

LANCASTER'S RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC
TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES
DECEMBER, 2017

The following programs and services were developed during the past few years, or are major ongoing contributors to the fight against opioid addiction in Lancaster County.

1. **Prison Door to Door Project:** Using Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission funding, a full-time Recovery Support Specialist from RASE is placing heroin addicts from the prison, directly into D&A rehab treatment. The treatment is funded by Medicaid, also known as Medical Assistance/MA. These clients are completing their prison term, or are close to completing their term, and D&A rehab is offered, as compared to discharging the client onto the streets or into the community. Approximately 20 to 25 clients are placed each month.
2. **Warm Hand Off Project:** Using Lancaster County D&A Commission funding, four full-time Recovery Support Specialists from RASE meet overdose survivors at the local Emergency Departments, to help the client enter detox and D&A treatment. Most of the treatment is funded by the Lancaster D&A Commission and Medicaid HealthChoices.
3. **Halfway House:** Creation of a state-licensed, male D&A Halfway House facility in Lancaster, owned and operated by Gate House. A Medicaid HealthChoices start up grant was provided to develop the facility, and most admissions into the program will be funded by Medicaid HealthChoices. Gate House is looking for a location that will allow the zoning for this halfway house. This will be the second male house for Gate House, which also operates a female house in Mountville.
4. **Spanish Speaking Halfway House:** A licensed, specialized, Latino male D&A halfway house facility, opened in July 2017, using a Medicaid HealthChoices start up grant, owned and operated by the Spanish American Civic Association. This facility is in Lancaster City. Most admissions are funded by Medicaid HealthChoices.
5. **Lancaster D&A Guide, "Getting Help",** was created and published by the Lancaster County D&A Commission. Paper and electronic copies are available to everyone, in both English and Spanish. This guide explains the simple process of accessing D&A treatment in the county, although with the large number of clients accessing treatment, there might be an occasional challenge of finding an open bed or slot.
6. **Recovery Houses:** Eight were created in Lancaster using Medicaid HealthChoices funding, at several Lancaster non-profit agencies. Recovery houses are not licensed or certified services or treatment; they are clean and sober housing. Using these non-profits provides an added assurance that the house will operate within safety and recovery principal standards. Two more start up Medicaid HealthChoices grants will open additional recovery houses in Lancaster, in the next six months.

7. **Vivitrol Coordinator:** The medication Vivitrol is relatively new to the D&A field. It is typically a monthly injection, and decreases the overwhelming urge for opioid/heroin. If an opioid is taken while on Vivitrol, there is no affect from the drug. The full-time Coordinator position at RASE works with clients who are on Vivitrol, providing recovery support services and case management services. This is funded by Medicaid/HealthChoices.
8. **Prison Vivitrol Project:** Similar to the Door to Door project, before an opioid client is discharged from the county prison, the Vivitrol Project will provide this medication to the client, before he or she is discharged into ongoing D&A treatment, either in a D&A rehab facility, or in a community based program. The client voluntarily receives the Vivitrol injection while in the prison, just before discharge, and ongoing treatment and injections are established, before the client is discharged from the prison. This project is funded by the D&A Commission and Medicaid HealthChoices.
9. **D&A Mobile Assessments:** If a client is in Lancaster, but cannot physically travel to a D&A outpatient clinic for an assessment, the assessor from the licensed outpatient clinic can travel to the client, to conduct the assessment. This is funded by the Lancaster County D&A Commission, through any of the eleven contracted outpatient clinics with the Commission. Examples include clients that are in a hospital or mental health unit, and cannot leave the facility to visit a D&A outpatient clinic.
10. **D&A Drop-In Center:** RASE received a Medicaid HealthChoices start up grant to create a drop-in center at 131 East Orange Street, on the first floor of the RASE facility. Additional funding for the drop- in center was provided by the D&A Commission. People seeking assistance in accessing treatment, or people in recovery who would enjoy the company and support of others in recovery, are welcome to drop in.
11. **Co-Occurring Outpatient Clinic:** Using Medicaid HealthChoices startup funding, PA Counseling Services will soon open a D&A and mental health outpatient clinic, commonly called a co-occurring clinic. This will open in the next few months, and is in the town of Columbia. Ongoing funding is primarily through Medicaid.
12. **Bupe Coordinator:** Suboxone, also known as buprenorphine, is an opioid-based medication for opioid addicts. The client takes the suboxone medication each day, and this decreases the urge for heroin. The full-time Bupe Coordinator at RASE works with these clients, in the same fashion as the Vivitrol Coordinators, providing recovery support services and case management. This is funded by Medicaid HealthChoices, with some funding from the D&A Commission.
13. **Recovery Support Specialist:** One full time specialist at RASE, funded by Medicaid HealthChoices. This is a person in recovery, trained and certified as a recovery specialist, in the same fashion as a peer support specialist. A person in recovery, helping a person who is beginning their recovery program. Medicaid HealthChoices will soon fund a full time specialist in one of the Lancaster D&A outpatient clinics, to determine how well the specialist works within a treatment clinic.

14. **Local Methadone Clinic:** Serves more than 750 Medicaid clients each year in Lancaster, in this methadone medication-assisted treatment program for opioid addicts. Medicaid HealthChoices purchases more than \$2.8 million of methadone treatment each year for Lancaster citizens.
15. **Medicaid HealthChoices:** Medicaid HealthChoices pays for more than \$17.2 million of D&A treatment each year in Lancaster, and more than 50% of these services are provided to “Medicaid Expanded” covered citizens.
16. **Coalitions:** Joining Forces, the Lazarus Project, and the South Central Pa Opioid Awareness Coalition are groups that are organizing efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in Lancaster County and in the surrounding region of the state. Other grassroots groups are active in local Lancaster County communities, such as Lititz, Ephrata, Elizabethtown, and Mount Joy. The D&A Commission joined with Compass Mark to sponsor free training and networking events for these coalitions in 2016 and 2017.
17. **Recovery Events:** Two non-profit organizations, RASE and the 521 Club, are providing recovery events and programs for people in recovery. Addicts in recovery helping other addicts is a powerful influence on whether a person enters recovery and or treatment.
18. **Centers of Excellence:** Two Centers of Excellence grants were received in Lancaster, one at the outpatient clinic, TW Ponessa, and the other at the largest health care agency in the county, LGH-Penn Medicine. This is funded with Department of Human Service funding, and Medicaid HealthChoices pays for the treatment services. Medication-assisted treatment and support services are provided in the COEs.
19. **Training:** The Lancaster County D&A Commission is purchasing training through the non-profit agency GOAL, for faith-based organizations, to teach their staff and leaders about addiction and accessing local treatment.
20. **Medication Drop Boxes:** Through a state grant, the Lancaster County District Attorney’s Office expanded the number of medication drop boxes. There are now 19 sites to properly discard unwanted prescription medications in Lancaster County.
21. **Lancaster Recovery Alliance:** The Alliance formed several years ago, to organize people and organizations in the D&A recovery community. The Alliance provides a voice for the citizens in recovery, and provides positive events in the community, to break the negative stigma of recovering addicts and alcoholics.
22. **Community Outreach Worker:** Funds from the Lancaster County D&A Commission hired a full-time Outreach Worker at Compass Mark. This employee assists community leaders in organizing their groups and providing events and training in their community.
23. **Training for Prison Staff:** In November, 2017, the TW Ponessa Centers of Excellence team provided basic D&A training for all staff that work at the Lancaster County prison. Staff at the prison are now

more knowledgeable about the disease of addiction, and will refer more of the prisoners to treatment programs when released. The prison also has several in house D&A programs, some of which place the client directly from the prison, to a D&A treatment facility.

For more information, contact the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission, 717-299-8023