



Las Animas and Huerfano Counties District Health Department

Kim Gonzales, Executive Director



Las Animas Huerfano Counties District Health Department

Public Health Improvement Plan 2013–2018

Colorado's Public Health Act (SB 08 194) took effect in 2008, calling for major reforms to the state's governmental public health system. Its purpose is to ensure that core public health services are available to every person in Colorado, regardless of where they live, with a consistent standard of quality.

- ▶ **The Act requires:**
 - ▶ The use of assessments to determine population health and system wide capacity issues;
 - ▶ The development of a five-year state and local public health improvement plan (PHIP; also know as a CHIP, community health improvement plan) based on assessment results; and
 - ▶ Engaging communities in health improvement and increasing the availability and quality of public health services to ultimately improve health outcomes.

2013 Data from the Community Health Assessments in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties



Substance Abuse 2013–2018

Major Indicators:

- ▶ Alcohol use
- ▶ Prescription Drug Use
- ▶ Illicit Drug Use (marijuana, heroin, ecstasy, cocaine, hallucinogens, methamphetamine, and inhalants).



Action Steps

- ▶ New Start Program (Vivtrol Injections)

Partners include: 3rd Judicial District, Crossroads, Probation, Samaritan Clinic, Public Health and Al Currents Pharmacy

- ▶ Medication Take Back Bins

Mt. San Rafael Hospital
City of Walsenburg (Star Drug)

- ▶ Drug Task Force (Partners for a Drug Free Community)

- ▶ Leslie J. Gerbract, 3rd Judicial District Judge, along with:

Law Enforcement, County Commissioners, City Officials, Public Health, TSJC, School Districts, CTC Coordinators, Health Solutions, local citizens, Crossroads, Probation, SB 94, Family Resource Centers and local physicians

- ▶ Education through WIC for Pregnant and post partum women

- ▶ Hep C screening clinics to address the health outcomes



Partnership



Otero and Crowley Public Health Department

In November 2016, the VIP-MHP Branch was awarded money for prescriber education to increase Colorado's provider adherence to the new CDC opioid prescribing guidelines.

Las Animas and Huerfano were both recognized as one of the high-burden areas, with a 2013-2015 prescription opioid-related mortality rate of 13.5/100,000. With 58 DEA licensed prescribers in our area.

Otero County had the second highest opioid-related death in the state.

COALITION(S) EFFORTS

- ▶ **Communities That Care (CTC) Monthly Meetings**
 - CTC has connected with Rise Above (statewide nonprofit focusing on youth substance use prevention)
 - Risk and Protective factors in youth that affect the likelihood of substance abuse, violence and mental well being outcomes.
 - Mental Health First Aid for Youth
- ▶ **Partners for a Drug-Free Community**
 - Discuss state-local level efforts to combat opioid epidemic and resources
 - Life Skills in local schools with Police Department
 - Medication take back awareness
 - Drug court
- ▶ **Regional Health Connector held Opioid Meet & Greet for southeastern counties of CO and has begun efforts to form regional coalition.**
- ▶ **Local stakeholders are participating in Learning Community with Colorado Consortium.**
- ▶ **LA-H and RHC distribute public awareness materials**
 - Take Meds Seriously, OpiRescue, Naloxone brochures
 - Anti Stigma Campaign posters in all four communities





Moving from What to How: Practical Tools for Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing for Chronic Pain (CCDAP)

Las Animas County: August 23, 2017

101 attendees

Huerfano County: November 29, 2017

52 attendees

Otero County: May 8, 2018

40 attendees

Overdose Prevention



- ▶ **Naloxone Training: How to Prevent, Recognize, and Respond to an Opioid Overdose (CCDAP)**
 - Mt. San Rafael Hospital, Trinidad, CO
 - Media coverage from local newspaper
 - Participation from Trinidad library's director/staff in naloxone training
 - Began efforts to get all library staff trained on how to recognize and reverse overdose and to assist library in changing policies to stock Narcan onsite
- ▶ LA-H public health dept connected to MSO in order to gain access to STR-funded Narcan from Signal Behavioral Health and distribute them to LA-H community members who have multiple risk factors for overdose
- ▶ LA-H Director secured 50 auto injectors of Naloxone from National Council for Behavioral Health
- ▶ Naloxone Co-Chair from CCDAP spoke to every pharmacy about importance of participating in standing orders
- ▶ Helped Safeway Pharmacy to understand the procedure for dispensing Narcan to patients under standing orders through the State Director at CDPHE.

Overdose Prevention (cont)

- ▶ Naloxone Training: How to Prevent, Recognize, and Respond to an Opioid Overdose (CCDAP)

November 8th and November 9th
Pre Register and get free Naloxone



- ▶ Environmental Health Strategies Training for Substance Abuse with Omni (Julie Thompson)

December 4th in Las Animas County (Open invitation to all southern region)

Local Law Enforcement & Safe Disposal

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ Public health department connected local police and Sheriff to training for overdose prevention and assisted departments in carrying Narcan in Las Animas and Huerfano counties
 - LA-H public health nurse trains all new LEOs

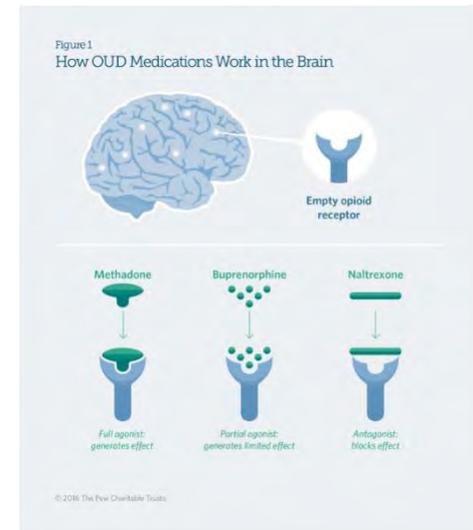
SAFE DISPOSAL

- ▶ Set up medication drop box at Mt San Rafael Hospital to take back unused medications
- ▶ Otero County medication drop box at Police Dept in La Junta.
- ▶ Working on medication drop box in Huerfano County (Star Drug)
- ▶ CTC and Partners for a Drug Free Community helped to organize Trinidad's participation in National Drug Take Back Day
- ▶ Distribute "Do You Know Who Is Taking Your Medicine?" brochures

Continued Support

- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Clinic

- Salud Family Clinic/
- Mt Carmel Health Wellness Center.



- Health Solutions

- New facility to expand clinic and clinicians

Substance Abuse Prevention Month, October 2018



Questions





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