A community policing movement to create non-arrest pathways to treatment

Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI)
• 89% of people who need treatment don’t receive it
• 70% of people in jail have a substance use disorder
• 72,000 overdose fatalities; one death every 11 minutes
• People with substance use disorders are more vulnerable amid COVID-19
PAARI: The Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative

- Law enforcement has a front row seat to the opioid epidemic and are in a unique position to prevent overdose deaths

- PAARI is a nonprofit that is the driving force behind the policing movement to create non-arrest pathways to treatment and recovery

- Founded alongside the groundbreaking Gloucester Police Department Angel Initiative in June 2015

- To date, PAARI has 579 law enforcement partners in 34 states

- PAARI and our law enforcement partners are working towards a vision where non-arrest diversion programs are a standard community policing practice across the country
Why Law Enforcement?

- You are closest to the problem
- You are problem solvers
- You got into this job to help people

- Saves lives
- Reduces crime
Where It Started

- Gloucester, Massachusetts
- Series of overdose deaths in 2015
- June 1, 2015: GPD established a safe/sanctuary station – Anyone can self-refer by walking in to ask for help and will receive a direct referral to treatment
  - Option to turn in drugs or paraphernalia without fear of arrest
  - Intake process to determine treatment needs and desires
  - Address barriers by providing transportation, treatment scholarships, insurance enrollment support
Gloucester Angel Program

- Goal to **prevent overdose deaths** and create a simple, stigma free 24/7 entry point to treatment on demand

- Re-entry and ongoing support from Recovery Coaches, social workers, clinicians, trained volunteers, or officers, including connecting individuals to housing, employment, etc

- Programs evolve and components are added over time, including referrals from officers, active outreach, support to families, telephonic placement, naloxone training and distribution, etc

- Reframed addiction as a disease not a crime

- NEJM piece described that 94.5% of people were offered a same-day direct referral to detox or treatment, as compared to 50% placement rate from hospital-based initiatives
Program Goals

- Utilize law enforcement’s front row seat to the opioid crisis to prevent overdose deaths and remove barriers to treatment and recovery
- Remove barriers to access
  - Lack of a simple entry point
  - Lack of immediate access 24/7 (treatment on demand)
  - Lack of transportation
  - Inability to pay for treatment
  - Shame and stigma when seeking help
  - Treatment capacity
- Reframe addiction as a disease not a crime that needs treatment not jail i.e. “we cannot arrest our way out of this”
- Reduce crime, especially property crime
- Reduce health care and criminal justice costs
- Build trust between law enforcement and communities
How PAARI Started

- Gloucester Police Department Angel Program caught national attention and sparked community policing movement – **Added a new tool to officers’ toolkit**
- PAARI was founded as a 501c3 nonprofit organization to help law enforcement and public safety agencies design and implement programs that build pathways to treatment
- Headquartered in Boston with offices in Gloucester and Plymouth MA partnerships with nearly 500 police departments nationwide
- Membership open to any law enforcement agency nationwide
- Only criteria is to provide non-arrest pathways to treatment and recovery support services
PAARI MODEL

Train
- In Person
- Online (2021)

Support
- Onboarding
- Coaching
- Sample Procedures
- Templates
- Capacity Building

Connect
- National Summit
- Regional Gatherings
- Newsletters
- Tracking Trends
Program Models

- **PAARI has four primary program models:**
  1. SELF REFERRAL (ie walk in programs)
  2. INCIDENT-BASED OUTREACH (ie overdose follow up)
  3. RISK-BASED OUTREACH (ie targeted outreach before incident)
  4. OFFICER REFERRAL (ie any encounter is an opportunity)

- Goal to engage people upstream at the community level before they enter the criminal justice system
- Most departments combine elements and modify to suit their local needs, preferences, and capacity – no one size fits all
- Most departments combine elements from more than 1 pathway, whether formally or informally
- Outreach can be before crisis, co-response, or after crisis
- Continuous program adaptation, innovation, and improvement
Partnerships & Collaboration

- Police are reimagining their roles and addressing the opioid crisis in new ways.

- People with substance use disorders will engage with police as a pathway to treatment and recovery.

- Pre-arrest programs will only be successful if there is collaboration and linkages between across sectors.
  - Public and private health insurance coverage for substance use disorders.
  - Treatment capacity, especially medication assisted treatment available on demand.
  - Programs are typically supported by clinicians, social workers, recovery coaches, and/or trained volunteers.
PAARI Recovery Corps

• Launched in October 2017
• First-of-its-kind program combining the power of service with the power of the recovery community and the power of police-based referral programs
• Expanded nationally through AmeriCorps VISTA in September 2019 with 40 full-time national service members focused on program development and capacity building
Our Current Network of Law Enforcement Partners
PAARI IMPACT: Proof of Concept

Innovation to Policing
80,000 Officers/580 Communities

Increased Access to Treatment
26,000 People

Change in Perception & Policy
New National and State Policy
Our Impact

- Prevent and reduce overdose deaths
- Expand access to treatment on demand and recovery support – estimated 26,000 people have entered treatment through our network of law enforcement partners
- Improve public safety, reduce crime and calls for service
- Divert people away from the criminal justice system
- Improve collaboration between various agencies
- Increase trust between law enforcement and communities
- Change the dialogue about law enforcement's role in tackling the opioid epidemic
- Build momentum away from an arrest-first approach and towards a vision to make non-arrest diversion programs a standard policing practice
### Police Embrace PAARI

**2016-2020: 500% increase in departments adopting PAARI**

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Police have reported up to a 40% reduction in crime since joining PAARI</td>
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<td>Departments report officer satisfaction increases when officers focus on</td>
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<td>helping vs. arresting</td>
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PAARI Training: Responds in Real Time

NARCAN Training

COVID-19 Response
Our Efforts Amid COVID-19

• As overdoses are on the rise amid COVID-19, our work is more important than ever

• PAARI has provided training and technical assistance to help police departments make necessary program adjustments during the pandemic
  • Roll call video on outreach visits amid COVID-19

• PAARI has launched a new “Reentry Survival Kit” program to get resources into the hands of people returning to the community from incarceration
Shift the perception of addiction as a crime to addiction as a disease
Takeaways & Next Steps

- **Join PAARI** – PAARI is free to join and open to any law enforcement or public safety agency creating non-arrest pathways to treatment
- Contact us to schedule a follow up call to discuss your department’s goals, ideas, and challenges
- Visit PAARI’s website for resources, templates, videos, and more
- Follow PAARI on social media for news and updates
- Consider how you can partner with other agencies
- Consider what you can replicate and borrow from what’s already been implemented elsewhere
- Consider how can you involve people with lived experience
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