

MSF & PDATF Quarterly Meeting Notes

June 4, 2021

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Introductions and Welcome

Marla Kingkade, MSF and PDATF Facilitator, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the virtual gathering.

The MSF Tri-Chairs were introduced and Holly Porter, Tri-Char, shared opening remarks.

- Holly Porter, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for San Diego County Public Safety

The PDATF Co-Chairs were introduced and also shared opening comments.

- Linda Bridgeman Smith from HHS Behavioral Health Services
- Cindy Cipriani, Outreach Director at the U.S Attorney's Office

Presentation: MSF and PDATF Preliminary Report Card Review

Dr. Steven Campman, Chief Medical Examiner of the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office, provided information regarding drug-related fatalities and how these deaths are reported. The number of deaths indicated in the Report Cards represent a subset of the deaths investigated by the Medical Examiner, which are a portion of the deaths in San Diego County for the year. These deaths are described by both cause and manner of death. Cause of death is the disease or injury responsible for the death and the manner of death is a one-word classification for the circumstances of the death (i.e. natural, accident, suicide, undetermined, etc.). Further, the cause of death is reflected in two sections on the death certificate: the underlying or proximate cause, and other significant conditions. In terms of reporting, the death is considered "drug detected" or "drug-related" if there is a positive toxicology for a certain drug, whereas deaths due to the toxic effects of a drug (or drugs) is deemed an accidental "overdose" death or death "due to" a drug. Dr. Campman explained how the queries for particular drugs are independent of each other, as one death may have included more than one type of drug.

Report Card Breakout Sessions

Following the presentations, attendees were placed into breakout sessions to review both the MSF and PDATF Report Cards. The three breakout groups:

- Prevention, led by Cindy Cipriani, Assistant U.S Attorney, Outreach Director
- Treatment, led by Linda Bridgeman Smith, HHS Behavioral Health Services
- Public Safety, led by Captain Phil Collum, Chula Vista Police Department

The following are key items identified during breakout sessions.

Public Safety Group

MSF Report Card Discussion

- Obtain more information on border seizures so we have a broader picture
 - Strengthen relationships with Border Patrol
- Continue to increase media awareness on all meth fronts: deaths, use, and seizures.
 - Increase social media campaigns.
- Brief law enforcement and encourage them to distribute treatment and prevention information/handouts

PDATF Report Card Discussion

- Increase non-law enforcement medication and syringe safe disposal drop off locations.
 - Partner with big pharmacy and chain stores
- Review revising terminology to illicit oxy or counterfeit fentanyl
- Increase public awareness on AB472 and Health Safety 11376.5 which provides protection from arrest, charge and prosecution for people who seek emergency medical assistance at the scene of a drug overdose.
- Examine the need to separate and describe “prescription” drug from “prescribed” drug to provide better clarity of what people are using and where it came from

Prevention Group

MSF Report Card Discussion

- Increase awareness and training for pain and primary care physicians, esp. those who serve lower income patients, to ask about other substance use.
 - Increase training and education so physicians understand dangers of co-use with benzos and conduct more screening and assessment for SUD
- Increase collaboration on messaging across substances since co-use is common
- Examine underlying conditions and other factors that contribute to substance use (i.e. housing, employment, etc.) in order to provide a comprehensive and coordinated treatment approach
- Collect data for youth meth use since meth is no longer included in CHKS survey.
- Examine gateway substances (alcohol, marijuana, tobacco) to better understand the progression to meth use

PDATF Report Card Discussion

- Promote naloxone by partnering with San Diego Nights and other youth and community organizations, to reach youth
- Look at identifying the number of decedents who are or had been in public funded drug treatment and/or emergency departments in order to better understand treatment barriers.
- Research data regarding youth Rx use and future opioid misuse (i.e. in youth prescribed Ritalin)
- Provide awareness of gateway substances for youth (alcohol, marijuana, tobacco) and to also increase education about opioids and illicit fentanyl so dangers are understood

Treatment Group

MSF Report Card Discussion

- Look at identifying the number of meth-related decedents who are or had been in public funded drug treatment.
- Look at approaches for harm reduction and treatment to include harm reduction training for treatment providers – in order to reach people where they are at.
- Examine other successful approaches to identify unique methodologies that have produced successful results that might be duplicated here.
- Continue to lead this effort through a collaborative approach

PDATF Report Card Discussion

- Create more education about fentanyl's presence in all illicit drugs in order to increase public involvement beyond just awareness
- Reduce stigma to increase positive perception of treatment which will improve access to treatment and outcomes, and it will improve acceptance and support by the family of those seeking treatment.
- Examine opioid user's data including pregnant women in ED: Review suboxone and other MAT protocols in the ED so treatment is not withheld while waiting for other services and/or investigation in the ED.
- Support the development of more appropriate withdrawal management programs instead of using the E.Ds.

Announcements: Next Quarterly Meetings

PDATF Quarterly Meeting

Friday, August 20, 2021, 9 AM – 11 AM. Virtual Meeting

MSF Quarterly Meeting

Friday, September 3, 2021, 9 AM – 11 AM. Virtual Meeting