

# MEMO

**Date:** December 9, 2022

**To:** City of Clinton

**From:** Camryn Carpenter, Stephanie Gutierrez, Andrew Parr, Maggie Schnurr, Lisa Truong, Jocelyn Williams

**Cc:** John Davis, Michael Adney, Kristin Huisenga

**Re:** Opioid Epidemic in Clinton

**Appendices:** Contributors, Public Health Information Flyers, AmeriCorps Programs & Intercity Bus Grant Guidelines

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## SUMMARY

Clinton County averages 1,933 opioid prescriptions per 10,000 people, as compared to the Iowa average of 1,587 prescriptions per 10,000 people. The opioid epidemic is hitting Clinton particularly hard, and the city must develop strategies for combatting this deadly crisis.

## BACKGROUND

The national opioid epidemic can be broken down into three phases with the first starting in the 1990s. Opioids, including new drugs on the market, were increasingly prescribed as the go-to method for pain relief. Pharmaceutical companies capitalized on the addictive nature of opioids by heavily promoting them and recklessly ignoring their addictive qualities. The second wave came around 2010 when legal prescriptions were harder to obtain and people with opioid use disorder (OUD) turned to heroin as a replacement. Deaths due to heroin-related overdose increased by 286% from 2002 to 2013.<sup>1</sup> The most recent phase of the epidemic began around 2013 when fentanyl, a new synthetic drug, appeared on the market. On October 16, 2017, the U.S. government declared the opioid epidemic a public health emergency.<sup>2</sup>

Clinton has its own unique issues associated with the opioid epidemic. Its proximity to major cities such as Chicago and St. Louis has allowed for a steady stream of opioids into the community. There is only one part-time certified Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) doctor in the area for people seeking treatment for OUD, hence leaving them with extremely limited options. Additionally, patients must travel between 40 and 200 miles to find treatment outside of Clinton.

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<sup>1</sup> Liu, Lindsay, et al. "History of the Opioid Epidemic." History of the Opioid Epidemic: How Did We Get Here?, <https://www.poison.org/articles/opioid-epidemic-history-and-prescribing-patterns-182>.

<sup>2</sup> Jones, Mark R et al. "A Brief History of the Opioid Epidemic and Strategies for Pain Medicine." Pain and therapy vol. 7,1 (2018): 13-21. doi:10.1007/s40122-018-0097-6

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Provide Transportation Options**

Clinton should expand transportation opportunities to combat barriers to access for addiction treatment in surrounding communities. This would allow for more people to seek treatment and could create better public transportation connections to other communities, allowing for greater mobility.

- a) Clinton outsources many of their addiction treatment services from Davenport, so creating a direct bus line there could allow for higher treatment rates.
- b) Creating this direct bus line would be dependent on a connection to an intercity bus carrier connection, meaning that this bus route could further connect Clinton to surrounding communities or to major U.S. travel hubs.
- c) While the application for this bus route would be focused on increasing addiction service access, this bus route would serve the whole community, allowing for higher mobility of its citizens.

### **2. Increase Access to Public Health Information**

Clinton should increase access to information around the opioid epidemic—including resources for individuals experiencing crisis and information for professionals who are interested in working locally. Representatives from Clinton voiced concerns of the stigma surrounding substance abuse. We focused on three targeted audiences.

- a) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is available in Clinton and residents should be aware of this. Advertising this information normalizes receiving help for substance abuse. We have provided two two flyer options with different contacts: Laura (563-244-7525), an MAT nurse coordinator, and the area substance abuse council (319-390-4611).
- b) Retaining and attracting medical professionals to Clinton, specifically Mercy One is a barrier when providing MAT. Clinton created a community student loan assistance program that incentivizes individuals to re-locate to Clinton. This flyer would be shared throughout.
- c) Individuals struggling with homelessness, mental health, increased barriers to access, and opioid abuse also have the option to work with Clinton Police and the CSAC (through D.A.R.T.) to secure a safe place to leave belongings during treatment. A shed has been constructed and is utilized for this purpose. In addition, the City of Clinton works with individuals struggling with opioid abuse by providing hotel vouchers and local transportation to and from MAT appointments.

### **3. Host An AmeriCorps Volunteer**

Clinton should host an AmeriCorps volunteer whose goal would be to convene partners and drive progress toward tackling the opioid epidemic in the city. Many AmeriCorps programs across the country are focused on addressing the opioid crisis. Many are

VISTA programs that are often hosted through a partnership agreement between a government entity and a nonprofit organization.<sup>3</sup> Clinton already hosts an economic mobility VISTA program with United Way, so the process to acquire another will be familiar.

- a) Volunteer Iowa is the main provider of grant funding for AmeriCorps programs in the state of Iowa. As such, Clinton should reach out to Volunteer Iowa with the goal of working with their staff and utilizing their AmeriCorps expertise. In addition to identifying potential funding sources, Volunteer Iowa could help the City decide what type of program would be best for Clinton.
- b) Clinton should consider applying for Volunteer Iowa's 2023-2024 Iowa AmeriCorps State funding opportunity. Clinton would likely need a planning grant which "support[s] planning activities to prepare for starting a new AmeriCorps program."<sup>4</sup> Volunteer Iowa's Request for Applications is live and includes a pre-application deadline of January 10, 2023, for new applicants.

## NEXT STEPS

### 1. Data Mapping

Collect and map opioid related data for Clinton. By collecting the relevant data, we can use GIS technology to spatially observe how the opioid epidemic is impacting Clinton. The datasets needed to start on this work includes:

- EMS calls
- Location of opioid incidents (deaths and overdoses)
- Demographic information of patients (age, race, gender)
- Naloxone deployments

To obtain this data, we will collaborate with members of the Clinton Substance Abuse Council and the Clinton Fire and Police Departments to aggregate the data and begin the GIS analysis.

### 2. Expand Access

One possible mode of transportation expansion would be an Intercity Bus Grant provided by the Iowa DOT. If selected, the application would need to be completed for submission by October 1, 2023. The application must include:

- A project proposal
- Program authorizing resolution
- Labor protection agreement
- Certifications and agreements from FTA programs

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<sup>3</sup> Volunteer Iowa. (2022). *AmeriCorps VISTA*. Volunteer Iowa. Retrieved from <https://www.volunteeriowa.org/amicorps-vista>

<sup>4</sup> Volunteer Iowa. (2022). *AmeriCorps State Grants*. Volunteer Iowa. Retrieved from <https://www.volunteeriowa.org/amicorps-state>

- Minority impact statement

### **3. Building an Effective Public Health Initiative**

Expanding and targeting the public health initiatives in Clinton will increase public health accessibility surrounding opioid abuse. By creating D.A.R.T., Clinton is already working with the resources available in the community, which is a good local homebase for other public health initiatives to build on. The next step in building out an effective public health initiative will be to identify the largest barriers to MAT treatment in Clinton, IA. Traditionally, the barriers to MAT are:<sup>5</sup>

1. Stigma related to OUD (opioid use disorder) medications, most important to consumers
2. Treatment experiences and beliefs
3. Logistical issues (time costs, insurance coverage, regulatory requirements), most important to providers
4. Knowledge of OUD and the role of medications.

An effective opioid abuse public health campaign in Clinton will include messaging for all four barriers outlined above. The flyers included in the appendix of this memo have focused on Logistics, Knowledge of OUD, and Stigma related to OUD. Clinton Police and CSAC staff can begin collecting and aggregating local experiences with MAT to create targeted messaging on the process, benefits, and experience.

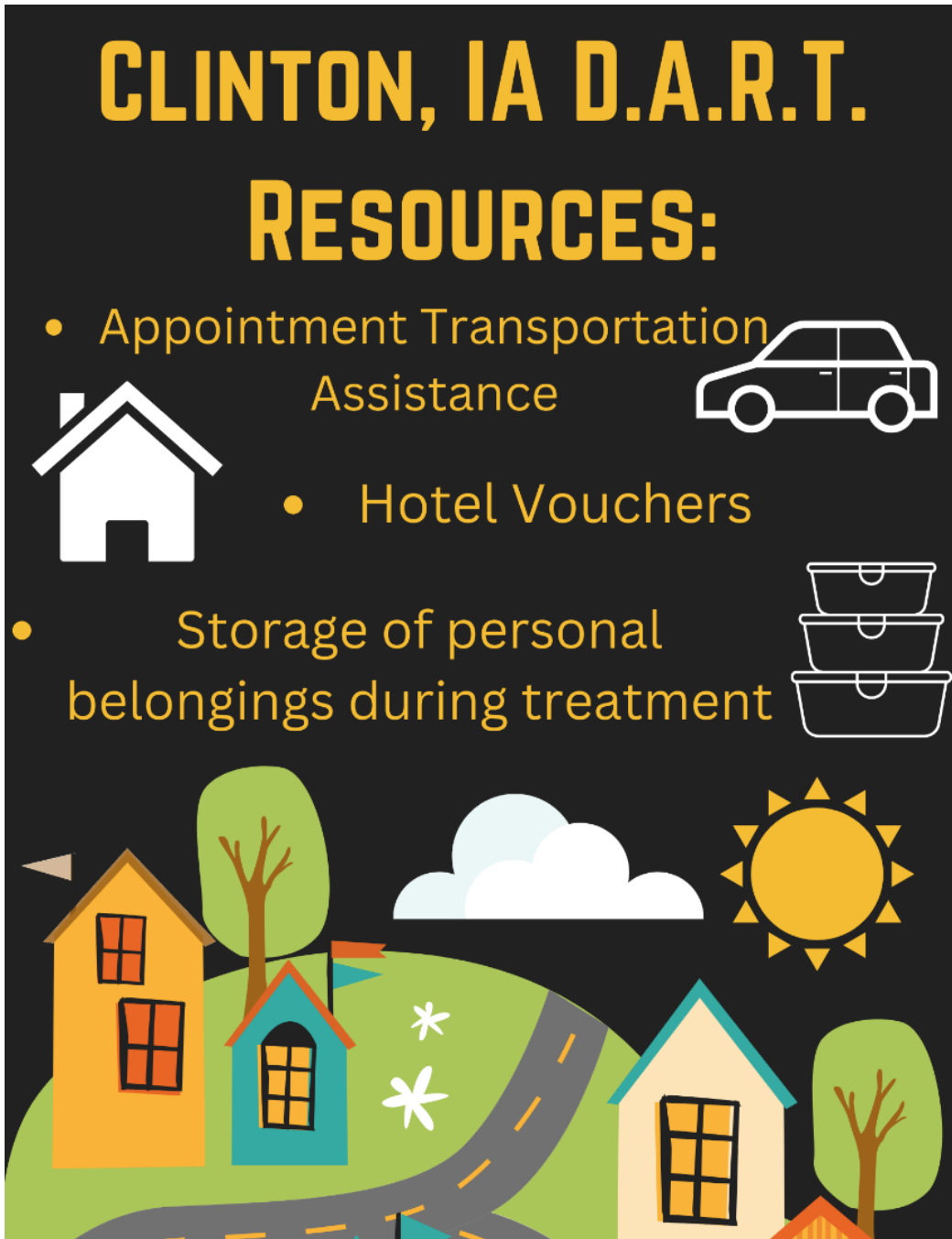
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<sup>5</sup> Shoshana, Aronowitz, et al. *Lowering the Barriers to Medication Treatment for People with Opioid Use Disorder*.

# APPENDIX

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## 1) Public Health Flyers





# CLINTON'S DRUG ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM (D.A.R.T.)

## About Us

We are a local team comprised of the Clinton P.D., Clinton Substance Abuse Council, & local advocates for reducing drug abuse in our community.

## What We Do

- Creating public Health Initiatives & Education
- Reducing Healthcare Access Barriers
- Building community to ensure safe and successful drug abuse treatment for all Clinton residents



## Contact Us

**Call:** ASAC at 563.243.2124

**Email:** [joelwehde@gapa911.us](mailto:joelwehde@gapa911.us) or [kristin@csaciowa.org](mailto:kristin@csaciowa.org)

**Address:** 113 6th Ave S, Clinton, IA 52732

**Website:** <https://csaciowa.org/>

# WE CAN HELP

MercyOne Clinton is here to help adults experiencing opioid addiction and withdrawal.

- ★ Any income level is accepted
- ★ Outpatient Suboxone Addiction Treatment
- ★ Behavior counseling and Peer support
- ★ Assistance with food, clothing, and gas vouchers when needed

The logo for MercyOne, featuring the word "MERCYONE" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "Y" is stylized with a green crossbar. The logo is centered within a large white circle.

**563-244-7525**

Substance Use Care  
563-244-7525

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Substance Use Care  
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# MercyOne Clinton Medical Center

563-244-555

1410 N 4th St, Clinton, IA 52732



## Clinton Community Student Loan Assistance Program

Individuals enrolled in the Clinton County Community Student Loan Assistance Program will receive \$30 a month toward the payoff of their student loan debt for up to five years. Eligible candidates have the opportunity to receive additional contributions through an established partnership with county-based municipalities and community school districts

### Eligibility

- Must have re-located to Clinton County on or after August 1st, 2019
- Proof of prior residence outside of Clinton County

Download application at  
[clintoncounty-ia.gov](http://clintoncounty-ia.gov)



## 2) Examples of AmeriCorps Programs Dedicated to Fighting the Opioid Epidemic

<b>Location</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Collaborators or Funding Sources</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Alabama	Recovery Coach Programs	Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)	AmeriCorps members serve as recovery coaches
California	Various	California Overdose Prevention Network (COPN)	32 opioid safety coalitions in the state
Maryland	ShoreCorps / Partnership for Adolescents on the Lower Shore (PALS)	Salisbury State University; CNCS	Opioid abuse prevention and education
Detroit, Michigan	AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT)	Wayne State University	Training community members to recognize and treat overdose events
Hamtramck, Michigan	Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC)	Piast Institute	Seminars, prevention awareness, dangers of opioid addiction
St. Louis County, Minnesota	Opioid Reduction VISTA	St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services	Disposal of unused medications
Billings, Montana	Methamphetamine & Opioid Response Initiative	Substance Abuse CONNECT Coalition; United Way of Yellowstone County; Billings Police Department	Aggregation of local data, plus identification of local data gaps
Camden County & Gloucester County, New Jersey	Center for Family Services Recovery Corps	Center for Family Services	AmeriCorps members serve as peer-based recovery support specialists
Auburn, New York	CHCANYS Opioid Response Corps	Community Health Care Association of New York State	Workforce dev. Program assisting community health centers (filling service gaps)
Cincinnati, Ohio	Mercy Serves	Mercy Health – Cincinnati	Patient education, substance abuse risk screening, emotional support, treatment referrals

### 3) Intercity Bus Grant Guidelines

Document Needed	Included in the Document
Intercity Bus Assistance Program Project Proposal	The form necessary to apply for this project type, found at <a href="https://iowadot.gov/transit/Funding-programs-and-applications/applications">https://iowadot.gov/transit/Funding-programs-and-applications/applications</a>
Authorizing Resolution	This resolution must accompany each application. The authorized signatory listed on this document is the only person that may sign agreements between transportation provider and Iowa DOT.
Labor Protection Agreement	Each transportation provider applying for federal funds must certify that they will comply with the terms and conditions of the Specialty Warranty Arrangement.
Certifications and Assurances	Each transportation provider applying for federal funds must submit a copy of the FTA's current certifications and assurances.
Minority Impact Statement	In compliance with state grant funding, applicants must show the impacts of policies or programming on minority groups. <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Funding applications and guidance* | Iowa DOT. (n.d.). Retrieved December 9, 2022, from <https://iowadot.gov/transit/Funding-programs-and-applications/applications>