public Libraries Respond to the Opioid Crisis with their Communities

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CALL TO ACTION
Call to Action Steps

- Explore your community data
- Consider community assets and connect with partners
- Increase awareness and knowledge of the issue among staff and the community
- Focus on library staff care
- Offer community engagement and programming options
Call to Action: Explore data

Explore your community data

2020 County Health Rankings
State Reports
Call to Action: Explore data

- Connect with local and/or state health departments
- Review online sources for data
  - County Health Rankings
  - Drug Overdose Death Rate Maps
Call to Action: Consider assets

- Explore local organizations and coalitions
  - Community-Led Libraries Toolkit
- Listen to the needs of potential partners and seek opportunities for alignment
- Seek a seat at the table
### Strengths of libraries

- A trusted organization
- Physical space for meetings
- A safe, nonstigmatized space
- Marketing reach for programs
- Vetted topical resources
- Knowledgeable staff
Library partnerships

• Local health departments were the most common partner.
• Non-profit organizations focused on prevention, treatment, or recovery support.
• At least half were involved in a community coalition to address substance misuse and the opioid crisis.
Call to Action: Increase awareness

- Seek to increase understanding and addressing the crisis.
- Stigma prevents people from acknowledging issues and needs.
- Libraries connect people to range of information on health-related topics, including substance use disorder.
Call to Action: Increase awareness

- Resources
  - Trauma-informed care
  - Mental Health First Aid
- Understanding the facts
  - On average, 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose\(^1\)
  - Of 12- to 17-year-olds who misused prescription opioids, 57% got them from a friend or relative\(^2\)
  - The genes that people are born with account for about half of a person’s risk for addiction\(^3\)

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Call to Action: Focus on staff care

• Acknowledging compassion fatigue.
• Create a post-crisis plan, how will the library deal with traumatic events?
  o Check on Employee Assistance Programs
Call to Action: Engagement and programming

- Informational displays with books
- Update the library’s website with resources
- Distribute free pamphlets on substance use disorder
- Host a community forum or conversation
- Promote drug take-back events
- Distribute naloxone
“Opioids like these can cause physical dependency in just 7 days.”

Salt Lake County Library System
*Use Only As Directed*, public awareness campaign.
It’s Time We Talk series

book discussions
movie screenings
study nights
Deterra drug deactivation system.

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

A large-scale national study showed that opioid overdose deaths decreased by 14% in states after they enacted naloxone access laws.


Photo courtesy: Peoria Public Library
Access to naloxone

“Laws designed to increase layperson engagement in opioid-overdose reversal were associated with reduced opioid-overdose mortality. We found no evidence that these measures were associated with increased non-medical opioid use.”

Public libraries in the United States are eligible to receive 1 carton of NARCAN® Nasal Spray (2 doses) along with educational materials to facilitate Opioid Awareness Training for the community.
Patty McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer,
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Call to Action

Engaging People in Recovery in Local Community Efforts

presented by

Patty McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Faces & Voices of Recovery is dedicated to organizing and mobilizing the over 23 million Americans in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, our families, friends and allies into recovery community organizations and networks, to promote the right and resources to recover through advocacy, education and demonstrating the power and proof of long-term recovery.
A **recovery community organization (RCO)** is an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery.

These organizations

- organize recovery-focused policy advocacy activities,
- carry out recovery-focused community education and outreach programs, **and/or**
- provide peer-based recovery support services (P-BRSS).
Faces & Voices of Recovery unites and supports the growing network of local, regional and statewide recovery community organizations (RCOs).

https://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/arco/arco-members-on-the-map/
Dover Public Library supports lifelong enjoyment of reading and learning, providing a broad range of materials to enlighten, empower, educate and enrich the citizens we serve.

We believe a person’s right to use a library should not be denied because of origin, age, background, or views and that everyone should be treated equally with respect and fairness. Part of our role in the community is to connect people with the resources they need, whether that is to learn a new hobby or to better their lives.

We are committed to creating a healthy, safe, and stigma-free workplace for our staff and the patrons that we serve through our participation in the NH Governor’s Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) Initiative.

RFW advocates for environments where employers, employees, and communities can collaborate to create positive change and eliminate barriers for those impacted by addiction.

In order to achieve a high level of success, we invite and encourage all employees and citizens impacted by addiction/Substance Use Disorder to reach out for help and support without fear of judgment.

We are proud to be working with RFW and S.O.S. Recovery to help reduce stigma associated with addiction and to provide aid to anyone in need. Materials from many wonderful organizations specializing in Substance Use Disorder and recovery will be available throughout the building. If other resources are needed, please do not hesitate to ask.
The Power of Lived Experience

A peer support worker is someone with the **lived experience of recovery** from a mental health condition, substance use disorder, or both.

They provide support to others experiencing similar challenges.

They provide non-clinical, strengths-based support and are “experientially credentialed” by their own recovery journey.
10 concrete steps that local leaders can take to mobilize the recovery community

1. Bring people in recovery to the table early and often to create a shared vision of recovery.

2. Identify leaders in the recovery community.

3. Identify recovery champions to support the effort and to be ambassadors for the cause.

4. Launch community visioning.

5. Assess community strengths. Where is recovery thriving?
10 concrete steps that local leaders can take to mobilize the recovery community

6. Conduct a community recovery capital assessment to identify areas where recovery support and recovery-friendly policies are most prevalent.

7. Get creative and innovative.

8. Encourage friends, family and colleagues to share their personal stories.

9. Create recovery community centers that make recovery visible on Main Street.

10. Celebrate recovery from addiction!
For more information

ARCO
Association of Recovery Community Organizations

CAPRSS
Council on Accreditation of Peer Recovery Support Services

NRI
National Recovery Institute

RDP
Recovery Data Platform

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About

KPL
• 116,000 service population
• 5 locations and mobile library (June)
• $11.6 million budget; 121 staff

Kalamazoo
• 71% white; 19% African American; 7% Hispanic or Latino
• 36.4% Bachelor’s; 92% HS diploma
• Median Household income = $40,749
• 26% population living in poverty
• 10% uninsured rate
• Opioid prescribing rate, 63.3 per 100
Peer Navigators @ KPL

• What is a peer navigator?
• Why peer navigators?
• What does a peer navigator do each day?
Recovery Institute of Southwest MI

• How did KPL start the peer navigator program?
• How is the peer navigation program at KPL funded?
Benefits

- Staff support
- Community support
- Security
- Anti-racism efforts
Peer Support – 11 months

Patrons Served by Type of Support

- Recovery Planning (Goals, PCP)
- Education - Peer Support
- Mental Health Referral
- Physical Healthcare Referral
- Addiction Treatment Referral
- Employment - Peer Support
- Employment Referral
- Homecare - Peer Support
- Food Assistance Referral
- Physical Wellness - Peer Support
- Housing Referral
- Social or Emotional - Peer Support
- Introduction/Initial Engagement

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Thank you

oc.lc/libraries-opioid-crisis