



## **SOAR is a collaborative community response to the opiate crisis**

The City of Lakewood is collaborating with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Emergency Department and the Woodrow Project to create a rapid overdose response pilot program launching Fall 2017.

### **SOAR has three primary goals**

- Reduce opiate misuse and number of fatal overdoses
- Provide rapid access to treatment + recovery support
- Evaluate the impact of the program to determine if possible for local replication

### **SOAR is a Peer Support Specialist Model**

Peer Support Specialists are people in long term recovery who are trained to navigate and connect individuals to treatment + resources. In partnership with the Woodrow Project, state certified Peer Support Specialists will respond at three access points:

- 1) **Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Emergency Department** for patients who overdose or who have related medical complications will be offered Project SOAR peer support.
- 2) **SOAR Team Home Visit** to Lakewood residents following an overdose with Lakewood Police, Fire and Peer Support Coordinator.
- 3) **Safe Station Lakewood (Fire House 1)** is a voluntary 24/7 walk in option for residents to access peer support.

Upon connection, if a resident is ready and willing to enter the recovery process, Peer Support Specialists provide immediate linkage to treatment options based on the partnership with the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County and their provider network.

**HOPE STARTS HERE.**

[onelakewood.com/facingaddiction](http://onelakewood.com/facingaddiction) or call (440) 502-0020



## Reducing Stigma

The language we use to talk about addiction and mental health shapes our community's perspective. Stigma continues to be a serious barrier when it comes to people seeking support and resources. When one person struggles with addiction, it not only affects them but their family, friends, neighbors and community as a whole. Everyone can play a role in helping break down the stigma associated with addiction by choosing language that redefines the stereotypes and promotes a community of support.

Below are suggested terminology to start using to help reduce the stigma associated with addiction:

- Misuse or addiction (rather than abuse or habit)
- Addiction survivor
- Person with...(rather than addict, junkie or user)
- Person in active addiction
- Person with a substance misuse disorder
- Person experiencing a drug/alcohol drug program
- Person in recovery

## Why a community based initiative?

When we are looking at addiction as a disease, the only way to truly provide direct support and linkage to recovery is on a community level. Through collaboration and partnership with local organizations, groups and residents, cities have the unique position to look through their community lens to see their strengths and gaps and work with their partners to identify and build bridges. One size does not fit all but each community on its own has the power to effectively start to address ways to reduce deaths to overdoses, provide linkage to recovery, and support families. When cities commit to creating a comprehensive community response to opiates like Lakewood has, we inadvertently break down the stigma and send a message to residents that they are not alone. We are stronger together.

## You are not alone.

In effort to ensure Lakewood residents and families don't feel alone when facing addiction, Project SOAR is also committed to working with community partners and residents to address family support needs in Lakewood. Continuous community conversations will also take place as an ongoing commitment to discussing the opiate public health crisis and linking residents to resources. Additionally, in partnership with the Cuyahoga Board of Health and MetroHealth's Project DAWN, Project SOAR will also be looking at innovative ways to increase naloxone accessibility.

**HOPE STARTS HERE.**