



Evidence-based Practices for OUD in Rural North Carolina

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Today

- Review how to build a strong consortium
- Share key needs in a rural setting and how to work collaboratively to implement evidence-based strategies
- Discuss how to leverage additional private funds
- Share lessons learned



Consortium building

- FirstHealth is non-for-profit health care system in South, Central North Carolina
- Serve as backbone organization for opioid efforts
- Initial drug prevention efforts began in 2007
- Established the Sandhills Opioid Response Consortium
- Focus on multisector partnerships
- Actively engage members in work



Identification of four key needs

- Regional prevention, recovery and treatment resources in one place
- Lack of peer support program
- Need to address stigma
- Need to collaborate to link individuals to treatment and recovery; uninsured seeking treatment



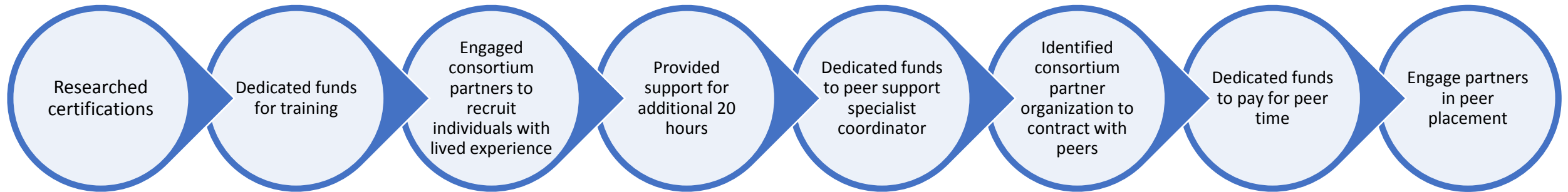
Resources

- Challenge: No central location for resources
- Developed a comprehensive website
 - prevention
 - harm reduction
 - treatment (MAT clinics, treatment facilities)
 - recovery resources
 - peer support
- Developed marketing materials to promote website
 - Business cards
 - Pens
 - Magnets
- Result: 435 hits since August



Peer Support Program

- Challenge: No established peer support program





Peer support results

- 24 peers trained
- 10 peers fully certified
- 2 peer support coordinators
- Peers placed:
 - MAT clinics
 - Department of Social Services
 - Daymark
 - Treatment Centers
 - Homeless Shelter
 - Transitional housing
 - Correctional facilities
 - Emergency Departments
 - EMS teams
 - Rapid response teams



Addressing Stigma

- Challenge: Poor language being used in health care and community
 - Peers extremely effective leaders for this effort
 - Continuing medical education event
 - Community presentations
 - Utilizing harm reduction opportunities to train law enforcement and first responders (narcans distribution)
 - Language Matters
 - Emergency Department Quality Committee
 - Podcasts (future)



Results of stigma training

- Stigma training for Southern Pines Police Department
- Trained all EMS personnel in Montgomery County
- Trained Department of Social Services personnel
- Shared with emergency providers (advancing to work with operations committee)
- Published language in regional magazine
- Will continue to offer trainings with narcan distribution



Linking Individuals to Treatment

- Challenge: Uninsured seeking treatment and recovery
 - Identified need through partners
 - Worked to partner with treatment providers in each county
 - Established relationships with private pharmacies
 - Leveraged initial pilot \$25,000 from private foundation
- Result
 - Assisting 35 unique individuals with treatment and recovery
 - Leveraged an additional \$25,000
 - Pursuing a private bank to engage in work
 - Include in grant budgets as permitted



Lessons Learned

Resources

- Engage partners in development of website
- Keep website updated
- Promote website as resource

Peer Support Program

- Two years active recovery
- Support the peers recovery
- Peer coordinator position
- Funds for training and paying for placement time
- Engage partners in identifying potential peers

Addressing Stigma

- When initially offered, law enforcement was open
- Peers are key; sharing their story opens people's eyes
- Effective in changing minds

Linkage to Treatment

- Need for guidelines for assistance
- Sustainability challenge
- High demand, most in need, no resources



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