

Talbot County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council
2005 Plan
Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment

Vision: A safe and drug free Talbot County

Mission: To reduce the incidence and prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse and its consequences to affected individuals, their families, and all Talbot County residents.

Goal 1: Educate and support families of Talbot County to live healthy, productive, drug free lives

Objectives:

1. Use appropriate evidence-based prevention programs in community settings.
2. Use universal evidence-based environmental strategies to change community norms, reduce accessibility and to support monitoring and consequences for youth and their families.
3. Increase coalition building and interagency collaboration to assist with developing an environment that supports drug free lives.

Target: Reduce the overall incidence of first use of substances among youth ages 11-17.

Measure: Number of new users

Goal 2: Increase the detection of unidentified substance abusers and the number of treatment referrals in Talbot County.

Objectives:

1. Expand the use of drug testing (urine, saliva, etc.) in Talbot County in order to improve the detection and monitoring of drug use among service recipients in allied health and human service community agencies (e.g., DSS/Temporary Cash Assistance, Circuit Court Family Law Advocate, Transitional Housing for Homeless, etc.).
2. Implement a standardized brief screening protocol to assist allied community health and human service agencies in identifying and referring potential substance abusers for assessment by certified addiction providers.
3. Increase the frequency with which mental health treatment providers identify and refer patients with co-occurring addictive disorders to certified substance abuse clinics.

Target: Increase the number of Talbot residents identified and referred for substance abuse treatment by community health and human service agencies by 10%.

Measure: Primary Source of Referral, Item 9, in Substance Abuse Management Information System (SAMIS).

Goal 3: Develop a local and regional treatment system that ensures optimal patient placement. Optimal placement is defined as entry within 72 hours into a treatment level that is appropriate to assessed need for treatment (ASI & ASAM criteria) and readiness for change.

Objectives:

1. Reestablish a public sector Intensive Outpatient Program to serve adults who are unable to receive these services in the private sector in Talbot County.
2. Establish regional public sector availability of buprenorphine treatment for opiate addicts and expand private sector buprenorphine alternatives, especially office-based treatment provided by general and family practice physicians.
3. Increase regional (Eastern Shore) inpatient detoxification and intermediate care beds for substance dependent patients, including capacity for adolescents, patients with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders, and women with children.
4. Increase funding to contract for intermediate care and long-term treatment beds for Talbot County residents when this level of care is unavailable in the public sector and the resident is unable to afford treatment in the private sector.
5. Ensure access to transportation for all patients in any level of care.

Target: Reduce the number of addicted residents in Talbot County by providing rapid access to the clinically appropriate level of treatment. Eliminate extended wait for placement (beyond 72 hours) for intermediate care, rehabilitation or long-term treatment beds when assessed need/motivation indicates this level of care.

Measure: Percentage of drug dependent Talbot County residents placed at a level of care consistent with ASAM criteria and assessed motivation for treatment within 72 hours.

Goal 4: Strengthen the infrastructure of alcohol and drug prevention, intervention, and treatment services in Talbot County by attracting and retaining experienced, well-trained staff.

Objectives:

1. Retain qualified staff by improving the compensation and benefit package for clinical and administrative positions. In the public sector, ensure that the compensation and benefit package is competitive with those offered in the private sector and that incentives offer an attractive career path.
2. Improve the recruitment of addiction counseling staff. Increase the pool of qualified applicants for positions in Talbot County by resolving institutional barriers in credentialing and certification.
3. Improve staff retention and the quality of services by improving the quality of training available to staff and ensuring availability of funding to support training.

Target:

Recruitment and retention of highly qualified leadership and clinical staff

Measure:

1. Period of time it takes to replace a vacated position
2. Turnover rate