

WASHINGTON COUNTY OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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WASHINGTON COUNTY OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM OVERVIEW

The Washington County Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT) was formed in January 2015, and is chaired and coordinated by the Washington County Health Department. There are currently 40 members made up of primary and alternate affiliate representatives (see Attachment I). The Washington County OFRT meets on a monthly basis, typically on the fourth Thursday of the month, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at the Washington County Health Department. A meeting has been held every month during 2015, beginning in January, with the exception of May due to a change in leadership, for a total of ten meetings (a meeting will be held in December 2015, making a total of eleven for 2015).

The Washington County OFRT started with the review of five cases at a meeting, beginning with year 2014, and will next review year 2015 cases upon completion of 2014. It was realized that five were too many for a quality review of each decedent's case. Currently, the average review is two to three cases per month, dependent on other discussions for actions needed to be facilitated at a meeting. The information, i.e., full name, dates of birth and death, for each decedent to be reviewed is emailed to all OFRT primary and alternate members approximately three weeks prior to the meeting date. Reports from affiliate agencies are submitted to the OFRT Coordinator prior to the meeting for copying and assembling packets. The packets also include copies of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and SMART reports, thereby each attendee has copies of all information presented at the meeting; the copies are shredded post meeting for confidentiality reasons. It is mandatory that all OFRT members attending meetings or receiving case data sign a Confidentiality Statement.

The sequence of case reviews by Team partner agencies (if available) at each meeting is:

- OCME report;
- SMART report;
- EMS;
- Law Enforcement;
- Narcotics Task Force;
- State's Attorney;
- Detention Center;
- Meritus Medical Center (hospital);
- Department of Social Services;
- Parole & Probation;
- Treatment facilities;
- Education;
- Obituary; and
- On-line Maryland Judiciary criminal case search report.

Discussion follows on notable observations, trends, recommendations, e.g., obtain medical records from physicians/treatment facilities, interview family members/ friends, etc. Following the discussion on new cases, follow-up documentation is presented and discussed on decedents from a previous month or months. Time is allotted at the end of each meeting for any updates/information that the affiliate agencies would like to share. Recorded minutes, password protected, of each meeting are emailed to all OFRT members and to the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). The BHA also receives a copy of the sign-in sheet for each meeting.

The trends and prioritized recommendations contained in this report were determined by all participants at the October 2015 meeting using the “sticky board” method, which seemed to be successful. Post October meeting, actions to be included in this report were requested from all affiliate members, whether past, ongoing, or future.

We would be remiss not to mention the strong, cooperative partnerships we have here in Washington County that have led to, what we believe to be, a successful OFRT process.

SUMMARY OF OFRT CASES REVIEWED IN 2015 (FEBRUARY – NOVEMBER)

DEMOGRAPHICS	<p>Total 24 cases reviewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 female; 15 male • 23 white; 1 Hispanic (female) • Age range 21 – 60 • Age range females 21 – 56 • Age range males 25 – 60
SUBSTANCES RELATED TO CAUSE OF DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol: 3 deaths (1 death alcohol only; 1 death combined with Meclizine; 1 death combined with Heroin) • Heroin: 7 deaths (3 deaths Heroin only) • Methadone: 6 deaths (2 deaths Methadone only) • Oxycodone: 6 deaths (1 death Oxycodone only) • Cocaine: 3 deaths combined with other drugs • Venlafaxine: 2 deaths • Alprazolam: 2 deaths combined with other drugs • Tramadol: 1 death Tramadol only • Amphetamine: 1 death Amphetamine only • Other drugs listed in cause of death in combination with other drugs: Fentanyl, Phenobarbital, Diphenhydramine, Morphine, Ethanol, Fluoxetine, Hydrocodone, Clonazepam, Buprenorphine
LOCATION OF DEATH	<p>Hagerstown ZIP Code 21740:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 deaths • 10 deaths occurred at decedents' residence addresses; 2 deaths occurred in motels; 5 deaths occurred at addresses other than decedents' residence addresses • 12 of the 17 deaths occurred within the Hagerstown city limits <p>Hagerstown ZIP Code 21742:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 death • Death occurred at the decedent's residence <p>Clear Spring ZIP Code 21722:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 death • Death occurred at the decedent's residence <p>Hancock ZIP Code 21750:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 death • Death occurred at the decedent's residence <p>Sharpsburg ZIP Code 21782:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 death • Death occurred at the decedent's residence <p>Keedysville ZIP Code 21756:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 death • Death occurred at the decedent's residence <p>Deaths that occurred outside Washington County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederick County ZIP Code 21701; 1 death • Howard County ZIP Code 21797; 1 death

TRENDS, RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTION STEPS, PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS

TRENDS

1. Existing health conditions prior to/in conjunction with substance abuse.
2. Prior visits to emergency department.
3. History of traumatic event(s), e.g., abuse, death in family, etc.
4. Lack of system communication.
5. When last observed, decedents were snoring/gurgling/nodding off, which could have been indicators of overdose.
6. Utilization of outlying areas, e.g., Baltimore, West Virginia, to obtain drugs.
7. Multi-treatment attempts/did not complete treatment plans.
8. Prior criminal history/repeat offenders.
9. Department of Social Services' involvement; received assistance, especially food stamps and medical assistance.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY/ACTION STEPS/PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION STEPS

NOTE: ALL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EVIDENCE-BASED FROM THE TRENDS NOTED DURING THE REVIEW OF OVERDOSE CASES.

RECOMMENDATIONS/GOALS	Action Steps	Partners/Stakeholders
<p>Increased community outreach and prevention education on SUD</p> <p>Goal: To educate the general public on: the risks of substance use: the signs of, and prevention for, overdose: and treatment resources within the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naloxone/Narcan Training Program for adults 18 years and older, including a prescription for free Naloxone/Narcan for Washington County residents who attend the training; Washington County residents walk out of training with the drug in hand • Participation on panels, public speaking, and providing Naloxone/Narcan training at community/town hall meetings and listening sessions related to SUD • Media campaign to address educating the public about prevention and treatment • Distribution of printed materials for overdose prevention/treatment resources/training opportunities/public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington County Health Department • Washington County Health Department; Law Enforcement; Turning Point of Washington County; Alternative Alcohol and Drug Counseling • Overdose Misuse Prevention Program's Project Act Now grant partners (many the same partners as on the OFRT, e.g., Washington County Health Department, Turning Point of Washington County, etc.) • Washington County Health Department; Turning Point of Washington County; Hagerstown Community College; Washington County Department of Social Services; Alternative Drug and Alcohol Counseling

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute business cards of treatment centers/resources to substance users • Provide substance abuse (SA) education and help facilitate linkage to SA services for community members receiving Mobile Crisis Services that may be affected by the effects of SA • Sponsor a forum/workshop for students and, possibly, faculty and staff to discuss the prevalence of drug abuse in the community, along with providing information on community resources for prevention and treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington County Narcotics Task Force • Mobile Crisis Social Worker • Hagerstown Community College, Washington County Health Department, OFRT partner agencies/facilities, community stakeholders
<p>Changes needed within the court systems; additional background history of defendant needed</p> <p>Goal: More appropriate sentencing imposed/treatment program completion to prevent repeat offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search conducted of client's history before sentencing • Case management for oversight/accountability after incarceration for assuring completion of treatment plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State/local judicial system; potentially, assistance would be needed from the MD DHMH BHA on how to proceed
<p>Education to providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More comprehensive treatment options made available in the community; • Increased use of screening tools; and • Increased Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) utilization <p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker linkage to treatment programs; • Provide a more in-depth overview of a patient's history; and • Screenshot of a patient's current prescriptions so that the appropriate medications/dosage of medications are prescribed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide SBIRT training • SBIRT Training for ED medical staff • SBIRT implementation • Increase Dual Diagnosis Capability to "enhanced" status through partnership with Case Western University • Conduct a treatment summit targeting healthcare providers as the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington County Health Department; the URL for a free, on-line SBIRT training has been provided to all OFRT partner agencies • Meritus Medical Center (provided via one of the above avenues) • Turning Point of Washington County • Turning Point of Washington County • Potentially, all OFRT partners