The Philadelphia Coalition on Children and Opioids

The Philadelphia Coalition on Children and Opioids is comprised of Philadelphia-area child welfare, substance use and community health thought leaders. The goal is to develop and implement a series of recommendations targeted at reducing the impact the opioid crisis has on child crime victims in Philadelphia.

The Coalition will focus on reaching two clear goals for how Philadelphia’s social-services providers support child victims of the opioid crisis.

GOALS

1. Strengthen assessment of opioid and other substance use in the homes of families that are involved with the child welfare system and develop clear strategies for child welfare workers to use to access supports and services for the children and their parents/caregivers.

2. Extend this knowledge beyond child welfare workers, equipping other systems and individuals who interact with children with the same knowledge and access to resources.

To achieve these goals, the Coalition will utilize a Collective Impact Framework.

Assess

- Quantify scope of the problem
- Inventory existing Support & Services

Braid

- Identify strategies and funding for: Supports & Services
- Messaging & Communications Training

Coordinate

- Cross-system collaboration
- Braided funding streams
- Policy updates

Contribute data and evidence for decision making

Monitor and assess process and functioning

Support public reporting

Evaluation
The Coalition will consider the context in which children are impacted by opioid use and work to improve the political environment that surrounds the child welfare and other child-serving systems so that they produce needed policy and funding changes. The group will identify current supports, gaps in services, training and messaging.

The Coalition will identify evidence-based programs, services and messaging to fill identified gaps in the existing continuum of care for child victims, training for child welfare workers and workers in other child-serving systems and messaging to the broader community. Training will focus on increasing child welfare workers’ capacity to serve as first responders when confronted with opioid use in the homes and communities in which they work and on providing children and families with services through linkages to evidence-based practices.

The Coalition will create strong and effective linkages across child-serving systems that improve results for child victims. The linkages with and between evidence-based practices through which services are provided to child victims will be of particular focus including: Multi-Systemic Therapy, Family Based Mental Health Treatment, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, and the Positive Parenting Program. Linkages with evidence-based practices for parents including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) will also be a significant priority.

For more information about the Philadelphia Coalition on Children and Opioids, please contact Keli McLoyd at mmcloyd@phmc.org