PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Opioid Epidemic Pilot Project dubbed “Project Save Lives” is to establish a program within Duval County that provides specialized, coordinated and seamless services for the treatment of opioid addiction and misuse, thereby reducing dependence on opioid drugs and reducing opioid-related deaths. The targeted services are provided by healthcare providers and include but are not limited to stabilization and treatment for withdrawal, connection to a Peer Support Specialist, medication assisted treatment and seamless transfer to residential and/or outpatient services. This program and its services are currently provided through a partnership with the City of Jacksonville, Gateway Community Services, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, Memorial Hospital and Orange Park Medical Center. UF Health, was an original partner and continues to aid in providing program research, analysis and evaluation.

PROJECT STATUS

Project Save Lives began on November 16, 2017. Below is the latest update through December 31, 2019:

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<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL PATIENTS ELIGIBLE FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION</td>
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<td>REFUSED ALL SERVICES (Includes hospital ICU patients and AMA’s)</td>
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PROJECT OPERATIONS

When overdose patients arrive at a participating hospital emergency department, lifesaving stabilization is the priority. Once stabilized, patients are met by a Peer Support Specialist who is housed in the emergency department. The Peer Support Specialist works alongside the team of physicians and nurses to further aid in the treatment of withdrawal symptoms and offer specialized residential and/or outpatient services. Patients who elect to participate are provided transportation with the Peer Specialist directly to Gateway Community Center or another accepting treatment provider. Patients who elect not to participate in immediate residential services are offered nasal Naloxone at no cost and closely followed by their Peer after discharge. This continued follow up and connection to their Peer allows patients to enter treatment later, which may include participating in an intensive outpatient or residential treatment program.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

From 2017 to 2018, the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) experienced a 71 percent decrease in overdose-related responses to participants who accepted services from Project Save Lives. An analysis of JFRD’s overdose responses to program participants from 2018 to 2019 is currently being conducted. Since the program’s inception, 54 percent of eligible patients (775) have consented to services. Within this participant population, there have been six known opioid-related deaths reported by the Medical Examiner. To improve the veracity of data as related to drug-related deaths, a comparative study is currently being performed to identify and quantify any drug-related deaths between the program participant group and the non-participant group. This study is being conducted through a data use agreement with the Bureau of Vital Statistics at the Florida Department of Health (DOH).

PROJECT FUNDING AND LEGISLATION

Project Save Lives is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville and by each participating hospital. Program funding has been extended through September 30, 2019 with a line item appropriation in the City’s FY 2018/19 budget. The City’s proposed FY 2019/20 budget also includes a line item request for $1,191,423. In addition to City and hospital funding, the program is also the recipient of various in-kind resources and will receive funding from the Florida Department of Health in Duval County’s Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) CDC grant.

PROJECT EXPANSION

The program is now operating in five Jacksonville emergency departments (EDs): St. Vincent’s Riverside, St. Vincent’s Southside, Memorial Hospital, Park West and Baptist North. Expansion into UF Health - Main ED is pending contractual agreements. Thanks to funding from the Florida Department of Health in Duval County’s OD2A grant, Project Save Lives will soon add Peer Navigators to participating hospitals who will be able to follow, and support admitted patients, including those patients transferred from a free-standing ED. The Peer Navigators will also provide services in the maternity units to ensure that mothers and families of newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) are provided with a Plan of Safe Care to advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.

DSC/mr

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials regarding government business are public records and may be subject to public disclosure upon request.
Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department: Ingestion/Overdose Responses

Source: Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department, Jacksonville, FL, Assistant Chief Mark Rowley. A 9-1-1 Call Received as overdose and/or Narcan administration does not necessarily confirm an overdose or opioid use.

Definitions: Dispatched as Overdose = a 9-1-1 call was received in which the caller stated that the victim was suffering from a known or possible overdose. Narcan Doses Given = the count of Narcan administered, which may include repeat doses to same patient. Treated as Overdose = an incident in which the on scene paramedics assessed the victim and determined the victim was likely suffering from a known or suspected overdose event. Opioid-Related Overdose = incidents in which the on scene paramedic determined the incident was a known or suspected overdose event AND Narcan was administered. Each of these definitions
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Source: Jacksonville, Florida Fire & Rescue Department. Asst. Chief Mark Rowley. A 9-1-1 Call Received as overdose and/or Narcan administration does not necessarily confirm an overdose or opioid use. Definitions: Dispatched as Overdose = a 9-1-1 call was received in which the caller stated that the victim was suffering from a known or possible overdose. Treated as Overdose = an incident in which the on scene paramedics assessed the victim and determined the victim was likely suffering from a known or suspected overdose event. Narcan Doses Given = the count of Narcan administered, which may include repeat doses to same patient. Opioid-Related Overdose = incidents in which the on scene paramedics determined the incident was a known or suspected overdose event AND Narcan was administered. Transported as Overdose = incidents in which the on scene paramedics determined the incident was a known or suspected overdose event AND the patient was transported to the hospital. Each of these definitions and events are independent of the other and are not mutually exclusive.