

Combating the Opioid Crisis through a Public-Private Coalition

THE DISTRICT'S APPROACH TO SAVING LIVES

THE CRISIS

Opioid overdose deaths continue to rise as traditional tactics are insufficient to address this widespread issue. What is required to effectively combat this crisis is partnership between public health, public safety, and criminal justice leaders, along with essential stakeholders in the private sector and local communities. These parties must work together in new ways to achieve outcomes faster.

Local government leaders recognize this need for **coordinated, integrated** actions among these critical parties. However, the usual working group practices are not responding quickly enough, often leaving gaps in execution, and are resulting in fragmentation across diverse stakeholder groups. This unprecedented crisis is escalating faster than most response efforts can scale, and the impacts of targeted funding and grant allocations are often weakened due to the lack of alignment among multiple well-intentioned providers.

THE CLEARING'S APPROACH

In support of the Directors of the DC Department of Health (DC Health) and Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), The Clearing convenes public and private sector leaders for **quarterly DC Opioid Summits**, and then **maintains accountability** to specific committed-to outcomes **between the summits**. We guide the group to define a shared perspective of each aspect of the crisis at a specific point in time, identify specific success targets, and gain commitment to coordinated, measurable outcomes. The in-person summits develop **working relationships across sectors** and the bi-weekly accountability within smaller goal teams ensures actions, outcomes and impact.

QQ The District's Strategic Plan to Reduce Opioid Use, Misuse, and Related Deaths and its integrated implementation is the most coordinated and forward-moving work we've seen.

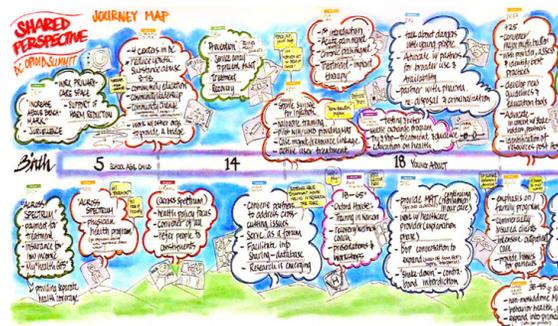
– Executive from a large national healthcare provider

THE NEED

Localized, coordinated public-private coalitions must work together to address this devastating crisis. Addressing the opioid overdose crisis requires expertise in creating **agile, cross-discipline, public-private leadership coalitions**, rapidly aligning on **targets** and **coordinated actions**, and **maintaining accountability** on outcomes that will cause short- and long-term impact.

The Public-Private Cross-Sector Coalition Includes:

- DC government officials
- Hospital leaders
- Physicians
- Public and private treatment providers
- Community-based service providers
- First responders
- Emergency Management Agency
- Harm reduction advocates
- DEA representatives
- DC Councilmembers
- Recovered addicts



Inaugural DC Opioid Summit, October 2017: Understanding Our Impact

During the first summit, a graphical view of stakeholder groups' collective individual efforts to address the crisis was created live-time. Establishing this shared perspective revealed intervention overlaps and gaps.

THE OUTCOMES

- Stakeholders have jointly developed and committed to a comprehensive city-wide strategic plan and targets for decreasing the death rate from opioid overdose by December 2020.
- Seven Opioid Strategy Groups (OSGs) were established to align across the most essential initiatives of the strategic plan's implementation to achieve the initial set of defined outcomes to reduce the death rate.
- Through this coordination between the public and private sector:
 - Coverage and service gaps are closing;
 - Residents are accessing treatment at increasing rates;
 - The number of locations providing treatment needs are increasing,
 - Increased focus on managing the opioid hotspots in the city,
 - Increase in collaborative efforts to share data,
 - Targeted education and awareness campaigns focused on residents and criminal justice stakeholders are increasing,
 - Risks are being identified and mitigated;
 - Resources are being more efficiently utilized.