From Potholes to Public Health: Ensuring Impact with Opioid Settlement Funds

The National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL)
Saturday, March 7th

Creighton Drury, CEO – Center on Addiction
Merging for greater impact

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University

How to Raise a Drug-Free Kid

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America

this is your brain on drugs.
What We Do

1. **Advance Effective Care** through our team of experts who help families and providers better prevent and treat addiction, ultimately saving lives.

2. **Shape Public Policy** by sharing our policy research expertise and partnering with families and other experts to effectuate public health advancements.

3. **Change Culture** by activating the voices and stories of families to reduce stigma and increase compassion and understanding for the disease of addiction.
Most money is spent on the consequences of addiction

Only 2% is spent on prevention and treatment!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT IT SHOULD GO TOWARDS:</th>
<th>Health care infrastructure</th>
<th>Support and promoting health</th>
<th>Solutions based on science and evidence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHAT IT DOES GO TOWARDS:</td>
<td>Criminal justice infrastructure</td>
<td>Punishment and blame</td>
<td>Solutions based on stigma, anecdote and intuition</td>
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Catch it **early**

>90% of people with a substance problem began smoking, drinking or using other drugs before age 21.
Increase access to quality treatment

Only 2 in 10 people who need care receive any sort of addiction treatment.
Treat addiction as a disease

• Ensure policies reflect a public health approach, rooted in science and compassion

• Make quality treatment accessible and affordable so that everyone who needs help can get it
Improve **addiction treatment**

- Increase the **availability of medications** to treat opioid use disorder
  - i.e., methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone

- **Help patients** and families **find** quality addiction **care**
  - Call-line/database with real time information
Improve **addiction treatment**

- **Use financial incentives** to promote integration into mainstream healthcare
  - Support conversion to electronic health records for addiction treatment providers.

- **Invest in provider training**
  - Educate and train physicians, nurses and other prescribers in addiction treatment.
  - Fund fellowships in addiction medicine.
Improve *addiction treatment*

- Leverage purchasing power and licensing to **improve quality of care**
  - Enhance reimbursement for certified evidence-based addiction treatment.

- Improve **insurance coverage**
  - Enforce the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA)
  - Require plans to cover all medications that treat opioid use disorder (methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone)
Invest in **prevention**

- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
- Ensure that schools and communities implement effective prevention initiatives
- Reduce access to prescription opioids
  - Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)
  - Safe prescribing initiatives for pain management
  - Prescription drug take-back programs
Reduce **overdose** and other harms

- Distribute naloxone widely
- Increase access to methadone and buprenorphine
- Implement syringe exchange programs (SEPs)
- Monitor and react rapidly to emerging drug threats
Our Resources For States

• Ending the Opioid Crisis: A Practical Guide for State Policymakers, 2017

• Opioid Settlement Priorities: Recommendations from the Addiction Solutions Campaign, 2018
What Not to Spend the Settlement On
For More Information:

www.centeronaddiction.org

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THANK YOU!