

# BOAPC

## Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative

### – BRIEF DESCRIPTION –

The purpose of the Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC) is to implement local policy, practice, systems, and/or environmental changes to prevent the misuse and abuse of opioids and to prevent and reduce unintentional deaths and non-fatal hospital events associated with opioid poisonings throughout the 32 municipalities in Berkshire County. This program emphasizes the integration of SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model into overall prevention systems, to ensure a consistent data-driven planning process focused on implementing effective and sustainable strategies and interventions. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) has awarded funding to the Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Berkshire Public Health Alliance acting as fiscal host and lead community for administrative purposes), a three-year, \$300,000 grant (\$100,000 per-year) with two 2-year renewal options, making it possible for BOAPC to implement and sustain this work until at least 2020.

Key partners in year 3 of the BOAPC grant include the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Railroad Street Youth Project Multicultural Bridge, and The Brien Center. In addition to the 23 Berkshire Public Health Alliance municipalities, the City of Pittsfield and the Tri-Town Health Department (Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge) were co-applicants on the grant and remain strong partners in this effort. Other organizations supporting and participating in this effort include the Berkshire County District Attorney's Office, Berkshire Sheriff's Department, Berkshire United Way, Berkshire Health Systems and the Berkshire County Drug Task Force.

County-wide strategies to reduce opioid misuse and abuse that will be implemented in Year 3 include:

#### **Opioid Consumption Strategies:**

1. Point of sale pharmacy education
2. Exploration of alternative methods for addressing chronic pain
3. Enhanced training of prescribers in addiction
4. Continued media campaigns around safe storage and disposal of medications
5. Supporting comprehensive health education in local schools
6. Community education around risks of opioid consumption and addiction
7. Direct Outreach

#### **Opioid Consequence (overdose) Strategies:**

1. Increase naloxone (Narcan) availability in Berkshire County via Learn to Cope Tapestry Health, and the support of naloxone education for first responders
2. Provision of comprehensive information about post-overdose services
3. Supporting training for emergency department and crisis staff on connecting post-overdose patients to treatment options
4. Community education on the Good Samaritan Law
5. Harm Reduction Education
6. Direct Outreach