

UW School of Pharmacy & Fort HealthCare (FHC) Opioid Stewardship Project Summary

October & December 2019
1st & 2nd FHC Provider Meetings

- Identified problems primarily related to acute pain
- UW team presented 2 solutions focused on acute pain
- Outcome: FHC providers supported pursuing these solutions

February 2020
FHC Provider Interviews

- Identified chronic pain as an important challenge through discussions with FHC Pharmacy
- UW team conducted interviews to gather more information about challenges related to chronic pain
- Outcome: Concluded providers would benefit from additional tools/resources for treating chronic pain

February & October 2020
1st & 2nd Community Stakeholder Meetings

- Identified problems: patient drug seeking behavior, diversion, and lack of addiction treatment/mental health treatment in county
- UW team presented solutions about chronic pain, addiction treatment & prevention of opioid abuse among youth
- Outcome: Community group strongly supported addiction treatment and prevention of opioid abuse among youth solutions, but also supportive of chronic pain tool

August & November 2020
1st & 2nd Patient Group Meetings

- Identified problems related to stigma experienced when seeking treatment; lack of treatment options in the county
- UW team presented solutions about chronic pain & addiction treatment
- Outcome: Patient group supportive of chronic pain tool and addiction treatment solutions

January 2021
Final FHC Provider Meeting

- Synthesized feedback from the community and patient stakeholders to inform solutions
- UW team presented solutions about chronic pain & addiction treatment
- Outcome: FHC providers supported pursuing both solutions

Opioid Stewardship Project: Key Take-Aways and Participant Contributions

Common barriers identified by all stakeholder groups

- Lack of adequate opioid addiction treatment options in Jefferson County
- The community would benefit from additional mental health treatment options in Jefferson County to address the underlying causes of opioid abuse
- Need for tools and more treatment options for managing chronic pain, including alternatives to opioids

Unique perspectives of each stakeholder group

- *Fort HealthCare Providers* are frustrated by the lack of pain management treatment options for patients; Providers feel pressured to reduce opioid prescribing because of government directives, but they also want to meet patient treatment needs
- *Community group* highlighted the need for increased cooperation between law enforcement, County Human Services and others in the County regarding treatment and social services for people with opioid use disorder
- *Patient group* expressed feeling stigmatized by healthcare providers who seem not to believe the patient is experiencing pain and/or make assumptions about and/or are unwilling to treat patients with history of substance abuse.