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## CECIL COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE COUNCIL

### PLANS, STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES FOR MEETING THE IDENTIFIED NEEDS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE EVALUATION, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT

JULY 2015 THROUGH JUNE 2017

Progress Updated: February 28, 2017 (Revised March 24, 2017)

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#### VISION:

A community free from substance abuse and dependence.

#### MISSION:

To reduce substance abuse and dependence and related consequences through development and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive prevention, early-intervention, treatment, recovery support and public safety system that meets the needs of the general public and the criminal justice system.

#### DATA DRIVEN ANALYSIS OF JURISDICTIONAL NEEDS:

Cecil County is located in the northeast corner of Maryland, adjacent to Harford County, Maryland on the west, and bordering Chester County, and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on the north, and New Castle, County, Delaware on the east. The County is bisected east-to-west by Interstate 95. Cecil County is primarily rural, with denser development around the city of Elkton. During the last fourteen years, Cecil County observed a significant growth in population, increasing from 85,951 in 2000, to an estimated 102,383 in 2014. In 2014, 23.7% of Cecil County's population was under the age of 18, slightly higher than the Maryland average of 22.7%. The median household income for Cecil County residents in 2014 was \$ 66,689, \$6,849 below the Maryland median household income of \$73,538. For Cecil County residents above the age of 25, 87.5% are high-school graduates, slightly less than the Maryland rate of 88.7%, and neighboring New Castle County, Delaware's rate of 89.4%.<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates in Cecil County have been higher than many other Maryland jurisdictions, peaking in 2010 at 9.9%, before decreasing to 6.6% in 2014.<sup>2</sup> In 2013, 10.4% of Cecil County residents were below the poverty level, slightly above the Maryland poverty level of 9.8%. Seven percent of Cecil County families and 12.4% of families with related children under 18 years of age were below the poverty level.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, United States Census Bureau

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, op. cit.

A significant percentage of Cecil County residents are concerned about substance use and the potential for their children's abuse of alcohol and drugs.<sup>4</sup> In Cecil County, illicit drug use ranks among the highest in the state of Maryland. The average number of people reporting current illicit drug abuse or dependence in Cecil County (4.4%) exceeds the state average (2.9%)<sup>5</sup>, and 29.1% of young adults, aged 18 to 24, report a history of illegal drug use.<sup>6</sup> A further 10.9% of Cecil County adults reported binge drinking in the past month and 4.4% reported chronic drinking.<sup>7</sup> Among Cecil County high school students, 37.5% reported consuming at least one drink of alcohol and 23.0% reported consuming five or more drinks of alcohol in a row on one or more of the last 30 days. An additional 41.9% of Cecil County high school students have used marijuana, 15.7% have taken a prescription drug without a doctor's permission, and 4.5% have used heroin one or more times during their life.<sup>8</sup> The rate of drug-related public school suspensions in Cecil County has also been higher than most jurisdictions in Maryland.<sup>9</sup>

There is a clear link between substance abuse and crime. Nationally, criminal offenders have been shown to have rates of substance abuse that is more than four times the general population.<sup>10</sup> In 2008, Cecil County's property crime rate increased to a high of 3,782 per 100,000 population and in 2009 Cecil County's violent crime rate increased to a high of 731 per 100,000 population. These rates decreased to 2817 per 100,000 population and 427 per 100,000 population respectively in 2013, yet both the violent crime and property crime rates remain higher than neighboring counties and the property crime rate remains above the Maryland average.<sup>11</sup> Drug-related property crimes include burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft and are often committed to obtain money to purchase drugs. Drug-attribution rates for property crime are calculated using nationwide estimates and range from approximately 7% for motor vehicle theft to 30% for burglary and larceny. An estimated 25-30% of violent crimes are attributable to alcohol abuse.<sup>12</sup>

Like many other counties in Maryland, Cecil County experienced rising rates of prescription drug abuse. From 1999 to 2013 the amount of prescription opioids dispensed in the United States nearly quadrupled, although there was no change in the amount of pain being reported. Over this same time period, deaths from prescription opioids also quadrupled, killing over 16,000 people in 2013.<sup>13</sup> Since 1997, deaths from opioid pain relievers exceeded the sum of all deaths involving heroin or cocaine.<sup>14</sup> Drug treatment admissions related to prescription opioids like oxycodone, hydrocodone and methadone have also increased steadily since 2008. The Maryland rate of

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<sup>4</sup> The Cecil County Community Health Survey 2009 Report, Cecil County Health Department, Elkton, Maryland, May 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Maryland Epidemiological Profile: Consequences of Illicit Drug Use, Alcohol Abuse, and Smoking. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration and the Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland, College Park, March 14, 2008.

<sup>6</sup> The Cecil County Community Health Survey 2009 Report, op. cit.

<sup>7</sup> Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2013

<sup>8</sup> Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. 2013 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

<sup>9</sup> Maryland Department of Education, 2010-2011

<sup>10</sup> National Institutes of Health, Factsheet- "Addiction and the Criminal Justice System," October 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, County Crime Stats 1975-2013.

<sup>12</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse. The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the United States – 1992.

<sup>13</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, NSDUH Series H-46, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4795. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013.

<sup>14</sup> National Vital Statistics System, Multiple Cause of Death Dataset and DEA ARCOS, "Abuse of Marketed Analgesics and Its Contribution to the National Problem of Drug Abuse," Leonard Paulozzi, MD, MPH, October 2010

prescription opiate-related treatment admissions during fiscal year 2011 was 159 per 100,000 population over the age of 14. In Cecil County, the 2011 opiate-related treatment admission rate was nearly 4 times higher than the rate in Maryland at 588 per 100,000 population over the age of 14.<sup>15</sup>

These trends appeared to reverse in 2011 and 2012. Nationally, 2012 saw the first decrease in prescription opioid-related overdose deaths since the 1990s.<sup>16</sup> This decrease mirrored a decrease in prescribing rates of prescription opioids. While concurrent use of multiple substances appeared to be a factor in the majority of local treatment admissions and overdoses, many substance users appeared to trend from prescription opioid use to heroin use. For some, heroin proved an accessible and relatively inexpensive alternative to prescription opioids. Throughout Maryland, overdose deaths due to heroin increased, and overdoses from prescription opioids decreased. In Cecil County, between 2011 and 2014, heroin related deaths increased by 87.5%, and prescription opioid-related deaths decreased by 40%.<sup>17</sup> The rate of prescription opiate-related treatment admissions for Cecil County and Maryland also decreased from fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2013. Over this time period the rate of admissions in Cecil County decreased 45.6% to 320 per 100,000 population over the age of 14 and the rate of admissions in Maryland decreased 11.2% to 143 per 100,000 population over the age of 14.<sup>18</sup>

Overall drug and alcohol- related intoxication deaths in Maryland increased to 1,039 in 2014, a 21.1% increase from the prior year. For the same time frame, deaths in Cecil County increased to 29, an 11.5% increase from the prior year. Of these 29 deaths, 15 were heroin-related and 12 were prescription opioid- related. Illicit prescription opioid drug and heroin use remain significant throughout Maryland and the jurisdiction.<sup>19</sup>

Reducing substance abuse and its related consequences, and preventing the onset and escalation of substance use by adolescents are critical goals for the Cecil County community. The strategic plan detailed below is the result of work from the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Council (DAAC), a local group of concerned community members and service providers. The plan, developed by the local group, identifies the service needs of the general public and the criminal justice system, and is in response to the Council's review of available federal, state, local, and private funds used for evaluation, prevention, and treatment services. Successful implementation of the following plan is contingent upon receipt of sufficient funding.

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<sup>15</sup> Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Factsheet - "Prescription Opiate-Related Treatment Admissions Fiscal Year 2011," January 2011

<sup>16</sup> NCHS. Multiple cause-of-death data, 1999–2013. CDC WONDER online database. 2014. Available from: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>.

<sup>17</sup> Drug and Alcohol Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland -2014, Vital Statistics Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, May 2015

<sup>18</sup> Treatment data--State of Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system, 2013.

<sup>19</sup> Drug and Alcohol Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland -2014, op. cit.

**GOALS:**

The goals of the jurisdictional plan for Cecil County are:

- 1) Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of substance abuse treatment services for adult residents of Cecil County.
- 2) Establish and enhance resources and programs to address the substance abuse concerns among individuals referred by the criminal justice system.
- 3) Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services for the adolescents and their families of Cecil County.
- 4) Educate and assist families in Cecil County to live healthy and drug free lives.
- 5) Decrease perceived obstacles to prevention and treatment programs.
- 6) Develop a recovery-oriented systems approach that builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to take responsibility for their sustaining health, wellness, and recovery from alcohol and drug problems.
- 7) Decrease the number of drug exposed newborns born in Cecil County.
- 8) Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of gambling prevention, intervention and treatment services.
- 9) Reduce incidence of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Cecil County.

**OBJECTIVES, ACTION PLAN, ACTUAL OUTPUTS:**

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**GOAL 1:** Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of substance abuse treatment services for adult residents of Cecil County.

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**Objective A:** Improve access to residential treatment services.

January 2016 Update: On August 25, 2015, the Interim Report of Maryland’s Heroin & Opioid Emergency Task Force recommended the expansion of the A.F. Whitsitt Center in Chestertown, MD. Several representatives from Cecil County and other Eastern Shore jurisdictions had also advocated for the expansion. The Chestertown program subsequently received state funding to increase capacity from 24 beds to 40 beds. The additional residential beds significantly reduced wait time for admission to detoxification and residential treatment. For Cecil County residents, the wait time was two to four weeks during the summer of 2015, and decreased to between one and five days during the fall of 2015.

January 2016 Update: In December 2015, Recovery Centers of America (RCA) met with the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (DAAC) and members of the Cecil County community (including Cecilton/Earleville residents). RCA spoke to their Maryland Certificate of Need (CON) application and plans to

convert the former MBNA corporate retreat, known as Bracebridge Hall in Earleville, into a 50-bed detoxification and short term residential program. In January 2016, with support of a voting majority of members, DAAC submitted a letter to the MD Health Care Commission in support of RCA for their CON application. The letter requested that the Health Care Commission require “the applicant to dedicate two beds as charity care beds available only to Cecil County residents.”

**February 2017 Update:** Ashley Addiction Treatment in Havre de Grace, initiated a charity care agreement with the Cecil County Health Department (CCHD) to provide two full scholarships each month for residential treatment beds for Cecil County residents who meet specified criteria. Since September 2016, at least fourteen Cecil County residents received an Ashley scholarship for residential services.

**February 2017 Update:** In September 2016, Recovery Centers of America initiated operations at Bracebridge Hall, in Earleville. The Bracebridge Hall program is Cecil County’s first clinically-managed/high-intensity and medically monitored/inpatient detoxification, (ASAM - III.5/III.7D) residential substance use disorder treatment provider. In October 2016, Bracebridge Hall signed a charity care agreement with CCHD to provide a minimum of two treatment beds a month to Cecil County residents who meet specified criteria.

**Objective B:** Increase capacity to treat co-occurring disorders.

**January 2016 Update:** During the first six months of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services initiated a mobile treatment service incorporating the evidenced based practice of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), with support from the Cecil County Health Department’s Mental Health Core Service Agency and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Behavioral Health Administration. The program serves individuals with chronic and serious mental illness, including the homeless and patients with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

**Objective C:** Improve transitional housing services for individuals in need of ongoing long-term substance abuse care.

**January 2016 Update:** Solution House, a new recovery house, opened on North Street in Elkton during the second quarter of FY2016. With

the additional home, Cecil County currently hosts eight recovery houses, including: Charlotte's House, Dexter Houses 1&2, New Heights, the Oxford House, Jane's House, and the Monarch House. These recovery houses provide sober living support for up to eight residents each and create a combined total capacity of 62 beds within Cecil County.

**July 2016 Update:** Two new recovery houses opened in Elkton during the third quarter of FY2016: Oxford House-Bagua on North Street, and Wilna House on Blue Ball Road. With the additional homes, Cecil County currently hosts ten recovery houses, including: Charlotte House, Dexter Houses 1&2, New Heights, Oxford House- Principle, Jane's House, Monarch House, and the Solution House. These recovery houses provide sober living support for up to eight residents each and create a combined total capacity of 76 beds within Cecil County. Recovery Housing is recognized as a valuable component of the continuum of care, especially during early recovery for those transitioning back to their community after a period of residential treatment or incarceration.

**February 2017 Update:** New recovery houses opened in Cecil County during the first six months of FY2017, including: Oxford House Unity North/Mommy & Me (a program for women with children), and Oxford House Chi, both located in Elkton, and the Monarch Amy House in North East. With the additional homes, Cecil County currently hosts fourteen recovery houses with a combined total capacity of 109 beds. Among all jurisdictions in Maryland, Cecil County hosts the third highest number of recovery houses, behind only Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County.

**Objective D:** Implement an emergency room diversion program for individuals experiencing mental health crises with or without coexisting substance abuse concerns.

**January 2016 Update:** During the first six months of FY2016, Affiliated Santé Group Eastern Shore Mobile Crisis Services provided 291 mobile crisis dispatches within Cecil County. The program successfully diverted 90 consumers from emergency rooms. The average response time was 21 minutes.

**July 2016 Update:** A workgroup of community partners convened by Union Hospital developed a plan to establish a Behavioral Crisis Assessment and Stabilization Center (BCASC) in Elkton/Cecil County. The group's plan identified that the Center would address acute mental health and/or substance

use conditions, and serve as a community based alternative to services traditionally sought in the emergency room or hospital inpatient setting. In addition to acute crisis stabilization, the inclusion of 16 stabilization beds is intended to assure more appropriate disposition and reduce the number of re-visits/re-admissions and sustained community stability upon discharge. Construction of the Center is expected to begin during late autumn 2016, and services are expected to begin in early 2018.

**February 2017 Update:** During the first six months of FY2017, Affiliated Santé Group Eastern Shore Mobile Crisis Services provided 295 mobile crisis dispatches within Cecil County. The program successfully diverted 98 consumers from emergency rooms. The average response time was 30 minutes.

**Objective E:** Increase the availability of Vivitrol (naltrexone), Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) and Methadone treatments for persons addicted to opioids.

**January 2016 Update:** During the first six months of FY2016, thirteen inmates with a history of opiate dependence received Vivitrol injections at the Cecil County Detention Center as participants of the Detention Center and Cecil County Health Department Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. The initiative provides Vivitrol to inmates just prior to their release from the jail, and coordinates care and services for offenders returning to the community. Vivitrol (naltrexone) is an opioid antagonist medication administered as an extended-release injectable. Patient enrollment in the program began on October 2, 2015. The program was funded by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and supported by medication donations from Alkermes, Inc. Community physicians involved in the project included Dr. Katz of Cecilton, and Drs. Yu and Hsu of Elkton. Seven patients were active in the program as of January 30, 2016.

**July 2016 Update:** During the spring of 2016, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention awarded additional funding to the Cecil County Detention Center and the Cecil County Health Department (CCHD) to continue the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Re-entry program. Between October 2, 2015 and June 30, 2016, forty-nine individuals were interviewed for admission, and 29 individuals were admitted to the program. On release from the Detention Center, participants connected with community physicians for

Vivitrol injections, and received coordinated care, recovery support, housing assistance, social services and substance use disorder counseling services.

**February 2017 Update:** Between October 2, 2015 and December 31, 2016, ninety-seven individuals were interviewed for admission, and fifty-five individuals were admitted to the Cecil County Detention Center and CCHD Medication Assisted Treatment program. On release from the Detention Center, participants connected with community physicians for Vivitrol injections, and received coordinated care, recovery support, housing assistance, social services and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling services.

**Objective F:** Increase continuum of services (education, support and treatment) for families affected by substance use disorders.

**July 2016 Update:** On June 6, 2016, CCHD hosted Heroin Alert with Marie Allen. The Heroin Alert Program is an educational and emotionally moving presentation that guides the audience through the destructive path of heroin while eliminating the stereotypical views of heroin use and the addict. Mrs. Allen is a local parent who shares her family's personal experience with heroin addiction, which ultimately resulted in the death of her daughter Erin. This event was co-sponsored by Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Council, Cecil County Drug Free Communities Coalition, CCHD, Cecil County Mayors' Drug Task Force, New Castle County Police Department, STEPS Recovery Resources, Voices of Hope for Cecil County, and Youth Empowerment Source (YES).

**February 2017 Update:** Cecil County observed an unprecedented expansion of community based SUD treatment resources during the first six months of FY 2017. Project Chesapeake opened offices in Elkton in September 2016, offering outpatient and intensive-outpatient (IOP) addictions counseling, driving while intoxicated (DWI/DUI) education and treatment, and an anger management and a domestic violence curriculum. Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services expanded their treatment continuum in October 2016, to include SUD outpatient and IOP treatment for adolescents and adults. The program offered services from offices in Elkton, Havre de Grace, and Cecilton. In December 2016, Ashley Addiction Treatment (formerly Father Martin's Ashley) opened a location within the Union Hospital Professional Building in Elkton, providing outpatient and IOP addictions counseling with ambulatory detoxification.

February 2017 Update: On November 15, 2016, CCHD hosted cardiology expert Dr. Jim Ziccardi, for a discussion on how exercise can help support recovery from chemical dependence. The seminar was designed for individuals seeking to sustain their recovery and the families and professionals who support them. The event was co-sponsored by Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Council, Cecil County Drug Free Communities Coalition, the Cecil County Maryland Strategic Prevention Framework Coalition, the Opioid Misuse Prevention Project, and STEPS Recovery Resources.

**Objective G:** Support the development and coordination of recovery support services offered by non-traditional (citizen-driven, grassroots, faith-based) groups.

July 2016 Update: STEPS Recovery Resources, Inc., sponsored a Recovery Celebration on May 14, 2016, in recognition of National Prevention Week. The recovery support event focused on testimonials from those in recovery from substance use disorders, and also featured a puppet show, a talent contest, a Lego build contest, and other entertainment. Approximately 175 community members attended. STEPS Recovery Resources is a grassroots nonprofit program started by a parent concerned about substance use within her family and community. STEPS strived to reduce the negative stigma associated with addiction and recovery, and provided addiction related support and education for many families during FY2016.

**Performance Target:** Increased quality and quantity of treatment modalities accessible to Cecil County residents.

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**GOAL 2:** Establish and enhance resources and programs to address the substance abuse concerns among individuals referred by the criminal justice system.

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**Objective A:** Enhance and expand the Adult Drug Treatment Court Program within the Circuit Court for Cecil County.

January 2016 Update: One-hundred and four participants were enrolled in the Cecil County Adjudicated Adult Drug Treatment Court on December 31, 2015.

July 2016 Update: One-hundred and eleven participants were enrolled in the Cecil County Adjudicated Adult Drug Treatment Court on June 30, 2016.

**Objective B:** Expand treatment and re-entry aftercare programs for residents of the Cecil County Detention Center and the Community Corrections.

January 2016 Update: Re-entry services were enhanced with the FY2016 initiation of Cecil County Detention Center and Cecil County Health Department Medication Assisted Treatment program. The program employs Care Coordinators who provide inmate screening, re-entry planning, referral and placement within approximate community treatments, recovery resources, housing, and vocational opportunities. The program also offers transportation to individuals upon release from jail to the Health Department for Medicaid enrollment and same-day community based treatment admission.

February 2017 Update: During the first six months of FY2017, the Cecil County Office of Parole and Probation and CCHD initiated a pilot program for re-entry planning with individuals incarcerated at the Cecil County Detention Center. Individual and group re-entry planning meetings were facilitated by Parole and Probation officers and CCHD Peer Recovery Specialists. The purpose of the sessions included preparation of individuals for successful transition to the community with improved opportunities for recovery, resiliency, health and wellness. Successes and lessons from the pilot experience guided development of an application to begin an expanded Recovery Preparation and Re-entry Coordination program during FY2018.

**Objective C:** Increase treatment capacity for clients referred through the criminal justice system.

**Performance Target:** Improved substance-abuse related resources for individuals involved with the criminal justice system.

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**GOAL 3:** Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services for the adolescents and their families of Cecil County.

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**Objective A:** Improve access for adolescents and families to residential treatment services.

**Objective B:** Expand evidenced-based counseling and case management services for the families of at-risk children and adolescents.

February 2017 Update: Since July 1, 2016, Y.E.S. (Youth Empowerment Source) held twenty parenting workshops, reaching over 130 parents with tools designed to increase parenting skills and reduce conflict in the home. All workshops were held at local Title-I schools and a large number of participants were parents in recovery or grandparents raising grandchildren due to parental substance use disorders.

February 2017 Update: In November 2016, the Y.E.S. Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents was launched. Designed to provide support to children and caregivers impacted by incarceration this program provided counseling, support services, life skills and more to families. Within the first four months 36 children were referred for services. Caregivers had access to a monthly support group to address challenges specific to their situations.

**Objective C:** Extend the benefits of the drug court treatment model to adolescent offenders and their families.

July 2016 Update: During FY2016, the Cecil County Neighborhood Youth Panel heard 80 cases. Seventy-two youth successfully completed program requirements within the required timeframe or are currently working cooperatively with the program. The recidivism rate for youth who completed the program before June 30, 2016, was 10%; ninety-percent of youth completing the program did not receive any new charges.

**Objective D:** Expand adolescent offender participation in criminal justice diversion programs and neighborhood youth panels.

**Objective E:** Increase protective factors and resiliency to prevent or delay the initiation of substance use and other high risk behaviors among youth in Cecil County.

January 2016 Update: During the first six months of FY2016, NorthBay Adventure Camp entered into an agreement with Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) and the Cecil County Health Department (CCHD) to facilitate a Cecil County Youth Leadership Summit. Funding was made available for the project through a donation from the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative. Members of the Cecil County Drug Free Community Coalition (CCDFCC) also supported the Summit. Seventy-seven students from five county high schools (Rising Sun, Bohemia Manor, Perryville, North East, and Elkton) attended the two-day event, and developed student directed action

plans to impact school climate and build safe and sober communities. On completion of the summit, 85% of the students reported an increased understanding of risk factors for drug abuse and an increased understanding of county wide drug issues; over 90% of the students reported an increased understanding of leadership, reported practicing leadership, and affirmed that they had the power to influence their friends; 91% of the students were able to identify positive relationships in their lives and identify people to support them when they needed help; and 90% of the students reported an intention to take positive action in their communities after going home. Implementation of student action plans are scheduled to continue during the remainder of FY2016, with support from NorthBay, CCPS, CCHD, and CCDFCC.

February 2017 Update: The Cecil County Youth Leadership Summit at NorthBay Adventure Camp, in partnership with CCPS and CCDFCC, began its second year during FY2017. Eighty-two students from six county high schools (Bohemia Manor, Elkton, North East, Perryville, Rising Sun, and the School of Technology) attended the two-day event during November 2017, and continued development of student directed action plans to reduce adolescent substance use through impacting school environments and changing social norms. On completion of the two-day summit, 82% of the students reported an increased understanding of risk factors for drug abuse and an increased understanding of county wide drug issues; 91% of students reported an increased understanding of leadership, and affirmed that they had the power to influence their friends; 91% of the students were able to identify positive relationships in their lives and identify people to support them when they needed help; 89% reported an increased understanding of county wide drug issues; 85% of the students felt they had the ability to engage peers in conversations about drugs; and 75% of the students reported an intention to take positive action in their communities after going home. Implementation of student action plans are scheduled to continue during the remainder of FY2017, with monthly meetings at each high school with students and staff from NorthBay, CCPS and CCDFCC.

February 2017 Update: Y.E.S. continued to increase awareness regarding substance abuse, and disseminated helpful information on Facebook, Twitter, and the website: [www.addictionfreececil.org](http://www.addictionfreececil.org)

- Objective F:** Increase the number of Cecil County youth who participate in evidenced-based prevention and early-intervention programs.
- January 2016 Update: Cecil County Public Schools implemented universal prevention for all students, grades 3 through 10. Initiated August 2015, the project utilized the evidenced based Botvin LifeSkills training with two instructors dedicated to the teaching the curriculum.
- January 2016 Update: Seventy-four students participated in a pilot early intervention program for first time adolescent offenders during calendar year 2015. The Cecil County Health Department, with the support of Cecil County Public Schools, offered services to students at all Cecil County high schools, four Cecil County middle schools and the Providence School. On completion of the program, 76% of students reported motivation to stop using drugs or alcohol; 100% reported confidence in their ability to handle stress, anxiety and anger in a healthy way; and 71% reported confidence for achieving personal success in the future. The initiative utilized the evidenced based Motivational Enhancement Therapy/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (MET/CBT-5) program, and targeted substance-involved adolescents aged 14-18, recently suspended from school and/or arrested due to substance use concerns.
- July 2016 Update: During FY 2016, CCPS implemented universal substance use prevention for all students, grades 3 through 10. The project utilized the evidence- based Botvin LifeSkills training with two instructors dedicated to the teaching the curriculum. Pre- and post-survey results found that middle school students showed, on average, an 11% improvement on the survey questions, while elementary school students showed a 26.5 percent increase. One specific example, includes response from students who would say “no” to alcohol and cigarettes if offered: 58% of Elkton Middle School (EMS) students said they would say “no to alcohol” on the pre-survey, compared to 79% on the post-survey; 63% of EMS students said they would say no to cigarettes on the pre-survey, compared to 91 percent on the post-survey. The program plans to add an additional teacher for CCPS high schools during FY2017.
- Performance Target:** Increased number of adolescents accessing integrated prevention, intervention and treatment services.

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**GOAL 4:** Educate and assist families in Cecil County to live healthy and drug free lives.

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**Objective A:** Utilize multi-media initiatives to change individual and community norms.

**Objective B:** Increase community awareness of behavioral health prevention and treatment resources.

**Objective C:** Increase the percentage of healthcare providers who routinely screen for substance abuse, and refer for further assessment/treatment for those patients at-risk.

**Performance Target:** Reduced prevalence of high risk substance abusing behaviors among residents as indicated by Cecil County Community Health Survey and Maryland Adolescent Survey.

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**GOAL 5:** Decrease perceived obstacles to prevention, early-intervention and treatment programs.

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**Objective A:** Establish new transportation resources for Cecil County residents seeking prevention, early-intervention and treatment services.

**Objective B:** Promote the establishment of community based behavioral health services in underserved areas.

**Objective C:** Improve services for non-English speaking community members.

**Objective D:** Initiate activities to address behavioral health workforce shortage issues in Cecil County (in an effort to increase the number of residents served).

**Performance Target:** Increased attendance and participation of those community members in need of services.

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**GOAL 6:** Sustain a recovery-oriented systems approach that builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to take responsibility for sustaining health, wellness, and recovery from alcohol and drug problems.

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**Objective A:** Develop a comprehensive menu of services and supports that can be combined and readily adjusted to meet the individual's needs and chosen pathway to recovery

**Objective B:** Develop an ongoing process of systems-improvement that incorporates the experiences of those in recovery and their family members.

**February 2017 Update:** **Voices of Hope for Cecil County (VoHCC), a local recovery advocacy group of those in recovery and their family members, promoted systems improvement and increased prevention, treatment, and recovery resources in Cecil County. VoHCC began in 2013, as an alumni group for CCHD's Continuing Care program, and in January 2015, established itself an independent, advocacy organization. In April 2016, VoHCC obtained tax-exempt charitable status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**

**Objective C:** Coordinate with multiple systems to develop responsive, outcomes-driven approaches to care.

**Objective D:** Elevate the visibility of behavioral health recovery and decrease the related negative stigma. Incorporate the experiences of those in recovery to help and support individuals and families suffering with behavioral health disease.

**January 2016 Update:** Members of the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Council helped promote National Recovery Month during September 2015. The Recovery Month theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Visible, Vocal, Valuable!" highlighted the value of peer support and invited individuals in recovery and their support systems to be change agents in the community. Celebrations included: the Haven House Celebrate Recovery Picnic on September 5<sup>th</sup>; a reading by the County Executive of the Recovery Month proclamation at the House of New Heights on September 12<sup>th</sup>; a film screening of "Behind the Orange Curtain" and panel discussion on September 17<sup>th</sup>; the fifth annual 5K/12 Step Recovery Walk & Block Party, and the Dexter House Pig Roast on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**February 2017 Update:** **Members of the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Council promoted National Recovery Month during September 2016. The Recovery Month theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Our Families, Our Stories, Our Recovery," highlighted the value of peer support and invited**

individuals and families in recovery to celebrate the achievements of the recovery community. Celebrations included: a NorthEastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous picnic on September 3<sup>rd</sup>; the Voices of Hope for Cecil County screening of the movie “Generation Found,” (a film about one community coming together to ignite a youth addiction recovery revolution in their hometown) on September 6<sup>th</sup>; the Haven House Celebrate Recovery picnic on September 10<sup>th</sup>; a reading of the Recovery Month proclamation by the County Executive and a member of County Council at the Cecil County Drug Court on September 16<sup>th</sup>; and the sixth annual 5K/12 Step Recovery Walk & Block Party on September 24<sup>th</sup>. These events brought more than one-thousand people together to share real life experiences of the power of recovery from mental and/or substance use disorders.

**Performance Target:** Increased recognition, growth and system collaboration of recovery oriented processes and resources.

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**GOAL 7:** Decrease the number of drug exposed newborns born in Cecil County.

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**Objective A:** Identify resources, barriers to care and gaps in services for drug exposed newborns and their families.

**Objective B:** Increase physician/obstetrician screening for substance abuse and respective referrals for substance abuse assessments and treatment.

**Objective C:** Expand the menu of services and supports for parents who use and abuse alcohol and other drugs of abuse.

**Objective D:** Develop a comprehensive menu of services and supports for infants and children affected by parental substance use

**Performance Target:** Decreased number of drug exposed newborns. Decreased premature birth, miscarriage, low birth weight, and the variety of behavioral and cognitive problems associated with prenatal and postnatal drug exposure.

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**GOAL 8:** Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of gambling prevention, intervention and treatment services.

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**Objective A:** Implement problem gambling prevention and early-intervention programming throughout Cecil County.

**Objective B:** Raise awareness about consequences of problem-gambling.

**Objective C:** Recruit and train workforce to provide competent problem gambling assessment, intervention and counseling.

**February 2017 Update:** Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services hosted the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling in Cecil County for a 30-hour, Clinical Training Series. The training was provided October 2016 through January 2017 (for one day each month), and addressed: gambling as an addictive behavior; effective strategies for screening and assessing; treatment planning and strategies; and recovery resources.

**Objective D:** Integrate problem gambling screening within all substance abuse assessments

**February 2017 Update:** Behavioral health treatment providers within the jurisdiction continued to screen for pathological gambling utilizing the NORC Diagnostic Screen for Gambling Disorders, the Lie-Bet, and/or the South Oaks Gambling Screen instruments.

**Objective E:** Expand access to evidenced-based problem-gambling services. Identify barriers to care and gaps in services for problem gamblers and their families.

**Performance Target:** Increased number of individuals accessing integrated prevention, intervention and treatment services.

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**GOAL 9:** Reduce incidence of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Cecil County

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**Objective A:** Raise awareness about consequences of substance abuse, including opioids and prescription drugs.

**January 2016 Update:** On September 15, 2015, the Health Department announced the development of a public awareness campaign focused on opioid misuse prevention. The campaign was designed to

raise awareness of Cecil County resources for treatment, overdose prevention and recovery support. In addition to flyers, billboards and print ads, the initiative incorporated different digital media elements including text ads on Google AdWords and Bing Ads and newsfeed ads on Facebook. The digital ads were targeted to residents of Cecil County, Maryland, and directed people to the website: [www.RewriteYourScript.org](http://www.RewriteYourScript.org). Community collaborators for the project included representatives from the Local Overdose Fatality Review Team, including: Cecil County Adult Drug Court, Cecil College, Cecil County Drug Task Force, Elkton Police Department, Department of Emergency Services, Haven House, Department of Juvenile Services, Cecil County Public Schools, Serenity Health, Department of Social Services, Union Hospital, Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services, et al. A local public relations firm assisted with marketing and communications strategy development, creative services, and the purchasing and placement of media services. During the first three months of the initiative (through December 15, 2015), the campaign website observed 6,854 total sessions. Visitors stayed on the website for an average of 2 minutes and 15 seconds, and generally viewed four pages of website content.

**Objective B:**

Increase community participation in disposal of unused and expired medications.

January 2016 Update:

Cecil County established four permanent drug drop boxes including locations at the Elkton, North East and Rising Sun Police Departments, and the Cecil County Sheriff's Office in Elkton. Safe disposal of medications helps decrease harm from accidental exposure or intentional misuse, and reduces the amount of medicines getting into our waterways and our drinking water.

July 2016 Update:

Elkton Police reported that 406 pounds of unwanted medication were collected during calendar year 2015, via Elkton's permanent prescription drug drop- box; an increase of 53% above the 267 pounds collected during calendar year 2014.

July 2016 Update:

A drug take-back day was promoted in Cecil County on April 30, 2016 with several locations available to drop off unused medications throughout the county: Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Elkton Police Department, North East Police Department, Perryville Police Department, Rising Sun Police

Department, and two Maryland State Police barracks, North East and JFK Highway.

**February 2017 Update:** Medication take-back efforts were successful and expanded during CY 2016. Two-hundred, fifty-one pounds of unwanted medication were collected during DEA National Take-Back events at seven locations throughout Cecil County, an increase of 737% above the 30 pounds collected in 2013. The increase may be a result of additional permanent boxes, increased promotion of take-back events, increased participation by law enforcement agencies as collection sites, and an increase in the communication of the collected amounts from all participating agencies.

**Objective C:** Elevate physician participation in Maryland’s prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP).

**Objective D:** Increase healthcare provider screening of patients for substance abuse treatment.

**Objective E:** Increase overdose prevention education and related outreach to individuals and groups identified as high risk. Educate community members in overdose recognition and response.

**January 2016 Update:** Between May 2014 and January 2016, the Health Department’s Overdose Response Program (ORP) trained/certified 610 community members and 263 law enforcement officers in overdose recognition and response. As of January 30, 2015, at least 51 lives have been saved as a result of actions taken by ORP certified individuals.

**July 2016 Update:** On March 3, 2016, CCHD, the Caron Foundation, Retreat at Lancaster County, and Steps to Recovery sponsored “Cecil County Addiction Awareness Night” at Cecil College in North East. The training focused on overdose recognition and response, and included a discussion on the family impact of substance use disorders. Seventy-one individuals participated in the event; the single largest ORP training attendance to date. Between May 2014 and June 2016, the Health Department’s ORP trained/certified 1,000 community members, and law enforcement officers on overdose recognition and response. Through June 30, 2016, at least 64 lives were reported saved as a result of actions taken by ORP certified individuals.

**February 2017 Update:** Between May 2014 and December 2016, the Health Department's Overdose Response Program (ORP) trained/certified 1,385 community members and law enforcement officers in overdose recognition and response. The training was offered to anyone who may encounter a person experiencing an opiate overdose. Participants gained education, skills, and the ability to possess and administer Narcan to reverse an opiate overdose. As of December 31, 2016, at least 74 lives had been saved as a result of actions taken by ORP certified individuals. [During the first nine months of calendar year (CY) 2016, overdose fatalities in Maryland increased by 62% over the same period in CY 2015. Cecil County experienced 22 fatalities during the first nine months of CY 2016, with no increase from the same period in CY 2015.]

**Objective F:** Increase availability of emergency overdose response kits and intranasal Naloxone medication.

**Objective G:** Elevate review and consideration of local overdose incidents. Identify root causes, determine trends, target resources to decrease overdose death rates, and support implementation of other prevention/intervention efforts.

**January 2016 Update:** On December 21, 2015 the Cecil County Local Overdose Fatality Review Team submitted its first Annual Report to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Behavioral Health Administration, outlining local trends and recommendations based on 43 cases reviewed over a period of eighteen months. Some key recommendations include mandatory use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program by prescribers, use of embedded peer recovery specialists within somatic care provider offices, expansion of overdose response training and naloxone access, and established standards of care coordination and provider follow-up for patients navigating the continuum of care.

**July 2016 Update:** During FY2016, thirty-one members representing 23 local organizations participated on the Cecil County Local Overdose Fatality Review Team (LOFRT). LOFRT is a multi-disciplinary review committee established to encourage and inform local overdose prevention efforts. The Team convened 18 meetings and reviewed 69 cases between February 2014 and June 30, 2016.

February 2017 Update: Between February 2014 and December 31, 2016, the Cecil County Local Overdose Fatality Review Team (LOFRT), convened 29 meetings and reviewed 72 cases. The Cecil County LOFRT, one of the first to be established in Maryland, continued to serve as a model for other jurisdictions and states. Comprised of 37 members from 26 local organizations, LOFRT utilized a multi-disciplinary approach to investigate intoxication deaths, determine root causes, and suggest potential strategies for the reduction of future overdoses. On April 21, 2016, an article entitled “Development of Maryland Local Overdose Fatality Review Teams: A Localized, Interdisciplinary Approach to Combat the Growing Problem of Drug Overdose Deaths,” was published by Health Promotion Practice, a peer-reviewed public health journal. Lead members of the Cecil County LOFRT contributed to the public health article. The writing explored the formation and benefits of LOFRT teams in Maryland and presented a Cecil County case study. On October 11, 2016, the Cecil County LOFRT hosted several senior health and public safety representatives from New Jersey, including the Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and the Commander of New Jersey HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area). The visitors observed the team’s processes and received technical guidance for organizing similar review teams in New Jersey.

**Performance Target:** Reduced per-capita rate of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Cecil County

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