



Expanding Scope of Practice Breakout Session

Naloxone Administration

VHA Response to the Opioid Crisis

- In 2014, VHA implemented a national OEND (Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution) program to prevent opioid overdose related deaths.
- Borrowing from start-up and entrepreneurial ventures, the VA launched The Diffusion of Excellence Initiative in 2015.
 - The Diffusion of Excellence Initiative aims to collect, disseminate, and replicate best practices that improve access to care, care coordination, employee engagement, Veteran experience, and quality and safety for Veterans throughout the country.
 - One of the initiatives of the Diffusion of Excellence is to expand access to naloxone to first responders by placing naloxone in AEDs and equipping VA Police with naloxone.

Cleveland Pilot program

- Cleveland VAMC Community Based Programs produced a front runner project as a part of the broader VA effort in their Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Distribution Training Program.
 - Trained community social workers (with Ohio social work licenses) serving homeless Veterans to educate, carry, and administer naloxone while out in the community providing face-to-face Veteran care.
 - These social workers also help identify at-risk veterans and arrange to have naloxone kits prescribed by the veterans' VA prescribers.
 - Social Workers with this clinical privilege can pick up the naloxone kit that was prescribed for the veteran at the VA Pharmacy and deliver to the veteran. They also provide education on the use of naloxone and Harm Reduction techniques.

Why did the Cleveland VAMC contact the Ohio licensing Board?

- The VA National Social Work and Care Management Program recognizes the value and supports social work involvement if the following parameters are met:
 - State social work licensing board concurrence must be documented **in writing**
 - Naloxone distribution **must be documented** in the SW clinician's scope of practice or privileges
 - Competencies related to naloxone distribution by social workers **must be developed** and staffing training requirements **must be documented**.

Cleveland VAMC Meeting with the Board

- Cleveland VA requested an in-person meeting with the Ohio Counselor, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Board.
- Prepared a presentation including naloxone education, ease of use, and the absence of negative side effects.
 - Shared its similarity to the lifesaving practice of CPR that social workers are trained to use in emergency situations.
 - Explained that no harm is done to an individual if naloxone is administered and it turns out that the person was not overdosing on opioids.

Ohio CSWMFT Board – Thinking About Naloxone

- Approached by the Cleveland VA in 2015
- Important to note Ohio has struggled with opiate overdoses
- Board considerations
 - Scope of practice
 - Training
 - Ohio law
 - Good Samaritan Law
 - Laws regarding naloxone access

Ohio CSWMFT Board – Moving Forward

- The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee determined that Social Workers administering naloxone is not an issue.
 - Overdose “CPR”
- Communicating the “position”
 - Newsletter
 - Answers to questions
- Encourage licensees to pursue training
- To date, no complaints regarding the administration of naloxone by a Board licensee have been received.

References

- Veterans Administration Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Program Overview - https://www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/academicdetailingservice/Opioid_Overdose_Education_and_Naloxone_Distribution.asp
- Ohio Revised Code 2925.61 - “Lawful administration of naloxone”
- CSWMFT Spring 2015 Newsletter - <https://cswmft.ohio.gov/Newsletters/Newsletters>