



MICHIGAN PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

# LEGISLATIVE DAY

FEBRUARY 23, 2017

## *Policy Priorities: Substance Use Disorders*

Substance use disorders have reached crisis levels in Michigan, necessitating intervention at state and local levels.

- From 2000 to 2014, the rate of overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and heroin increased 200 percent nationwide, according to the Centers for Disease and Control.
- In Michigan, deaths involving opioid overdoses have increased 911 percent over the past 15 years.
- Nationally, Michigan ranks 10th in per capita prescribing rates of opioid pain relievers and 18th for overdose deaths.
- Michigan doctors wrote 21 million prescriptions for controlled substances in 2014.
- [Include local stories/statistics from your Health Center.]

Without access to comprehensive and coordinated mental health and primary care services, the opioid epidemic will continue.

- In 2015, Gov. Snyder formed the Michigan Prescription Drug & Opioid Abuse Task Force to recommend action in areas related to prevention, treatment, regulation, policy and outcomes, and enforcement.
- The task force strongly recommended bolstering access to care and evidence-based treatment modalities, including promising Medicated Assisted Treatments (MAT).
- MAT combines medications, counseling, and behavioral treatment to prevent and treat substance use disorders.
- Implementing these recommendations will require coordinated efforts among lawmakers, communities, primary care networks, and safety-net organizations.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are uniquely positioned to pilot solutions in providing substance use disorder care in a community-based, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed manner.

- Seventy-seven of Michigan's 83 counties have some form of a federally designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- Without state support to develop infrastructure and program incentives in primary care settings, MAT will be difficult to offer to patients in underserved areas.
- Michigan's FQHCs already improve access to care in more than 260 medically underserved communities, making them key players in curbing the opioid epidemic.
- That's why Michigan's FQHCs should be included in pilot programs that fund MAT services in the primary care setting.

### Recommendation

- As part of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, we recommend the state include funding specifically for Michigan Health Centers to implement pilot programs increasing access to Medication Assisted Treatment services in the primary care setting.