



Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative

In June 2015, after a series of fatal opioid overdoses in the City of Gloucester, the Gloucester Police Department announced a new pre-arrest referral program to help people suffering with the disease of addiction access treatment. Under this innovative plan, the police promised to help every individual who came into the station, without fear of arrest, regardless of their city of residence and their insurance status. The program caught national attention and was immediately successful so the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) was founded as a 501(c)3 nonprofit to support the Gloucester Angel Program and create other pre-arrest law enforcement opioid programs across the country.

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Our Mission & How We Help

- To provide training, grants, and other resources to police departments and law enforcement agencies to establish and run police-based pre-arrest entry points to treatment
- To foster a dialogue around the unique position of law enforcement interventions to prevent overdose deaths, increase access to treatment, reduce crime, save money, and lead to an increase in trust from communities
- To educate lawmakers and influence state and national policy around opioid addiction
- To assist persons suffering with substance use disorders through our police network

PAARI raises funds to provide critical support for law enforcement based programs, such as:

- Resources, training, staffing support, and grants to police departments to start and sustain pre-arrest referral programs that create a bridge to treatment outside of law violation
- Connections to treatment centers that provide scholarships to those without insurance
- Recovery Coaching and follow up support for program participants
- Outreach and community events to educate individuals with opioid use disorders and their families about community resources and treatment options

Our Successes to Date

- More than 600 people placed into treatment since June 2015 through the Gloucester Angel Program and an estimated total of 12,000 total people placed into treatment through our nationwide network of partner police departments
- 382 member police departments in 32 states running pre-arrest referral programs, including "safe station" self-referral programs and outreach and overdose follow up programs
- Partnership with the Arizona Governor's Office and Phoenix Police Department to launch an Angel Initiative as PAARI's first partner in a major metropolitan area. In August 2017, Salt Lake City Police Department became our second major metropolitan partner
- More than 50 additional law enforcement agencies are in the process of joining PAARI, including Seattle Police Department and Boston Police Department
- Partnering with nearly 300 vetted treatment centers in 25 states and securing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of scholarships for treatment for individuals without insurance
- Distributing 10,000 doses of 4mg nasal naloxone, the life saving overdose reversal drug, to police departments and commercial fisherman, free of charge
- Partnership with the MA Association of Health Plans and Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide ongoing case management for program participants
- Communities that have joined PAARI have observed as much as a 38% reduction in crimes associated with addiction, cost savings by diverting people into treatment rather than triggering the criminal justice system, and led to increased trust from communities
- Elevated this issue through media coverage, speaking engagements, national partnerships
- Testified at the Massachusetts State House as well as at the White House and before members of Congress, and helped enact the Federal 21st Century Cures Act, which includes a \$1 billion funding commitment for opioid addiction and treatment programs.
- Piece published in the New England Journal of Medicine, which showed that police-led referral programs outperform placement programs available in healthcare settings by nearly double
- Partnership with AmeriCorps and the Massachusetts Service Alliance to place 25 AmeriCorps members in police departments across the state as Recovery Coaches
- Hosted a first-of-its-kind National Law Enforcement Summit in December 2017 that connected and empowered 240 law enforcement leaders in 27 states to address the opioid epidemic