Heartland Health Outreach
An Organizational Response
The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and The Heroin Crisis Act Changed Everything...
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- Treatment for participants who have an opioid use disorder and are looking for assistance in decreasing their use and improving their quality of life.
- Supportive Treatment for Addiction and Recovery (STAR), is an interdisciplinary team with a harm reduction focused approach to assist with changing harmful behaviors.
- The ultimate goal of this program is abstinence, but we understand the road to abstinence is not always a straight line.
- We currently serve 100+ participants in the STAR program
There are two main pillars of STAR:

- The medical component consists of being assessed by a medical provider and if appropriate the provider will prescribe buprenorphine (suboxone) and meet for regular medical appointments.

- The supportive services we provide are a combination of individual and group therapies that are led by substance use counselors and licensed therapists.
What Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Means for HCH Programs

• Section 301-Authorizes HHS secretary to award grants for OUD MAT
  ▫ Previously we had to build MAT into existing budgets and programs
  ▫ Now we have received one grant and just applied for another

• Section 303-NP’s and PA’s can now prescribe
  ▫ Medical Doctors were only able to prescribe, limited time available
  ▫ Now we have 3 current prescribers and 5+ ready to begin training.
What HCA Means for HCH Programs

• Pharmacies can dispense naloxone to individuals, even when it is not for that person
  ▫ *We have increased overdose prevention*
• Medicaid reimbursement expansion
  ▫ *Parity means more options*
• Removes prior authorization requirements
  ▫ *No more time spent arguing with pharmacies and insurance companies*
What HCA Means for HCH Programs (Continued)

• Eliminates one-year lifetime limit for buprenorphine
  ▫ No longer fear of “doing recovery wrong.”
• Expands access to drug court for OUD
  ▫ Diversion program
Summary of What Policies Have Allowed Us to Do

- **STAR Program creation**
  - Increased grant options
    - Went from team of one therapist, one provider, and one nurse to a full MAT program of 9+ team members
    - 2 Licensed Therapists
    - 2 CADC’s and 1 Recovery Coach
    - 2 RN’s
    - 3 providers currently prescribing
    - 5+ NP’s coming soon
What We Have Been Doing

- Diversion Program
  - Police pick people up and give them the option of going to treatment or jail
  - Option of which program
  - Given ride to treatment program

- This is where we come in
  - Given medication that day
  - Harm Reduction approach
  - Follow up appointment
Ongoing Complications and Barriers

- Funding for staff, expansion, etc.
  - Demand is outpacing supply
- Reimbursement
  - Not all services are billable
Complications and Barriers

- Integration - It’s all new!
  - Understanding and appreciating each team member’s role
  - Who does what, where, when, etc.
- Diversion lessons learned
  - Communication and planning
  - Changing mindset