

<p>Lancaster County Drug & Alcohol Commission Case Management & Clinical Services Policy & Procedure Manual</p>	<p>CMCS #13A <i>Policy: Harm Reduction</i></p> <p><i>From DDAP CMCS Manual Section 4.05</i></p>
<p><i>Most Current Revision: 6/2/2025</i> <i>Effective Date: 07/01/2024</i></p>	<p><i>Page: 1 of 2</i></p>

I. Purpose:

To ensure that all LCDAC service providers contracted to complete the LoCA episode have the needed mechanisms with written policies/procedures to identify individuals who may benefit from Harm Reduction strategies and to have information on hand regarding Harm Reduction and that the information is conveyed to participants on Harm Reduction services and is documented accordingly.

II. Procedure:

For the purposes of this policy, Harm Reeducation is defined as follows:

Harm Reduction is an approach that uses person-centered, evidence-based public health strategies to assist people who use drugs (PWUD) in minimizing the negative consequences associated with substance use. Harm Reduction operates on the individual’s terms without coercive measures to link access to services with treatment or abstinence requirements by embracing the philosophy of “meeting people where they are.” It celebrates “any positive change” as a successful intervention. SAMHSA’s Harm Reduction Framework is a roadmap of principles and pillars that SCAs can incorporate into their work. This framework conceptualizes Harm Reduction as:

- i. A set of services that help people reduce the risks of harmful drug use, that includes everything from naloxone distribution to evidence-based treatment.
- ii. An approach that encompasses the principles and pillars of harm reduction (as outlined in SAMHSA’s framework). A harm reduction approach can be applied across the full continuum of SUD services and is a way to make SUD services more accessible for marginalized communities; and
- iii. A type of organization. Community-based harm reduction programs (CHRP) are organizations where people with lived and living experience play a significant role in directing the organization’s harm reduction initiatives, programs, and services. CHRPs also offer the core practice areas, as permitted by law.

In Lancaster County Harm Reduction activities are integrated into comprehensive, person-centered programs of care. These include treatment services that meet the specific needs of the community in which the programs are housed. These organizations that engage with PWUD are encouraged to adopt and apply practices and principles outlined in SAMHSA’s framework to enhance the services they offer and integrate a harm reduction

approach to the spectrum of SUD services. Applying a Harm Reduction approach helps LCDAC and their contracted providers to fulfill the requirements as outlined below, including:

1. **Outreach Activities:** LCDAC contracts with a designated provider to conduct outreach activities to the people in Lancaster County who use substances but have not yet entered treatment.
 - a) Outreach activities center on the needs of people who currently use substances.
 - b) Staff conducting outreach services should have a working understanding of the current dynamic and rapidly changing landscape of substance use in their community.
 - c) Harm Reduction-oriented outreach emphasizes kindness and autonomy in the engagement of PWUD.
 - d) Outreach should be proactive in offering PWUD support to access health and social services, including additional SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services.
2. **Interim Services:** Services provided until an individual is admitted to a substance use disorder treatment program. Counseling and education provided as interim services is an opportunity to share harm reduction strategies with PWUD and make referrals to local Harm Reduction providers.
3. **Resource Lists:** LCDAC maintains a resource list that clearly identifies providers for interim services.
 - a) LCDAC's interim services resource list includes local harm reduction providers.
 - b) LCDAC's interim services list includes services that provide culturally appropriate services to subsets of the community including Black, Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native persons, Asian Americans, and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; LGBTQI+ persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely impacted by persistent poverty or inequality.

Approved By:



Rick Kastner LCDAC Executive Director

7/1/24

Date