Identifying Barriers to Recovery in the Worcester Community

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Population Health Clerkship

Description

During the course of our field work component, we toured and engaged with over 25 agencies, public and private, around the broader Worcester community that provide services related to the opioid crisis, and more broadly related to substance use disorder.

Service Project

Goal: To generate a community-specific resource infographic that consolidates information related to available resources and gaps in care or substance abuse

Progress: Prototype of the infographic was generated (pictured here)

Outcome: Share with community partners via survey and generate feedback to modify graphic for maximal utility

Reflections & Recommendations

Treatment of Substance Use Disorders is complex and requires collaborative compassion and understanding. Awareness of each individual patient’s needs is the first step to recovery.

We recommend that all students and physicians in the UMass System receive continuing education about substance abuse in the Worcester community.

References


Rockdale High School, which only 2 students are from the Worcester district. (n.d.). Of the 16 students currently at Rockdale High School, only 2 are from the Worcester district. (Accessed: 30th October 2016)

Substance Use Disorder: Treatment and Recovery Resources

Prevention

Risk Drug Drop Box Youth Prevention Edu Good Samaritan Law Jail Diversion Programs Drug Court Community Corrections Incarceration S.T.O.P. Program Re-entry Programs

Identified Service Gap

40% of CENTRO’s clients are non-Latino White. While CENTRO does provide services for some groups outside of the Americas, there are still some population groups where services are still lacking. CENTRO has a history of being primarily a Puerto Rican support group, and potentially alienating other population groups that may seek help on recovery.

Action Plan

Provide services for non-Latino populations and engage further with other non-Latino communities. Worcester, for example, has a large Vietnamese population that CENTRO can be involved with to decrease the resources they have for helping Southeast Asian immigrants.

Education

Rockdale Recovery High School, Motivating Youth Recovery

Services Provided:

Rockdale Recovery High School: Rigorous curriculum, counseling language, & Dual enrollment opportunities at Quinsigamond Community College

Motivating Youth Recovery: Detoxification and stabilization program for youth, schedule of treatment activities while in the program, including groups and individual sessions

Identified Service Gap

Of the 16 students currently at Rockdale High School, which serves the Greater Worcester Area, 2 students are from the Worcester Public School System

Action Plan

Refer patients to resources provided at Rockdale School and MYR and propose outreach plan to school administrators at Rockdale.

Clinical Treatment

UMass Memorial Health, Spectrum, Community Health Link

Services Provided:

Inpatient Detox
Short Term Stabilization Motivating Youth Recovery Outpatient Mental Health Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Urgent Care Homeless Outreach and Advocacy (HOAD) Bioeveryday Management Methadone Clinic

Identified Service Gap

There is a lack of Long-Term Chronic Disease Management following Detox and/or residential Programs. Many individuals have expressed that after acute services, primary care physicians are not equipped to handle substance use disorders.

Action Plan

Select a peer-reviewed curriculum to implement throughout the UMMH Care System that allows PCPs who have patients who need substance abuse care to continue to be up to date on the latest treatment and provide “best practices” long term care and management.