MNPQC

Naloxone Access & Integration Sprint
SESSION 1 OVERVIEW - APRIL 22, 2025

OVERVIEW

Session 1 of the Naloxone Access & Integration Sprint set the stage with a powerful presentation by pharmacist and research scientist Laura Palombi of Essentia Health. The session explored overdose trends, substance use disorder (SUD) data specific to pregnant and postpartum populations in Minnesota, and addressed stigma as a key barrier to care and Naloxone access. Emphasis was placed on the importance of person-centered, nonjudgmental care and the role of harm reduction in saving lives.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Overdose Trends in Minnesota

- Opioid-involved deaths **increased 43% between 2020-2022**
- Native Americans die at **9x** the rate of whites; African Americans at **3x**
- Despite a slight decline, the **five-year rate of SUD at delivery remains high**: 113.9 per 10,000

Why Naloxone Matters

- Naloxone reverses respiratory depression from opioid overdose- no dependence or misuse potential
- Access is especially **critical at transition points** (e.g., post-incarceration, postpartum)

Stigma as a Barrier

- Stigma prevents **~90%** of people with SUD from seeking treatment
- Rural and Tribal communities face **compounded challenges** (geographic isolation, fewer resources)
- **Changing language and framing matters** in building trust

What We've Learned from the Recovery Community

- "Until everyone is educated, stigma will never change"
- Culturally appropriate care, sober social networks, and community education are essential

Resources Shared

MN Overdose Dashboard:
www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/opioid-dashboard

Recovery Capital Framework:
r1learning.com/blog/2020/recoverycapital#:~:text=Recovery%20Capital%20refers%20to%20the,filling%2C%20and%20nutritious%20foods%20daily

Presenter Contact

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