

# STATE OF ADDICTION: THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN NORTH CAROLINA

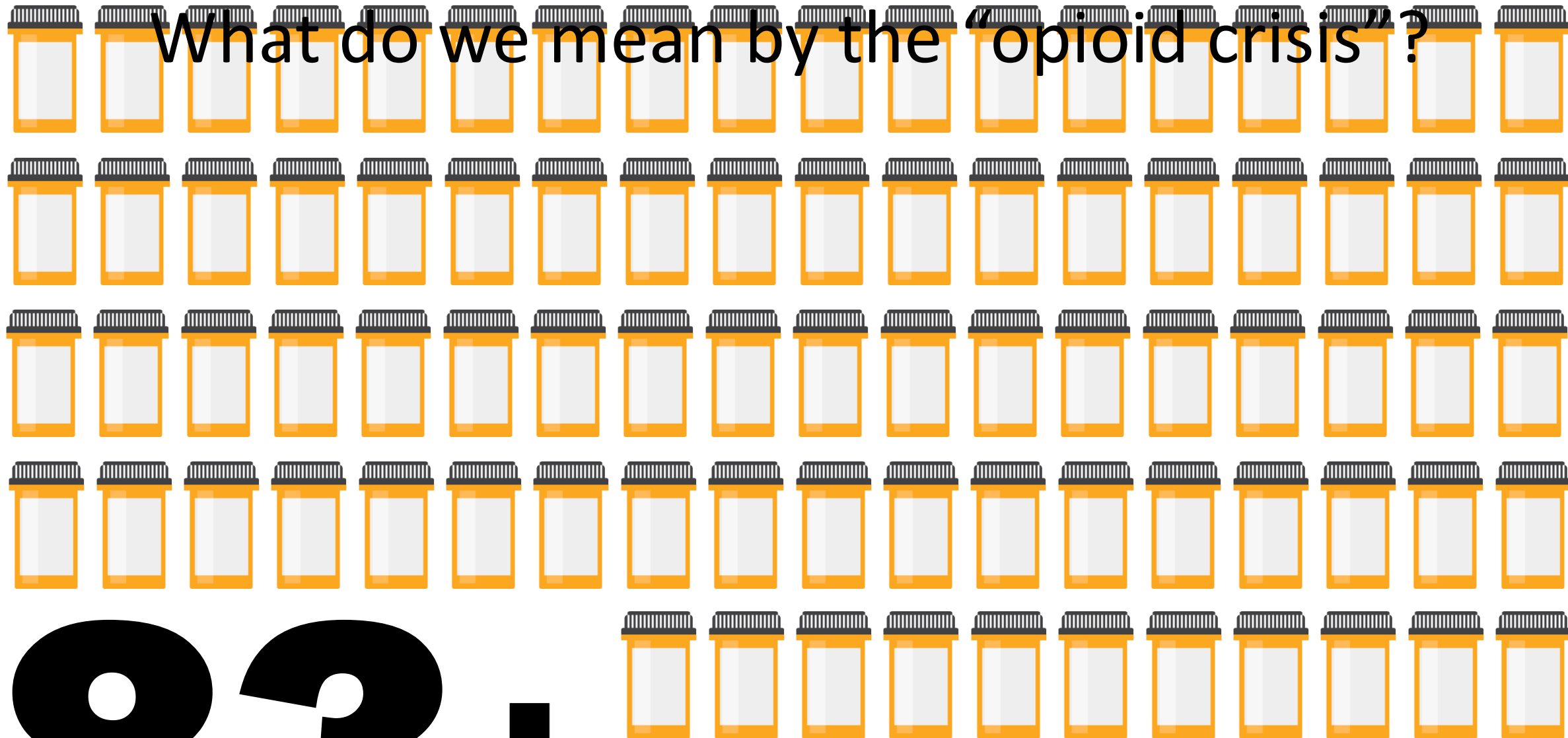
Joint Legislative  
Oversight  
Committee on  
Health and  
Human Services



LME/MCO Approaches to Addressing the Opioid Crisis  
Presented by Brian Ingraham, CEO  
January 16, 2018



What do we mean by the “opioid crisis”?



83 ↓

**Painkiller prescriptions per 100 North Carolinians**

*Source: CDC US Prescribing Rate Maps (2016)*

The image features a large, bold black number '675,315,375' with a downward-pointing arrow to its right. The background is white and is populated with numerous 3D-rendered white oval pills, each with a vertical score line, scattered in various orientations and positions around the central text.

**675,315,375↓**

Opioid pills dispensed in North Carolina in 2016

*SOURCE: NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services Controlled Substance Reporting System*



**94,881,114 ↓**

Opioid pills dispensed in Vaya catchment counties in 2016

*SOURCE: NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services Controlled Substance Reporting System*



Number of drug poisoning deaths in North Carolina in 2016

**1518** *involving  
opiates\** ↑

**552** *involving  
heroin only* ↑

\*Includes all opioid pills, carfentanyl, fentanyl and heroin

*SOURCES: NC DHHS Injury and Violence Prevention Branch and North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Report – Fentanyl and Heroin-Related Deaths in North Carolina: 2016*

What can be done?



There is no silver bullet



# What is Vaya doing to combat the crisis?



## **WNC SUBSTANCE USE ALLIANCE**

Steering Committee includes representatives from:

- Vaya Health
- Mission Health
- MAHEC
- Buncombe County Government
- Henderson County Government
- Duke Life Point
- High Country Community Health
- Project Lazarus
- RHA
- October Road
- Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority
- Local criminal justice system



# **WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE USE ALLIANCE**

- Formed to organize resources and leverage existing efforts and work across the 23 counties using a collective impact framework
- Work guided by both the 2016 report of the N.C. Governor's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use and the first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health
- Tasked with formulating a comprehensive community substance use strategic plan (Phase One) and the monitoring and implementation of the plan (Phase Two)



A top-down view of a group of people sitting around a large wooden table in a meeting. Some are writing on papers, others are looking at a laptop or a smartphone. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from above, creating a professional and collaborative atmosphere.

# Goals of the Alliance

Increase collaboration across agencies and stakeholders to coordinate efforts addressing the problems associated with substance use


Leverage resources to maximize efforts across the Vaya Health 23-county catchment area

Reduce unnecessary duplication of efforts to address substance use


Establish intervention priorities for the region that will result in positive outcomes and increase sustainability for all populations, regardless of payment source

# WNC Substance Use Alliance


**A collaboration to reduce the prevalence of alcohol and drug misuse, as well as the number of fatal overdoses, in Vaya's 23 counties. Members focus on four key areas:**




Expanding  
Medication  
Assisted  
Treatment



Enhancing  
substance use  
treatment for  
pregnant women



Strengthening the  
continuum of  
treatment and  
crisis services for  
adults

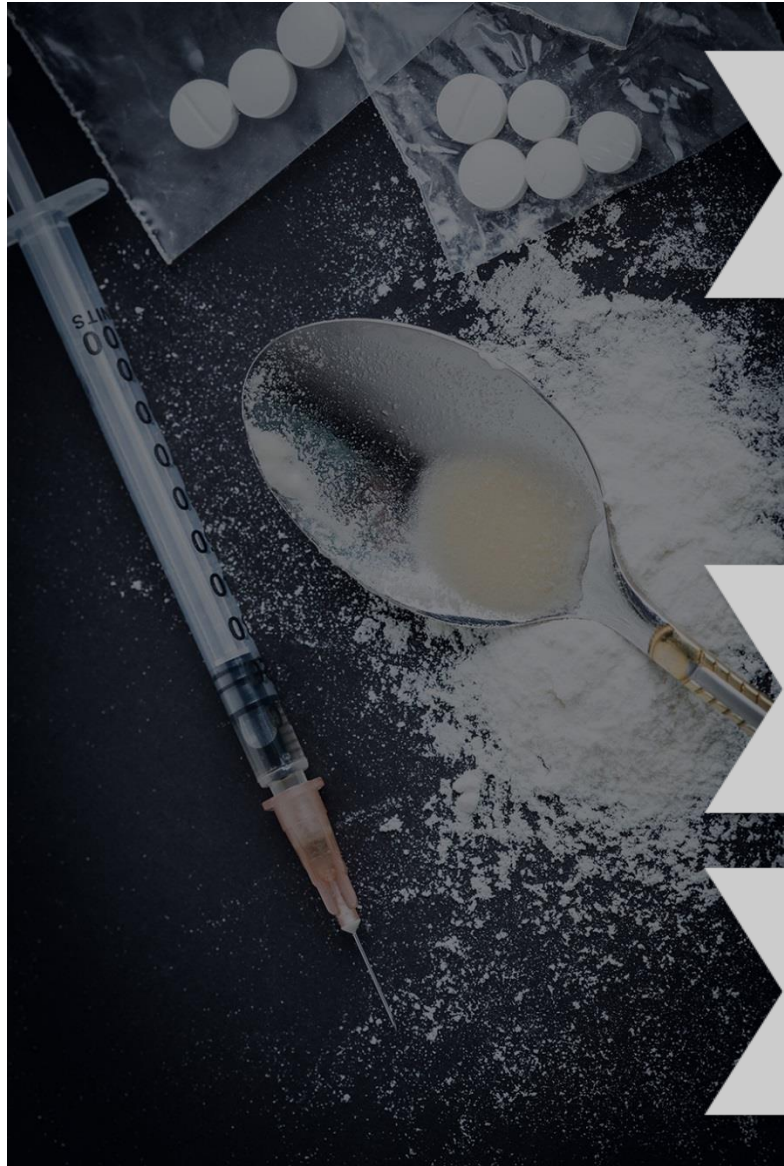


Strengthening the  
continuum of  
treatment &  
prevention services  
for children &  
adolescents

# Nine Priorities of the Alliance

- 1.** Implement a local plan, in conjunction with County Leadership Forums, aligned with the State's Opioid Action Plan to address the opioid crisis
- 2.** Increase access to treatment services and supports (e.g. housing, employment services) through expansion of services and reduction of barriers to service areas
- 3.** Conduct community education and awareness campaigns regarding opioid use and other substance misuse and recovery in order to reduce stigma
- 4.** Increase effective engagement across all SUD populations
- 5.** Increase engagement and access to services in a timely manner for pregnant or child rearing individuals
- 6.** Increase number of providers/organizations providing integrated primary care and behavioral health models or whole person care for all populations and increase community awareness of locations to access integrated care
- 7.** Continue expansion and development of peer support and family peer support models for substance use and co-occurring disorders
- 8.** Maximize funding sources for service delivery
- 9.** Develop and utilize a data framework to capture county-specific level data points/ indicators with reporting enabled across systems and agencies, to plan, implement and assess collective impact initiatives

# What are we doing to combat the epidemic?



Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)  
Expansion

MAT: Evidence-based best practice  
involving the use of medications paired  
with counseling and therapy

Specialized MAT programs

Outreach engagement and prevention



# MAT Expansion



Using DHHS Cures grant funding, MAT and other substance use services have been made available to an additional 400 uninsured individuals by increasing access throughout our region

Vaya was allocated \$898,867 and has spent approximately \$800,000 to date

52% of this funding went to MAT services



# Specialized MAT Programs

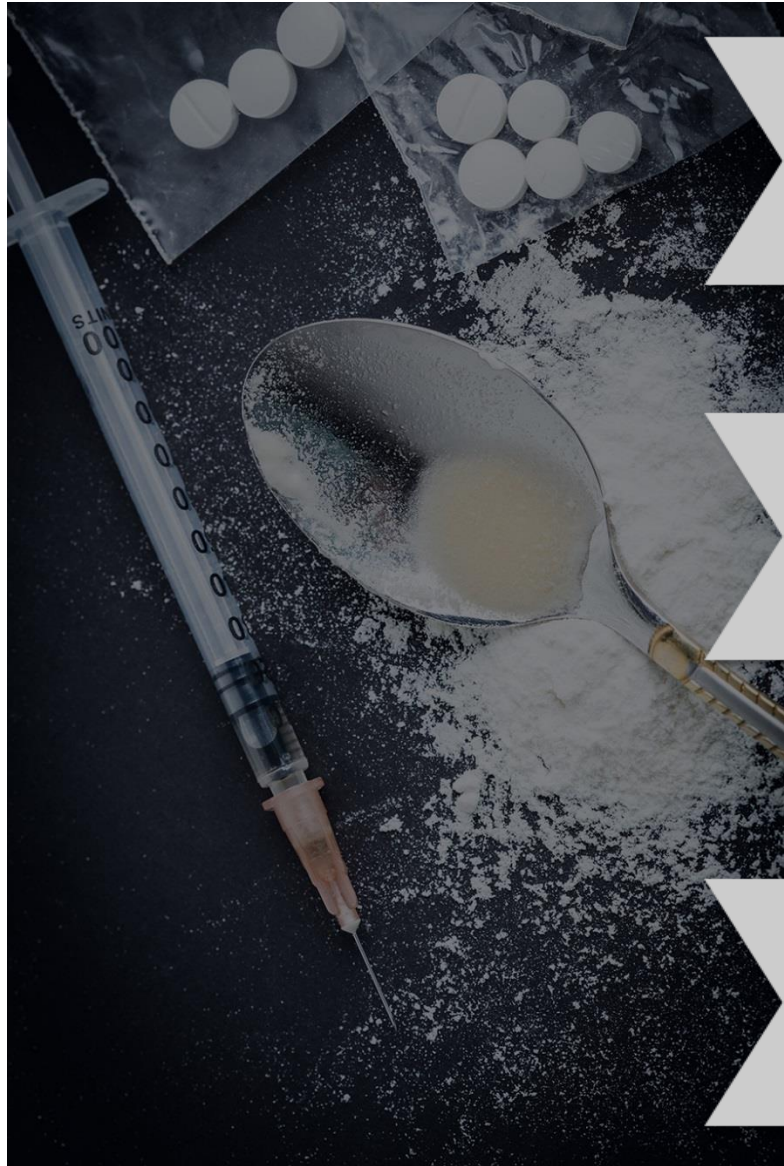


DHHS has funded a pilot project with Vaya to expand the use of Vivitrol in FQHC sites

The Waynesville Police Department is participating in Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), a collaborative project with Vaya and the NC Harm Reduction Coalition

Program will include funding for MAT for approximately 60 LEAD clients

# Outreach and Engagement



MindKare Kiosks in all 23 Vaya counties offer individuals opportunities to take substance use screenings and contact Vaya for connection to treatment

NC Harm Reduction/WNC Aids Project  
Overdose Prevention and Outreach using  
Peers, targets individuals who experienced an  
opioid reversal and engages individuals at  
needle exchange sites across the catchment  
area

Vaya and WNCAP to implement HIV and Hep C  
testing in targeted areas



# Prevention Efforts



Vaya is currently supporting three primary prevention providers and their mentor communities to implement the Cures program in Ashe, Avery, Haywood, Mitchell and Transylvania counties

Focus on decreasing the non-medical use of prescription drugs, including opioids

Over 1,000 lock boxes have been distributed throughout our 23 counties to safely secure prescription medications

Prescription medication take-back efforts have removed over four tons of pills from communities



**THIS  
NARCAN  
SAVE A  
LIFE**

Using community reinvestment funds in 2016, Vaya was the first in the country to purchase a large quantity of NARCAN nasal spray for distribution

127 confirmed overdose reversals

With the assistance of DHHS, Vaya received an additional 5,400 NARCAN kits

Based on current trends, we expect these kits will result in approximately 500 overdose reversals

Vaya used the NARCAN kit making as events to spearhead an awareness campaign

