



2021 Cities Thrive Mental Health Coalition Monthly Call Series

Tuesday, March 30th

2:15-3:15pm/Eastern Time

The Epidemic in a Pandemic: How to Respond Creatively to the Opioids Crisis?

LOGISTICS INFORMATION

Zoom– Meeting ID: 970 5142 8413 Passcode: 693413

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Opening Remarks by Mayor Steve Williams of Huntington, WV
- Huntington, WV Presentation and Q&A with Chief Jan Rader, Huntington, WV Fire Chief
- New York, NY Presentation and Q&A with Dr. Bill Jordan, Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Alcohol Drug Use Prevention and Treatment, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Wrap up

PROGRAMMING

- **Special Guest:** Mayor Steve Williams of Huntington, WV
- **City of Huntington, WV – How the “City of Solutions” Adjusted to COVID-19**
 - **Presenters:** Chief Jan Rader, Huntington, WV Fire Chief
 - **Description:** Huntington, West Virginia, at one point, was labeled the “epicenter of the opioid epidemic.” We came together as a community to fight the devastation and complexities of this health crisis and we are now known as the “City of Solutions.” The COVID-19 pandemic created significant barriers to helping those suffering from substance use disorder. During this presentation we will share with the audience adjustments made to breakdown those barriers.
- **City of New York City, NY – Methadone Delivery System**
 - **Presenter:** Dr. Bill Jordan, Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Alcohol Drug Use Prevention and Treatment, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
 - **Description:** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous changes to federal regulations of methadone treatment were implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and prevent treatment disruptions among methadone patients. These include changes to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) regulations allowing for the provision of extended take-home medication for up to 28 days for stable patients and 14 days to less stable patients, and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations allowing for the provision of "doorstep" deliveries of methadone. In response, the



NYC Health Department worked with the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and the Coalition for Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates (COMPACT) to establish the Methadone Delivery System (MDS). The purpose of MDS is to prevent treatment disruptions among patients who have to isolate or quarantine because they have COVID-19, COVID-like illness (CLI), or comorbidities that place them at high risk of experiencing serious illness if they develop COVID-19. In addition, MDS plays an important role in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the frequency of clinic visits among patients. MDS launched on April 20, 2020 with delivery to isolation hotels and has since launched delivery to homes. From launch on April 20, 2020 to March 7th, 2021, MDS made over 4,000 deliveries.