

Spotlight on Community Engagement Model Process

Massachusetts Health Officers Association
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Agenda

- ❖ Overview + Goals
- ❖ Timeline
- ❖ Process + Who is Involved
- ❖ Where Are We Now?
- ❖ Key Takeaways
- ❖ Challenges
- ❖ Final Thought

Community Engagement Overview + Goals

- ❖ To engage with the community, increasing awareness around settlement funds and other town opportunities for involvement
- ❖ To involve people with substance use disorder and other lived experience in decision-making processes
- ❖ To be as inclusive as possible, ensuring all cultural, ethnic, and lingual communities are included
- ❖ To create a model practice with community engagement event templates which towns can duplicate and individualize to the needs of each area
- ❖ To be thoughtful and intentional with the process to not create more harm for community members



Join us at the table!
Let's talk about the opioid epidemic in Falmouth

THURSDAY
June 22, 2023 • 5:30-8:30pm
ST. BARNABAS CHURCH • 91 MAIN STREET • FALMOUTH

The **Falmouth Commission on Substance Use** invites you to have a facilitated conversation and share your experience about how the opioid epidemic has impacted you, your family and/or the community. Falmouth residents affected by Opioid Use Disorder and professionals that serve Falmouth residents are encouraged to attend to assist in the process of identifying priority needs in Falmouth that will help guide future spending of Opioid Settlement Funds.

Confidential RSVP: Scan QR code, <https://tinyurl.com/55jud3cw>
email info.humanservices@falmouthma.gov or call 508-548-0533.
Light supper and childcare will be provided (please note in RSVP number of children/ages).

  **FALMOUTH COMMISSION ON SUBSTANCE USE**
Targeting the Whole Community

Partners

- ❖ Falmouth Commission on Substance Use
 - ❖ Advisory group
 - ❖ Design Team
 - ❖ Community members
 - ❖ Focusing on people with lived and living experience
 - ❖ Community leaders
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Timeline + Process


March-May: Convened advisory group, design team, + prep

June 2023: Large community forum

Early Fall 2023: Focus groups

October 2023: Reflecting back + Working sessions

November 2023: Presentation to town Select Board + model practice write-up



Join a focus group!
Let's talk about the opioid epidemic in Falmouth...

The **Falmouth Commission on Substance Use** is hosting a series of focus group conversations as part of our community engagement process this year. Falmouth residents who are or have been impacted by the Opioid Epidemic are encouraged to participate in a focus group that best fits their experience.


SEPTEMBER 18TH, 5:30 PM: FAMILY MEMBERS OF PEOPLE IN ACTIVE ADDICTION, AND/OR IN RECOVERY FROM OPIOID USE DISORDER



SEPTEMBER 19TH, 5:30 PM: FAMILY MEMBERS/LOVED ONES WHO HAVE LOST SOMEONE TO OPIOID USE DISORDER

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 7:00 PM: PARENTS IN RECOVERY OR SEEKING RECOVERY FROM OPIOID USE DISORDER

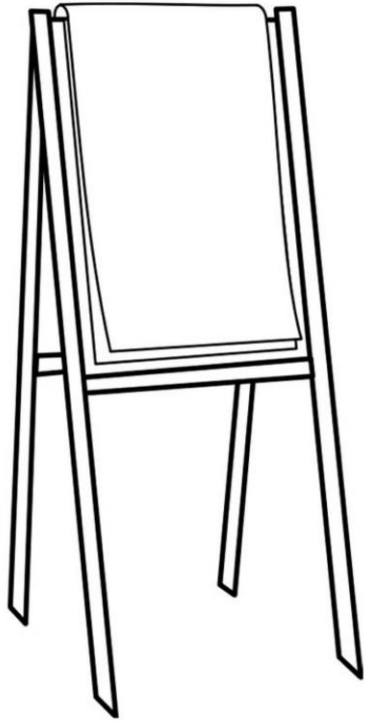
SEPTEMBER 28TH, 5:30 PM: BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IMPACTED BY THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 3:00 PM: YOUNG PEOPLE IN RECOVERY, SEEKING RECOVERY, OR STRUGGLING WITH THEIR SUBSTANCE USE (24 AND UNDER) - GUS CANTY REC CENTER

RSVP:  All focus groups to be held in Falmouth. Please use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6ew72f>, QR Code or call 508-548-0533 to register.



Town of Falmouth
**COMMISSION ON
SUBSTANCE USE**
Targeting the Whole Community



Where Are We Now: The Messy Middle

Key Takeaways

ROUND 1: HOW HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED BY THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC +/OR HOW HAVE YOU SEEN OUR COMMUNITY BE IMPACTED?

HONEST

- ... (many sticky notes)

- * Sensitivity training/caregiver support w/ police + fire
- * fears during school hours parents invited
- * mandatory parents meeting @ school

What's one thing that is staying with you?

ROUND 2: IN TERMS OF HOW WE RESPOND TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC HERE IN FALMOUTH: WHAT'S WORKING WELL NOW? WHAT HAS WORKED WELL IN THE PAST?

... (many sticky notes)

What would we like to see more of?

- * Funding for parents transitioning out of rehab living in living on their own @ family level
- * More support for parents - keeping families together
- * More private availability: therapy on a family level
- * Support for kids
- * Women's Children's Program - Housing w/ kids
- * More support w/ housing + support for you who
- * De-stigmatization
- * More well-being (places like #)
- * More support/invited everywhere
- * Support for people who are in recovery
- * Credit
- * Children
- * Recovery
- * More support
- * A place

ROUND 3: BASED ON OUR CONVERSATIONS SO FAR... WHAT'S MISSING? WHERE ARE THE GAPS? + WHAT NEEDS TO BE NAMED NOW?

... (many sticky notes)

Falmouth Schools 9/27, 3PM

- * Welcome + Introduction
- * Check-in round: Your name, your role(s), + Briefly - How have you seen your School community impacted by the opioid epidemic?
- * In terms of how we respond in Falmouth: What are the priority needs in the school community environment? What has worked in the past?

What's missing? Where are the gaps? Why support - people talking people

What's WORKING?

- * C's mass health
- * Social workers
- * They send me
- * Cindy Jackson
- * The children place (recovery)
- * Freedom Church
- * Having Sobor boxes in the area
- * Places like WellStrong
- * The Community Comes
- * Lots of meetings

Thank you

QUESTIONS we're holding:

- * What resources are there for users @ other ages? Recovery schools?
- * How do we move from being reactive to proactive?

TAKEAWAYS

... (many sticky notes)

WHAT'S WORKING?

- * MASH - certification
- * Rocky's gym
- * Family environment
- * Large sobriety

WHAT'S WORKING?

... and/or what has worked in the past?

- * Heron Project "they have everything"
- * Informal family meetings
- * "Walk to Recovery" (N)
- * Being experienced - talking in schools
- * y prevention efforts
- * off on the green - focus "I didn't know"
- * Use supportive friends "I will walk beside you"
- * Using one kid stories
- * "ing hoost" -> (stigma) "this is a disease"

What's working/What has worked in the past?

- * Sharing stories of addiction on panel (5th/6th): "You're not alone!"
- * EMPATHY, RELATE, CONNECTION
- * Impassional age group -> making choices
- * Added additional school adjustment counselors
- * Lots of resources in town
- * "Social Just" / food sanitation
- * More information for parents + students
- * (Elevated) Recovery High Schools
- * Our counseling groups -> effectiveness w/ 9 schools
- * Hidden in plain sight
- * Tested adult / Mentor -> Peer support

WHAT'S MISSING? NOT WORKING?

- * Spin day! does not work
- * Insurance system -> BROKEN
- * Long term treatment
- * Community involvement -> Don't talk about it
- * Single treatment - Disconnected w/ mental health
- * Treatment options that fit w/ life, more options (night /online etc)
- * Lack of bridge from treatment to sober house
- * Transportation -> Limited!, need vans -> meeting
- * No one sleeping
- * Nobody has a license
- * Nobody's license -> stuck in downward cycle

Falmouth focus group - 9/28

What would we like to see more of?

- * Identify high risk youth
- * Provide safe spaces
- * Dual diagnosis -> Mental Health
- * Grief support for young adults/siblings
- * In school peer support
- * More arrests + prosecution
- * "Get the head of the snake"
- * Support for parents: Who to go to???
- * "nothing changes if nothing changes"
- * Group based family support
- * More information about Falmouth Human Services
- * ER information about resources: So hard to navigate
- * Concrete viable resources

Priority needs in the school Community Environment?

- * Systemic plan for what students get when Education + Support
- * Early intervention
- * Helping people access services -> Stigma + Fear
- * What is the function of law? DATA
- * Supporting grandparents
- * How can we support kids in early stages of intervention

NOT WORKING:

- * People sober long time + still can't get their license
- * \$ staying @ high levels/or not reaching the people
- * Access to funds for people doing work on the ground
- * We need grant writers!

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

- * Support after treatment - in to housing + sober house
- * Secure sober housing - regardless of + insurance
- * Affordable for SCHOLARSHIPS
- * Cars on Sobor living org
- * Sites houses w/ showers
- * "navigation" to help folk get base Post credit them
- * Criminal license -> more cooperation from DMV
- * More community support - people talking people

What's Staying with me?

... (many sticky notes)

WHAT'S MISSING? +/OR NOT WORKING?

- * Uninsurance of resources available
- * Transportation
- * Family support
- * Discharge planning
- * Uninsurance of resources available
- * Transportation
- * Family support
- * Discharge planning

Missing / gaps

- * Providing alternatives for stress management
- * Additional Trk @ all age levels
- * CBR + NARCAN training
- * Treatment opportunities for family members
- * "We know where this is going" -> But for we can't stop it
- * Right now - don't have a way to connect kids w/ each other
- * Having students have agency to be part of the conversation themselves

Challenges

- ❖ Identifying an effective process that works for your community
 - ❖ Outreach + getting RSVPs
 - ❖ Turning challenges into opportunities
 - ❖ This is a deeply personal topic
 - ❖ Community engagement can be really HARD...but it's worth it.
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QUESTIONS?

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