



Eryn Santamoore for Philadelphia City Council At-Large Substance Use Disorders Action Plan

Too many generations of families have suffered from the impact of substance use disorder (i.e. alcoholism and addiction). This disease has broken down our communities and families for generations. Now, Philadelphia finds itself in the midst of a crisis yet again - one that is killing thousands of Philadelphians, our children, our family members, our neighbors, and our friends. Eryn knows firsthand from the experiences of family members the devastating impact SUD has on our communities and how it can exacerbate generational economic, social, and emotional issues. We must do a better job of providing supportive services to those in need and get to the root of our greatest challenges by way of counseling, casework, social work, and therapy. Additionally, those struggling with SUD must have access to quality treatment programs that provide support for loved ones also impacted by these complicated issues.

It's also true that addiction is disruptive to our safety – substance use disorder is frequently linked directly to acts of violence in our neighborhoods. We have to balance our support for the afflicted with our need to keep communities safe. This will require a careful, compassionate, and comprehensive response so we can save lives and rebuild our families and neighborhoods together.

ACTION PLAN

- Create and fund a mobile and flexible facility focused on saving lives. A mobile response unit provides the flexibility needed to respond to active users by supplying life saving medications as well as addressing changing conditions, including but not limited to geographic concentrations of usage that shift over time and type of drug usage. This approach also appreciates that communities should not be inundated with the responsive infrastructure and programming of this epidemic through the development of permanent structures in their neighborhood. A mobile response unit is not a long-term solution – only recovery treatment is – but in the meantime, we must save lives immediately and educate our communities. All of this requires a flexible and varying set of interventions.
- Establish standard levels of care for all public dollars spent on recovery treatment facilities, including offering family treatment programs for those living with someone working a recovery program. Additionally, entities contracting with the City must be held to these standards when managing coordinated care for our most economically vulnerable people.
- The City of Philadelphia must always lead by example and cover the full cost of recovery treatment as part of its insurance plan for government employees (approximately 28,000 people).
- Support Medication Assisted Treatment - a treatment program overseen by a physician to promote recovery - as a necessary option to maintain stability for a subset of individuals working towards full recovery.

Substance Use Disorders Action Plan

- Train our law enforcement leaders (police officers, prosecutors, and correctional officers) and our city employees to better identify issues of substance use disorder and give them the tools to assist in medical emergencies (use of Narcan). We must also authorize and encourage local law enforcement leaders to partner with treatment and community leaders on programs that divert individuals who have overdosed, or who are actively using drugs or alcohol, away from the justice system and into treatment services.
- Continue to strengthen our partnership and coordination between Philadelphia's local law enforcement as well as the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) – and other local, municipal authorities particularly in adjoining counties - to prevent drugs from entering our communities in the first place. Eryn will work with the Philadelphia Police Department and our partners to secure new resources to curb the effects of the drug trafficking market and promote best enforcement practices.