

EMS Liaison for NACCHO Planning Grant

Background: Despite the awareness of opioid addiction in Vermont, the death rate has continued to rise. Central Vermont and most notably Washington County, has been on the forefront of creating innovative programs designed to reduce the use of and death from opioids. One identified gap in these prevention efforts relates to the post-overdose population. Those who have experienced a non-fatal overdose are at increased risk of a subsequent fatal overdose. In 2020, about 20% of Vermonters who died of an overdose had a history of a previous overdose and 10% had overdosed in the month before their death. Importantly, 63% of those who died in 2020 had interacted with EMS an average of three times between 2015 and the time of their death. EMS is increasingly realized as a key player in programs designed to reduce opioid use and overdoses.

The Grant: Dr. Javad Mashkuri and Global Health Specialist Eva Zaret applied for and received a planning grant to identify ways that new programming could help the post-overdose population. The grant has been awarded by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Control and Prevention and is titled “Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Pilot Projects.” The hope is that the Planning Grant will be followed by further funding, but that is not a certainty at this time.

EMS Liaison position:

A key component of the proposal that led to Dr. Mashkuri and Ms. Zaret receiving the funds centered around the role that EMS will play in any solution to the problem. As a result, grant funding has been approved for an EMS Liaison. This person will work 4 hours per week at \$35/hour, from January 1st through July 31, 2023. Ideally, this position will continue beyond July and may increase in scope beyond this very targeted role, but such an extension is not certain at this time.

Responsibilities:

1) Data Management

- Identify all databases where overdose information exists (Police, Emergency Department, Siren, WCMH, Treatment Associates, etc...)
- Create depository of all data.
- Learn basics of software programs such as Epic (CVMC ED electronic medical record)
- Work with State EMS Data Manager to create useful Siren reports.

2) Relationship Building

- Identify and establish relationships with parties who have an interest in and effect on those with opioid use disorder.

3) Communication skills

- Update other members of the group with your discoveries
- Write brief reports with findings

4) Time and Travel payment

- 4 hours per week. Much of the time, you will be located at CVMC. There is significant flexibility in when you work your hours but daytime will likely be required often as you need to contact and communicate with Case Management, Vermont Cares, Turning Point, etc... during business hours.

Application Process: If you are interested, please send your resume, reason for your interest, and any questions, to Eva Zaret (eva.cvpc@gmail.com) by November 30th, 2022. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Eva, Javad (javad.mashkuri@cvmc.org), or Ellen (ellen.stein@uvmhealth.org). Interviews will be held the first week of December and selection will occur immediately after.
Start date: January 1, 2023.