

Alliance Addresses The Opioid Epidemic

Addiction to heroin and other illegal opioids, as well as misuse of prescription pain medications, is a national crisis that has led to increased opioid overdose deaths. In North Carolina, Alliance is at the forefront of efforts to help stem the tide.



We increased the number of people served, including “self-funded” people, because treatment costs are often too high for people with no jobs, low-paying jobs or irregular work opportunities.



We’ve expanded opioid treatment programs (OTPs) in the Alliance region from one to six and have grown our network of office-based opioid treatment (OBOT), where physicians provide addiction treatment services in primary care settings. Through OBOT, individuals receive a prescription for anti-opioid medicine instead of receiving medication daily in a methadone clinic.



We support network providers in using more peer support specialists who have “lived experience” of treatment and recovery and can help engage others in treatment. Peer support specialists can help people connect with services through their recovery journey, and provide support to help them remain engaged in treatment.



We introduced a pilot program to assess and address environmental factors – the social determinants of health – that may present barriers to people engaging and remaining in treatment and recovery. These can include housing, transportation, food security and education needs.



We’ve made naloxone, the antidote to opioid overdose, available to local police and other agencies who work with high-risk individuals. We’re also giving away thousands of disposal kits that allow people to safely dispose of unused opioids at home.



We introduced the Alliance For Action on Opioids website (AllianceForAction.org), which helps individuals, family members, and professionals take small but important steps in their lives and work to help stem the tide of the opioid epidemic.

Alliance for Action
ON OPIOIDS



We also partnered with the [NC Lock Your Meds](#) campaign, which is designed to educate people about the importance of securing medications to prevent misuse.



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