

Hamilton County Public Health Overdose Fatality Review

Agenda

- What is the OFR
 - Ohio Legislation for OFRs
 - Hamilton County OFR Partners
- Hamilton County OFR growth and improvements
 - New data partners and participants
 - Including first responders and criminal justice
- Engagement and follow-up

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate the importance of first responder participation in fatality reviews
- Identify first responder and criminal justice partners that could be added to fatality reviews
- Analyze current fatality review structure to determine areas for improvement and better collaboration

What is the OFR

- Overdose Fatality Reviews look at the circumstances surrounding the death of a person who died from a drug overdose
- In Ohio, OFRs are county initiatives
- The goal is to find where changes can be made to prevent future loss of life from an overdose

Ohio Revised Code

- Legislation passed in September of 2021
- ORC Section 307.631 – 307.639
- Brought legal support and data sharing laws for overdose fatality reviews
- Set requirements for core members
 - Public Health – convener
 - Coroner or Medical Examiner
 - Mental Health Board
 - Board Certified Physician
 - Law enforcement – Sherriff or Chief of Police

Hamilton County OFR Partners

- Hamilton County Public Health
- Hamilton County Coroner's Office
- Hamilton County Sherriff
- Hamilton County Drug Taskforce/Quick Response Team
- Hamilton County Mental Health Board
- Hamilton County Prosecutor and Clerk of Courts
- University of Cincinnati Health
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center (Poison Control Center)
- Hamilton County Job and Family Services
- Green Township Fire/EMS
- Colerain Township Fire/EMS
- Anderson Township Fire/EMS
- Hamilton County Adult Probation

Where We Were

- OFR started in Hamilton County in 2016
- Large invite list, conversations lacked purpose and direction
 - Engagement decreased followed by meeting attendance
- Were the right people at the table?
- Started a revamp process at the end of 2019
 - COVID-19 delays in resuming meetings

Where We Are

- Hired new OFR coordinator in 2021
- Changed meeting format
- Starting fresh and using new laws in Ohio
- New partners, smaller invite list, purposeful decisions on who joins
 - Sticking with subject matter experts and those with case information or who can contribute to the conversation in a meaningful way

Where We Are Cont.

- Continuously evaluating who should be at the table
- In 2022, hired a full time NOK interviewer to support the OFR
- Recent partner additions
 - Anderson Twp Fire/EMS
 - Probation Office
 - Specific treatment providers

OFR Partners

- Push to bring additional first responder and criminal justice partners to meetings
 - Fire/EMS
 - Information related to practices when responding to overdoses
 - Identifying gaps in the community
 - Ensuring different parts of jurisdiction are represented
 - Clerk of Courts and Prosecutors Office
 - Provide crucial criminal background information as well as court records

OFR Partners Cont.

– Law Enforcement

- Heroin Taskforce
 - Provides reports from death investigations
- Quick Response Team
 - Information on interactions with decedents
- Unique perspective on criminal justice system and how decedents have interacted with it

– Probation

- Provides unique perspective for those on probation
- Information on court ordered treatment and housing

Maintaining Engagement

- Crucial to keep members coming to meeting and feeling like it has been a valuable use of their time
- Twice per year meetings to share the recommendations that were developed along with programs or initiatives that have been implemented
- Finding champions for recommendations that have not been taken up
- Developing a dashboard for members to see the outputs of the OFR

Going Forward

- Always looking to improve meetings and facilitation
- Continue to evaluate who is attending meetings
- Drive the message forward
 - Seeing trends before they are widely known – gabapentin
- Focusing conversations and keeping conversations related to the cases being discussed
 - Having to balance open discussion without getting too far off topic

Questions?

