The ROPC Includes

A WIDE RANGE OF “STAKEHOLDER PROFESSIONALS” - MEDICINE, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, HOSPITALS, POLICY PLANNERS & MORE! NO BLUEPRINT ON HOW TO WORK TOGETHER

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LOCAL OVERDOSE/HEROIN TASK FORCES IN BUCKS, CAMDEN, CHESTER, DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY, NEW CASTLE & PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES

THE GROUP BEGAN WORKING TOGETHER IN MARCH OF 2017 - IN AN ATTEMPT TO “BREAK OUT OF THE SILOS” WE’D BEEN WORKING IN PREVIOUSLY
March 2017 at the Philadelphia County Medical Society

WHEN: FRIDAY MARCH 17TH, 2017 10AM TO 2PM

WHERE: THE PHILADELPHIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, 2100 SPRING GARDEN STREET

AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON A REGIONAL APPROACH TO OPIOIDS AND OVERDOSE

Lunch and Parking Provided
Please RSVP to: silvana@ppponline.org
Subsequent Meetings

- June 2017 in West Chester (Chester County)
- October 2017 in Glen Mills (Delaware County)
- February 2018 in Newtown (Bucks County)
- June 2018 in West Norriton (Montgomery County)
- November 2018 in West Chester (Chester County)
- March 2019 at U of the Sciences (Philadelphia County)
- June 2019 in Lima (Delaware County)
Most Programs Featured a Keynote Speaker or a Panel Presentation & Breakout Sessions. Programs ran 10:00 am – 2:30 pm on Fridays.

Generally 100 – 125 in attendance.

Special “Legislative Briefing” held June 7, 2019 for elected officials and staffers.

Other special meetings included Payers’ Dinner with Medical Directors from 8 health insurance companies (including CMS).
Today

- We have a distribution list of 250+ people in 7 counties across 3 states (adding Camden County, NJ & New Castle County, DE to the original 5 counties in SEPA).

- A group of 80 to 125 people participate in conferences held roughly four times per year.

- A subset of 30 to 40 people from 7 counties actively participate on subcommittee action items between meetings.
With people who live in one county, work in another, and overdose anywhere, knowing the treatment options for all the counties in the area is important.

ROPC subcommittee members collated a list of treatment facilities to share.

We are currently working on a more robust list which includes specific capabilities of behavioral health facilities.

Ultimately, we would love a real-time inventory.
Warm Handoff

- Discussion among different counties revealed several methods for warm handoff
- The models were summarized and participants discussed pros and cons of various styles
- Many ROPC participants attended the regional summit on Warm Handoff organized by the State DOH
Data Sharing

- In conjunction with efforts by the PA Opioid Overdose Reduction Technical Assistance Center, based out of the University of Pittsburgh, and

- HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) of Washington-Baltimore and Liberty-Mid Atlantic (formerly Philadelphia-Camden),

- Our ROPC is attempting to increase the reliability, consistency, and availability of data across the region
Safer Prescribing

- ROPC members have been involved in outreach efforts to prescribers to encourage safer use of prescription pain medications

- Fostering connections across counties has enabled sharing of resources, cross-promotion of conferences, and sharing of contacts

- Promoting the Proper Use of the PDMP
Payer Collaboration

- Several meetings have been organized with insurance company executives and medical directors (medical and behavioral health; public and private) to discuss ways in which we can collaborate with payers to address the challenges of the opioid epidemic.

- Discussions have covered wide-ranging topics including communication, diminishing barriers to treatment, assessing the quality of care for substance use disorder, and integrating medical & behavioral health.
Keep in Mind

- Addiction and Substance Use Disorders are Diseases
- Opioids present a huge challenge - pharmaceutical as well as heroin
- Other Substances are also very prevalent & often combined by people using them
- Alcohol is much more costly to the state and more commonly mis-used
- Law enforcement reports recent resurgence in methamphetamines and cocaine
New - “Pilot Project for Delaware County Survivors”

- Professionals from Law Enforcement, Public Health, Behavioral Health working together with SURVIVORS who have lost a family member or loved one to overdose death

- Main Focus - Grieving - promoting and providing grief support, hope and well-being to individuals

- Helping these individuals to connect to existing groups or to form groups in their communities

- Also - re-writing a booklet “Recovering From Suicide Loss”
Special Thanks

Renée M. Cassidy, MD, FAAP, FACP
Public Health Physician, Chester County Health Department
Chair, Regional Overdose Prevention Coalition, SE PA

Other ROPC Executive Committee Members

Mark Austerberry, Philadelphia County Medical Society
Silvana Mazzella, Prevention Point Philadelphia
Ann Ricksecker, Health Federation of Philadelphia
Rosemarie Halt, Maternity Care Coalition
Lori Devlin, Delaware County Office of Intercommunity Health
Diane Rosati, Bucks County Drug & Alcohol
George Downs & Dan Ventricelli, University of the Sciences