



Huerfano County Opioid Settlement Quarterly Report

Quarter: June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023 **Submitted by:** Kimberly Gonzales, Executive Director of the Las Animas Huerfano Counties District Health Department **Date:** September 28, 2023

Executive Summary

This quarterly report provides an overview of the activities related to the Huerfano County Opioid Settlement funds for the quarter ending June 1, 2023, to August 31, 2023. The purpose of this report is to update the Huerfano County Commissioners on the progress and impact of our efforts to combat the opioid crisis in Huerfano County.

Program Updates

- Increase awareness that prescription opioids can be addictive and dangerous.

The health department has emailed a variety of flyers to the schools (Walsenburg, La Veta and Gardner) as samples regarding the dangers of opioids, how to recognize someone using opioids, how to talk to teens about opioids. As of the end of the quarter we have not heard back from schools with regard to how many copies of each they need. The community prevention coordinator is following up with them.

- Implement an Anti-Stigma campaign. –

The LAHCDHD continues to work with CSU Anschutz campus/School of Public Health on the bi county anti stigma campaign. To date, the health department has given out 150 8.5x11 posters to parents regarding the anti-stigma campaign, 71 11x14 posters have been spread throughout Huerfano County, and approximately 500 coasters were distributed to bars and restaurants along with pens and stickers regarding the anti-stigma campaign.

The QR Codes on the posters, pens, coasters will direct the individual to the health department webpage for resources available in the bi county.

- Referrals to Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services and implement educational activities on recovery.

The health department has been working with and supporting Crossroads with the planning for recovery art classes that will involve some support and education on recovery and Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT). Crossroads also offers support groups that include education and in July they began using a sliding scale to offer services to more people in the community. The Health Department helped to share this information with all contacts so more people can be

supported in their recovery journey. The community coalition also has this on their radar to create more sober and educational events.

- **FREE Narcan and Fentanyl Test Strips to Prevent Drug Overdose -**

Narcan and fentanyl test strips (FTS) are offered at no cost with no questions asked through the health department. Over 500 FTS have been distributed by Huerfano ambulance, crossroads, and outreach centers. Clients are given instructions on how to use the test strips. Crossroads has commented that having both these items to offer to community members is very beneficial. Narcan has been distributed in Huerfano County along with information. The Public Health nurses have offered trainings on how to use Narcan. Once training is complete the attendees go home with a box of Narcan.

- Work with the criminal justice system to offer Narcan and training to inmates being released. The health department supplies training as needed to all agencies that interact with the 3rd Judicial System. The process for inmates being released, training on a multitude of items is in the works currently, as well as creating a smooth process for MAT and continued services after release.

Conclusion

This quarterly report reflects our ongoing commitment to addressing the opioid crisis in Huerfano County. We appreciate the support of the Huerfano County Commissioners and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to make a positive impact on our community.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gonzales,
Executive Director