U-COPE Project Updates

OR Viral Hepatitis Collective Annual Meeting | October 26, 2023

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Overview

Project Overview

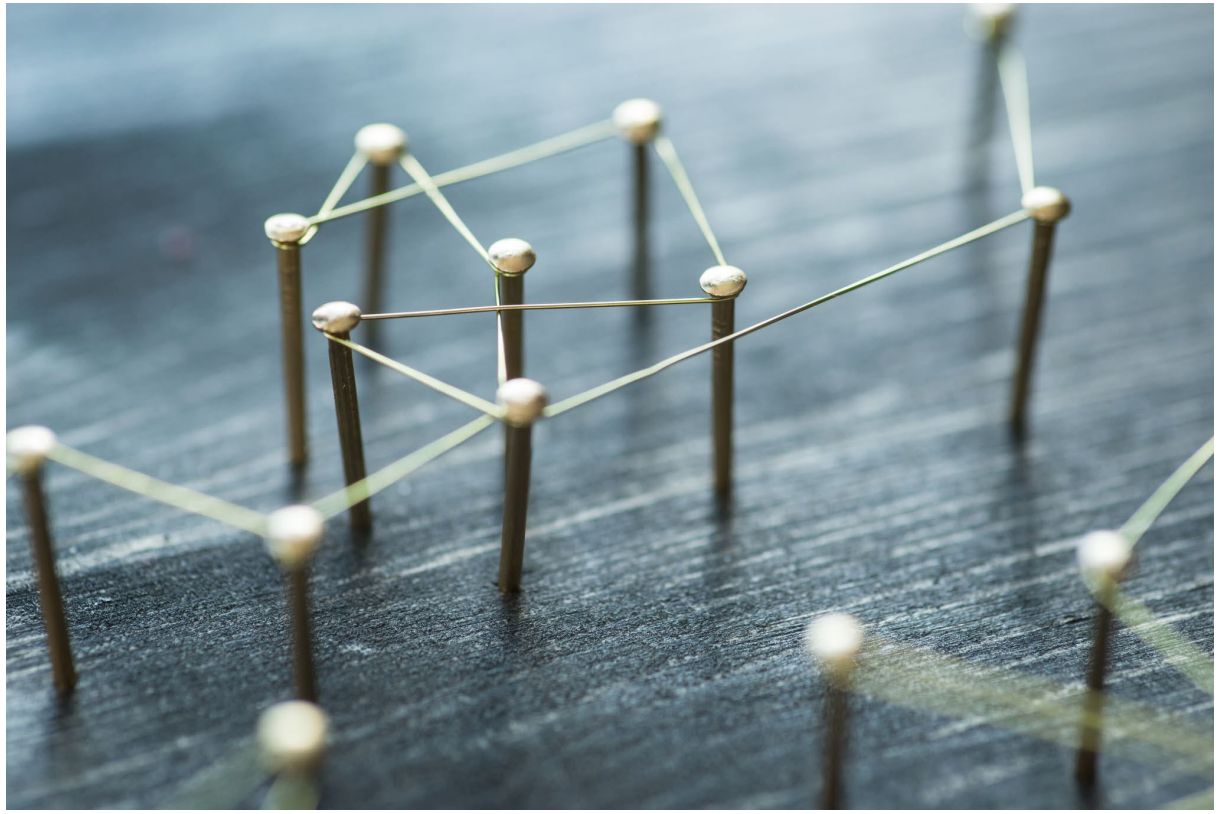
Implementation Details

Celebrate Successes & Address Challenges

Project Overview

U-COPE Project Mission

Develop a collaborative team of local partners, including people who use drugs, to coordinate and implement a comprehensive package of interventions using a harm reduction framework to improve healthcare access and outcomes for people who use drugs in Umatilla County, Oregon.



Desired Outcomes

- Increased access to high-coverage SSPs
- Increased linkage to substance use disorder treatment services, including medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
- Increased HCV, HIV, and HBV testing among persons who inject drugs
- Increased linkage to treatment for infectious complications (HIV, HBV, HCV, bacterial and fungal infections) of injection drug use
- Increase receipt of hepatitis A and B vaccine among people who use drugs

Project Collaboration

Funder

CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Core Project Team Members

OWhN
Oregon Washington Health Network

Oregon Health Authority

Comagine Health

Project Collaboration

Key partners represent various sectors

- Core Project Team
- Community Counseling Solutions (CCS)
- Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO)
- Eastern Oregon Recovery Center
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI)
- Local clinics
- Local Community Advisory Council (LCAC)
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC)
- Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
- Pendleton Treatment Center
- Umatilla County Circuit Courts
- Umatilla County Community Corrections
- Umatilla County Public Health
- Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center

U-COPE & Other Projects in Umatilla County

Umatilla County Outreach, Prevention, and Engagement (U-COPE)

- Convene Community Partners
- Complete Rapid Assessment
- Develop Service Delivery Model

TeleHCV (OR-HOPE Study/PATH*)
TeleHCV via the van (and other settings)

New funded service elements:
- Trailer for mobile services
- Medical assistant for mobile services

PRIME+ Peer Program
PRIME+ peers staffing the trailer, TeleHCV, etc.

Nurture Oregon

Peer Drop-In Centers

*PATH: Peer-Assisted TeleHCV for people who opt out of OR-HOPE

Project Collaboration

Key partners provide feedback and support

- Participated in rapid assessment interviews
- Help build connections with organizations across the county and region
- Provide feedback on project documents and processes
- Provide updates and areas of connection across work
- Champion this work in their organizations and networks

Rapid Assessment Snapshot Findings

Interview Summary

Interviewed 20 PWUD and 20 people who provide services or engage with PWUD.

- Participants provided information about facilitators, barriers, and suggestions for improving:
  - Healthcare access
  - Infectious diseases screening and treatment access
  - Substance use disorder treatment access
  - Peer services access
  - Harm reduction services access
  - Interactions with the criminal justice system

Resource Development Example

Safe Provider Checklist
For Medical Settings

What is this checklist for?

- This checklist is a tool for organizations that provide services to people who use drugs and wish to support their clients' whole health and wellbeing.
- The U-COPE team hopes this checklist can provide resources and suggestions for practices to reduce stigma.

How should we use this checklist?

- This is a resource to help organizations reflect on what they are already doing and what they could do next to continue to create a safe, caring environment for people who use drugs.
- This list is not exhaustive, but it's a start! We encourage practitioners and organizations to continue to develop client-centered best practices.
- These are suggestions, not mandates, and each organization will look differently.

What does this checklist include?

- This checklist covers individual practices, organization-wide policies, and environmental cues to make the organization more welcoming to all clients.

Implementation Details

Peer Drop-In Centers

OWHN

COPES

peer centers

Finding hope and recovery

Hermiston – Pendleton – Milton Freewater

24/7 Hotline (541) 612-2255

Unity in the Community

Mobile Trailer

Events and Outreach

[Community Outreach Prevention Engagement Services offers new mobile clinic during Round-Up week | Local News | eastoregonian.com]

Celebrate Successes & Address Challenges

Collaborative Leadership & Shared Successes

- Peer drop-in centers grand opening (October 2021)
- Installed new sharps container at peer drop-in center (January 2022)
- Mobile outreach trailer wrapped and ready to provide services (July 2022)
- Collaborating to address rise in Syphilis cases – OWhN, Umatilla Public Health, OHA
- Regular ordering and technical assistance for Harm Reduction Clearinghouse
- OWhN hired HCV specialist peer
- OWhN hired Medical Assistant for trailer staff
- Attending 45 community events and offer harm reduction supplies, HCV screening, and peer services

Addressing Challenges, Looking Forward

- Took time to secure and set up mobile trailer: availability low and cost high
- Took time to staff the mobile trailer
- Peer centers temporarily closed
- Stigma toward people who use drugs across service sectors
- Pharmacy closure led to months of Suboxone shortages
- Increased in overdose instances with young people and in schools – naloxone available in schools but staff concerns about using and parental pushback

Thank you!

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